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*Holiness Writers*

**ETERNAL SECURITY**  
**TRUE AND FALSE**  
**(A Tract)**

By

*Rev. E. E. Shelhamer*

*“Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without  
which no man shall see the Lord” Heb 12:14*

**Spreading Scriptural Holiness to the World**

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# ETERNAL SECURITY

True and False

by

**Rev. E. E. Shelhamer**

**A Tract**

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Yes, we firmly believe in conditional security; that is, if one meets certain conditions, and continues as he began, he "shall see God" (Matt. 5:8). "Once saved, always saved," is true as long as a believer actually believes and walks in all the light. But of course you can readily see that unconditional security is a gross absurdity; for one to say he is a believer while living like an unbeliever is as false as for a black man to declare that he is white. [This seems to be a rather ill-chosen comparison, but I leave it as written. -- DVM]

1. But do I hear you say, "Once a son, always a son. He may be disobedient, yet he is a son"? This sounds nice, but is a false analogy and untrue to fact. Let us see! When he was first born, he had no choice as to time or place; he became a son without his knowledge or volition. Not so when he was born again. Then he voluntarily chose to enter the family of God; and since he did not lose the right of choice, he could, like Demas, leave as he entered (2 Tim. 4:10). He was inducted into the kingdom by an act of faith, of his own free will. Strange, then, that if he once had the power to decide he should suddenly forfeit it and become a spiritual idiot, incapable of decision. Hence he is now a mere machine, a nonentity, and consequently irresponsible regardless of what he does. "If he sins," say they, "he may lose fellowship, but not his standing with God; for he is still God's child though sinning every day in word, thought, and deed." What an insult to his intelligence and to a good God who gave him the highest of all gifts -- Free Moral Agency!

2. "I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand" (John 10:28). Here is a blessed passage, and multitudes have proven that no man can cause another to be lost. But, on the other hand, let Adam Clarke speak: "They who continue to hear Christ's voice, and to follow Him, shall never perish. Now it is evident that only those who have Christ living in and governing their souls, so that they possess the mind that was in Him, are His sheep; these shall never perish. Therefore to talk of a man's being one of the elect, one that shall never perish or be plucked out of the hand of God while he lives in sin, is as contrary to common sense as it is to the nature ... and testimonies of the Most High. Final perseverance implies final faithfulness -- 'He that endureth to the end shall be saved'; 'He that is faithful unto death shall have a crown of life.' And will any man attempt to say that he who does not endure to the end, and is unfaithful, shall ever enter into life?" How absurd!

3. "Abide in me, and I in you. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned" (John 15:4, 6).

Mark! This branch was not tied on, but had living connection and for a while was fruitful. Then, for some reason Christ declared it "withered" and it ceased to bear; hence it was cut off and burned, rather than let the blight spread to other branches. If language means anything, this lesson teaches the sad possibility of final apostasy.

4. The author of Hebrews must have believed in falling away, for the epistle abounds with such terms as, "Let us fear"; "Take heed"; "Consider!" We read, "It is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the world to come, if they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance: seeing [while] they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame" (Heb. 6:4-6).

Peter fell, but Jesus caught him, as He does many today. Judas fell, not only on deck, but overboard, and plunged so far that his recovery became impossible (1 John 5:16). Dear reader, take warning!

"But when the righteous turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and doeth according to all the abominations that the wicked man doeth, shall he live? All his righteousness that he hath done shall not be mentioned: in his trespass that he hath trespassed, and in his sin that he hath sinned, in them shall he die" (Ezek. 18:24). No juggling or wresting of the Scriptures here, by saying this is from the Old Testament; or by asserting that King Saul, Judas and others lost their lives, but not their souls.

Dr. D. G. Barnhouse, a prominent Keswick speaker, says: "God has offered pardon in advance for any sins which might be committed by the believer. I have no doubt that Ananias and Sapphira, as well as the Old Testament characters of whom we have spoken, were saved people. When death came to them from the hand of God, I believe they went directly to Heaven.

"Christ's righteousness is imputed to all believers, even though they may be performing outright sins. God does not reckon their sin to them but regards them as righteous instead, because Christ's righteousness is reckoned to their account."

Again, "Judas fell from his high office, but not from grace. Being elect, 'his own place' (Acts 1:2) was Heaven, and to Heaven he went."

This shows to what amazing lengths men will wrest the Scriptures in order to try to prove a false and damnable doctrine.

"Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall" (1 Cor. 10:12). "I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labor in vain" (Gal. 4:11). These words of Paul were useless, and there was no need for this warning, if believers cannot fall and finally be lost.

The sad crux of this whole controversy is that those who hold to the Calvinistic view limit the atonement, and do not believe with Paul, Wesley, Fletcher, and a host of others in the total

destruction of and deliverance from inbred sin. Too bad that carnal preachers and professors today join hands with the first "Liar" when he said, "You can disobey God, and yet 'not surely die.' "

Joseph H. Smith well said, "No man is eternally secure until he is secure in eternity."