

# The Security of the Believer

*Salvation*

*Soteriology: God's Rescue Program*

# Salvation: How do you know when you've met God's requirements?



*Help for souls who are anxious to please God and worried that they haven't done enough.*

Can you be sure?  
*Really sure?*



# Think about it...



“If you didn’t **earn** your salvation, how are you going to **un-earn** it?”

—*Timothy Keller*—

AZ QUOTES

# Eternal Security



A close-up photograph of a rusty, circular padlock mounted on a dark, textured metal surface. The padlock is the central focus, showing signs of age and wear. The words "ETERNAL" and "SECURITY" are printed in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters on a black horizontal band that passes behind the padlock. The background is a dark, weathered metal with some visible rivets and a keyhole on the padlock.

**ETERNAL**

**SECURITY**

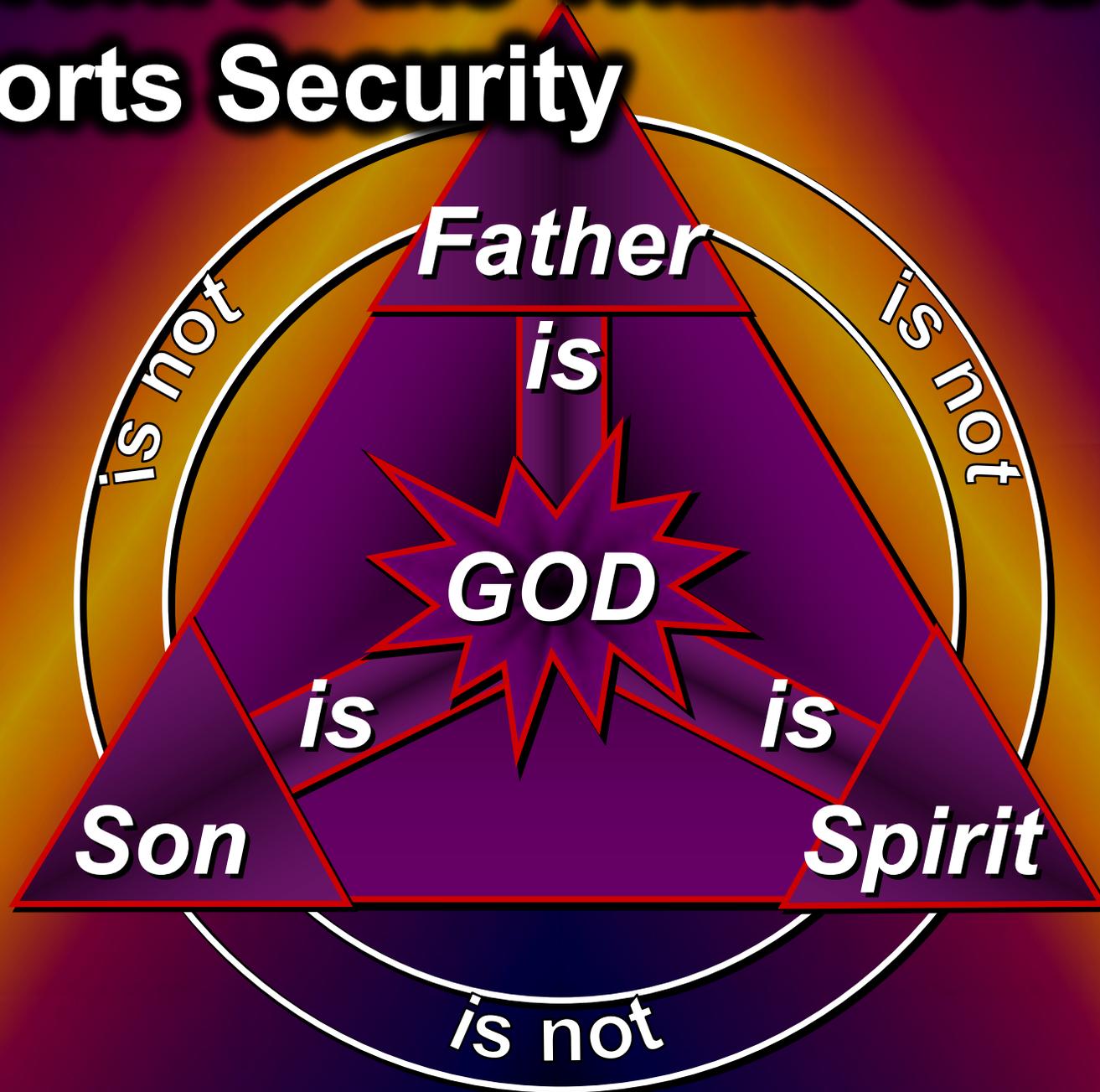
***“Once Saved, Always Saved”***

# Theological Support for Eternal Security



# The Work of the Triune God Supports Security

61



