

# QUANTOCK MINISTRIES

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*A Bible teaching and preaching ministry  
for the Christian community*

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## ONCE SAVED, ALWAYS SAVED

This study seeks to show that we can have total assurance that once we truly belong to the Lord Jesus, we remain in that relationship forever, come what may. We can think of this relationship in the same way as in a human family. When we first trusted in the Lord Jesus, we were made Sons (and daughters) of God. We were adopted and now enjoy the full rights of family membership. Within a family there are many different characters, not all as loyal as others, but all enjoying secure membership. There is no provision in Scripture for “de-adoption”. However bad family members may be (and none of us are perfect), they are all still legally within the family. This is how it is with God’s family.

The overall teaching of the New Testament reveals three main principles on this matter:

1. We can enjoy full assurance here and now.
2. We must be sure our conversion was genuine in the first place, i.e., that we were born again.
3. We can lose many of the added blessings of our salvation, and even incur Father’s great displeasure.

Now we will look at these principles in more detail.

### 1. The basis of our enjoyment of full assurance here and now.

- a) It is a promise.  
John 10 v 28 – 30, Romans 10 v 13.
- b) Doctrinal teaching.
  - i) We are chosen, or predestined, to be sons by adoption.  
John 15 v 16, John 17 v 6, Romans 8 v 29 – 30, Galatians 4 v 5b – 7, Ephesians 1 v 4, 5 & 11.
  - ii) The righteousness which underlies our salvation is not our own.  
Isaiah 64 v 6, Romans 1 v 17, Romans 3 v 21 – 22, Philippians 3 v 9.
  - iii) God has justified us, that is, declared us to be legally innocent.  
Romans 5 v 9, Romans 8 v 33 – 34, Galatians 3 v 11.
  - iv) Jesus underwrites the covenant between His Father and us.  
Hebrews 6 v 17 – 18, Hebrews 7 v 22 – 25, Hebrews 8 v 6.

These are some of the most fundamental doctrines of Scripture, and everything else the New Testament says about disobedience and loss of blessings must be held in balance with these foundational truths. Jesus promised the sense of assurance these doctrines give us, as we have seen. In other words, if we cannot enjoy full assurance of salvation, then the promises of Jesus are null and void.

On the matter of the “unforgivable sin” (Matthew 12 v 31 – 32) I believe this must apply to those who reject the prompting of the Holy Spirit to acknowledge the Lord Jesus as the true Messiah, and not repenting of their sin. It is the rejection of this Holy Spirit-inspired witness that leads to a person’s eternal damnation.

### 2. Genuine conversion.

- a) Our faith that we have eternal life must be in Jesus alone.  
Acts 4 v 12, Romans 4 v 5, Romans 10 v 9 – 10, Ephesians 2 v 8 – 9, 1 Peter 1 v 21.
- b) Our conversion must be evidenced by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.  
John 15 v 2b, Acts 2 v 38, Ephesians 1 v 13 – 14, 2 Timothy 1 v 14, James 2 v 17 & 26.

Thus, to be assured that our salvation is truly Biblical, and therefore eternal, we must be sure that our faith is not in our own efforts, or religion, or someone else, or tradition, or self-righteousness.

3a. Why we may lose many of the added blessings of our salvation.

- a) Failing to do the work of God.  
John 9 v 4, Philippians 2 v 12 – 13, 2 Timothy 2 v 15.
- b) Entertaining doubts.  
1 Timothy 1 v 18 – 20, 2 Timothy 1 v 7, James 1 v 6 – 8.
- c) Refusing to endure hardship and discipline.  
2 Timothy 2 v 3 – 6, Hebrews 12 v 7 – 11.
- d) Losing our first love.  
Revelation 2 v 4 – 5.
- e) Lukewarmness.  
Revelation 3 v 16a.
- f) Unwillingness to confess to Jesus.  
1 John 1 v 8 - 2 v 2.
- g) Grieving the Holy Spirit.  
Ephesians 4 v 29 – 32.
- h) Envy the world.  
Psalm 73 v 2 – 3.
- i) Complacency.  
2 Peter 1 v 10 – 11
- j) Deliberate disobedience.  
1 Corinthians 5 v 1 – 5.

3b. The blessings we lose and the nature of Father's great displeasure.

- a) No treasure in Heaven.  
1 Corinthians 3 v 10 – 15.
- b) No restoration in this life.  
John 15 v 2a(cut off), Hebrews 6 v 4 – 6.
- c) No rewards when Jesus returns.  
2 Corinthians 5 v 10, Revelation 19 v 7 – 8, Revelation 22 v 12.
- d) God's disgust.  
2 Peter 2 v 20 – 22, Revelation 3 v 16b (“You make me sick”).