

LOVE FROM ABOVE
(Fullness of Joy through Biblical Fellowship in Christ)
Studies in 1 John

Spiritual Security

Politicians trying to avoid imminent economic disaster for our country are looking for ways to save money. Among the more unpopular ideas is cutting Social Security benefits to older retired people. Retirees protest that their benefits should be left alone and even increased to accommodate escalating costs of living. After all they insist – we've paid into the system for all of our working lives and have every right to expect it to be there with interest at the end of our lives. Politicians argue that the Social Security deductions from paychecks over the years haven't saved up enough to cover the extended ages to which most healthy seniors live. The sheer debate over it is enough to make those who are coming up on their retirement years worry if they will have to work more years than expected and/or receive less benefits than expected in their sunset years. For many, what used to be Social Security has turned to Social Insecurity in these days of impending economic disaster for our country and the world.

Jesus predicted that in these last days of the Church Age, before His return, there would be worldwide *Social Insecurity*:

***“But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with...
cares of this life, and that Day (His return) come on you unexpectedly...
It will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth.
Watch therefore and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things
that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man” (Luke 21:34-36).***

Followers of the Lord Jesus Christ can avoid the end days *Social Insecurity* by making certain of the *Spiritual Security* benefits assured them in the Word of God (**2 Peter 1:2-4**). God's promises made in this life will be there for us in the end.

Unfortunately, there are religious groups that, like benefit-cutting politicians, insist that it is wrong to believe in what is called *eternal security*. This biblical doctrine asserts that all true followers of the Lord Jesus Christ cannot ever lose their salvation benefits in Christ. This school of thought is adamant about insuring the benefits of forgiveness of sin, eternal justification before God, and everlasting life in heaven unconditionally to any, and all, believers without a doubt of receiving what Scripture promises to God's people. CBF is doctrinally aligned with those who believe in the unconditional *eternal security* of all truly born-again disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ based upon many Bible verses like **Hebrews 13:5**: ***“I (God) will never leave you or forsake you”*** and **1 Peter 1:3-5**: ***“...(we) are begotten again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you who are kept by the power of God...”***, etc.

The Bible is clear that true believers may lose many things through disobedience (blessings, answered prayer, fellowship with God and brethren, ministry opportunities, your testimony and witness, future reward, and kingdom service, even your physical life can be shortened due to sin) but nowhere in Scripture does God threaten to take away a believer's name from the Book of Life and revoke his or her salvation. Although some false teachers use fear about possible loss of salvation to control their flocks, Scripture never uses *eternal insecurity* to manipulate stewardship, service, or holiness with the people of God. True, God's unconditional grace in Christ can be abused by pseudo-Christians or immature carnal brethren, but *eternal security* in Christ is a non-negotiable benefit Scripture guarantees believers. For those outside of God's grace in Christ, there is much to worry about. As they come to the end of their lives and prepare to retire forever in eternity, their failure to invest their faith in Jesus Christ and His *Calvary Cross* salvation plan will plunge them into hopeless, endless night apart from God. But for all those who, with repentant hearts, let Christ withdraw their sin from their lives, the retirement benefits are *eternally secure* and out of this world!

~PtL

‘Victors Not Victims’

(Joy of the Lord strength, through ‘agape’ love)

1 John 5:1-8

Our Overcoming Love

(Agape love is our way of fellowship)

“Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him Who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. For this is the love of God that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.”

5:1-3

Our Overcoming Faith

(Sanctifying faith is our way in the world)

“For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world – our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?”

5:4-5

Our Overcoming Example

(Christ our hope is our model every day)

“This is He Who came by water and blood – Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit Who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth. For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water and the blood; and these three agree as one. If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is the witness of God which He has testified of His Son.”

5:6-9