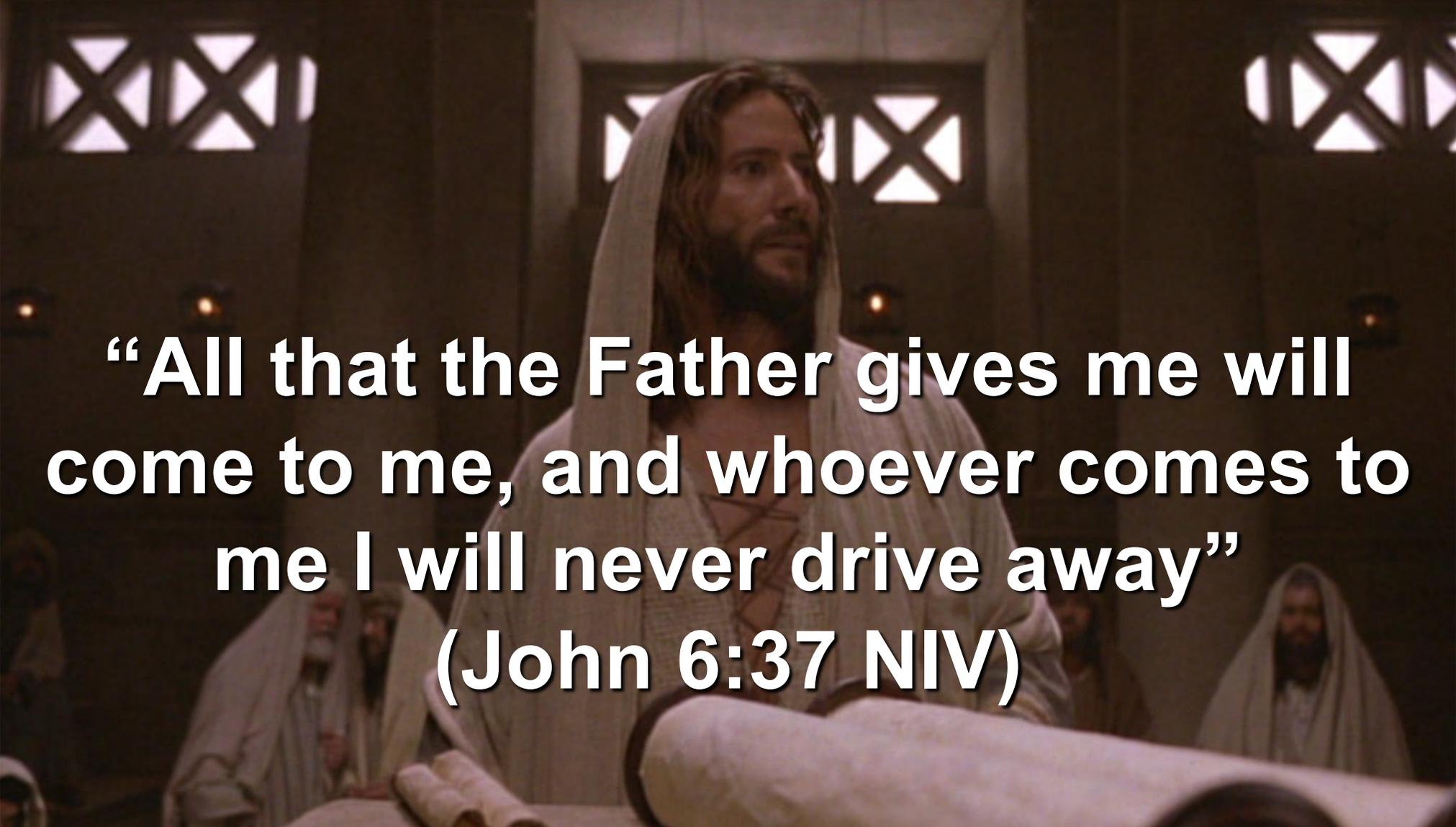
# The Work of God the Father



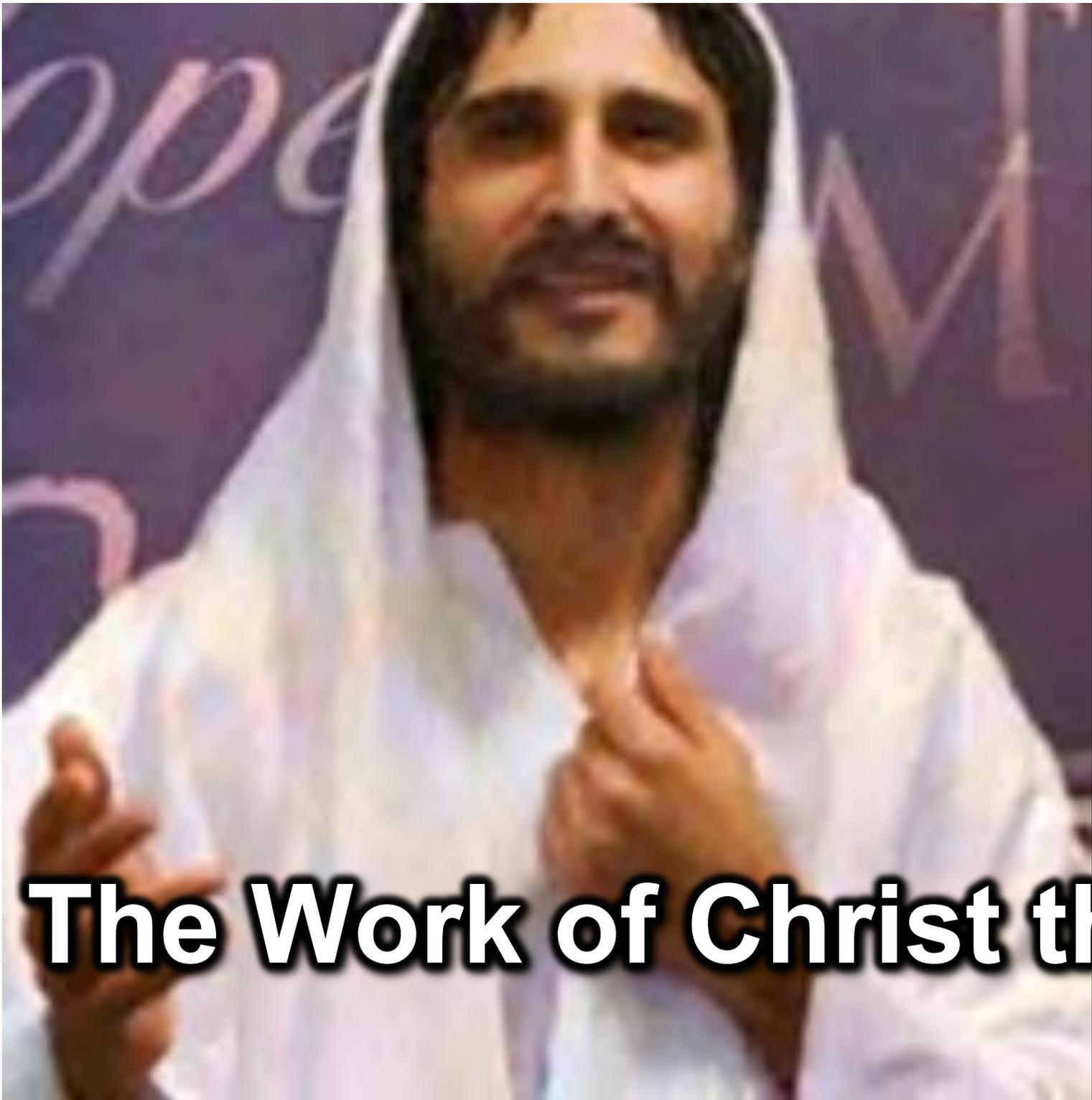


**Election**

# Permanent?

A cinematic still of Jesus with long brown hair and a beard, wearing a white robe and a white head covering. He is holding a large white scroll in front of him. The background is a dimly lit room with several windows featuring a cross-shaped lattice pattern. Other people in white robes are visible in the background, some looking towards Jesus.

**“All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away”  
(John 6:37 NIV)**



# The Work of Christ the Son



**“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup>I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup>My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand” (John 10:27-29 NLT)**

# Believe It or Not!

61

How do we  
**know** Jesus  
has given us  
eternal life?



Can we *know*?

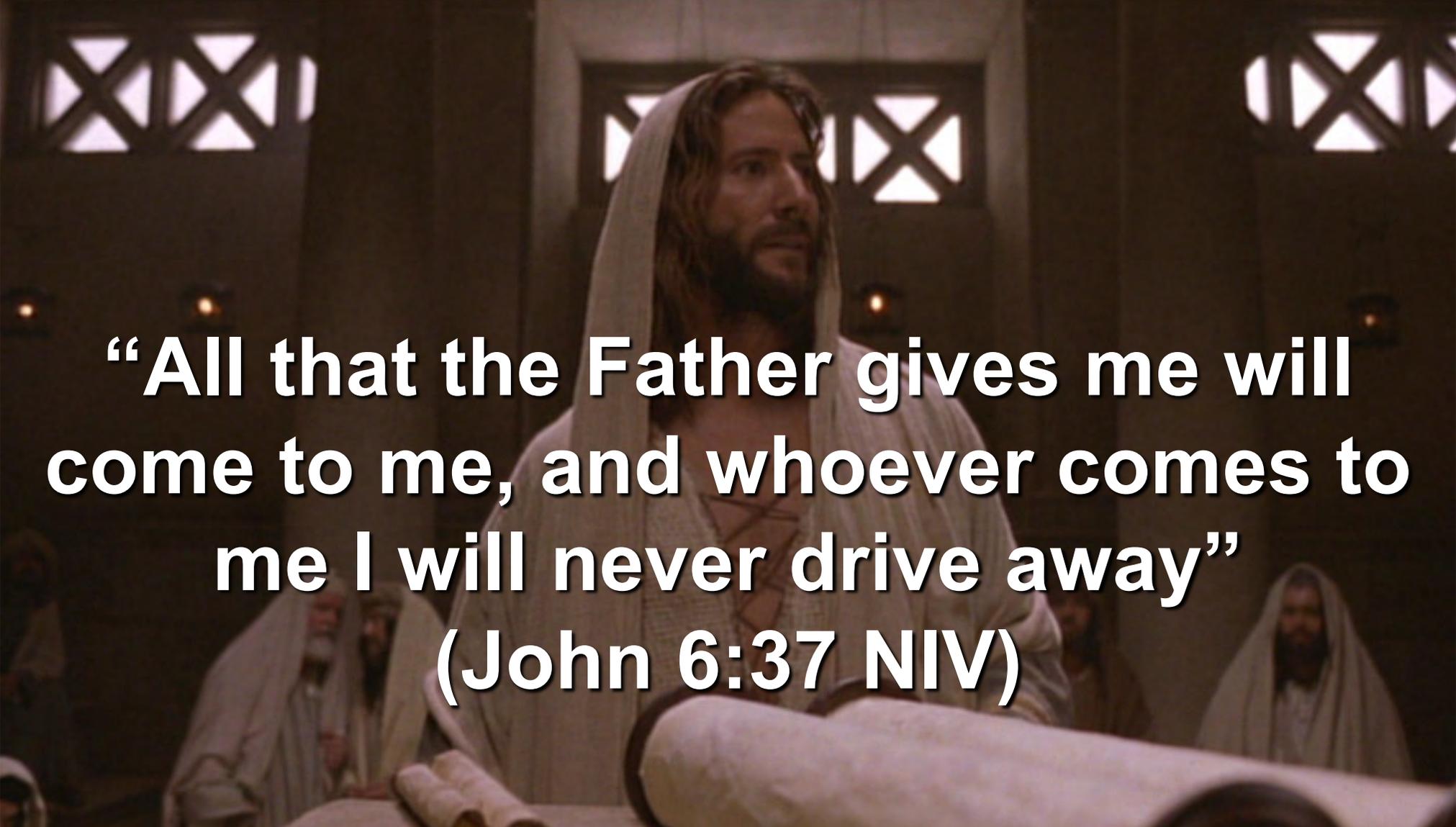
# An Astonishing Claim!

61

“I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me **have eternal life**. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life”

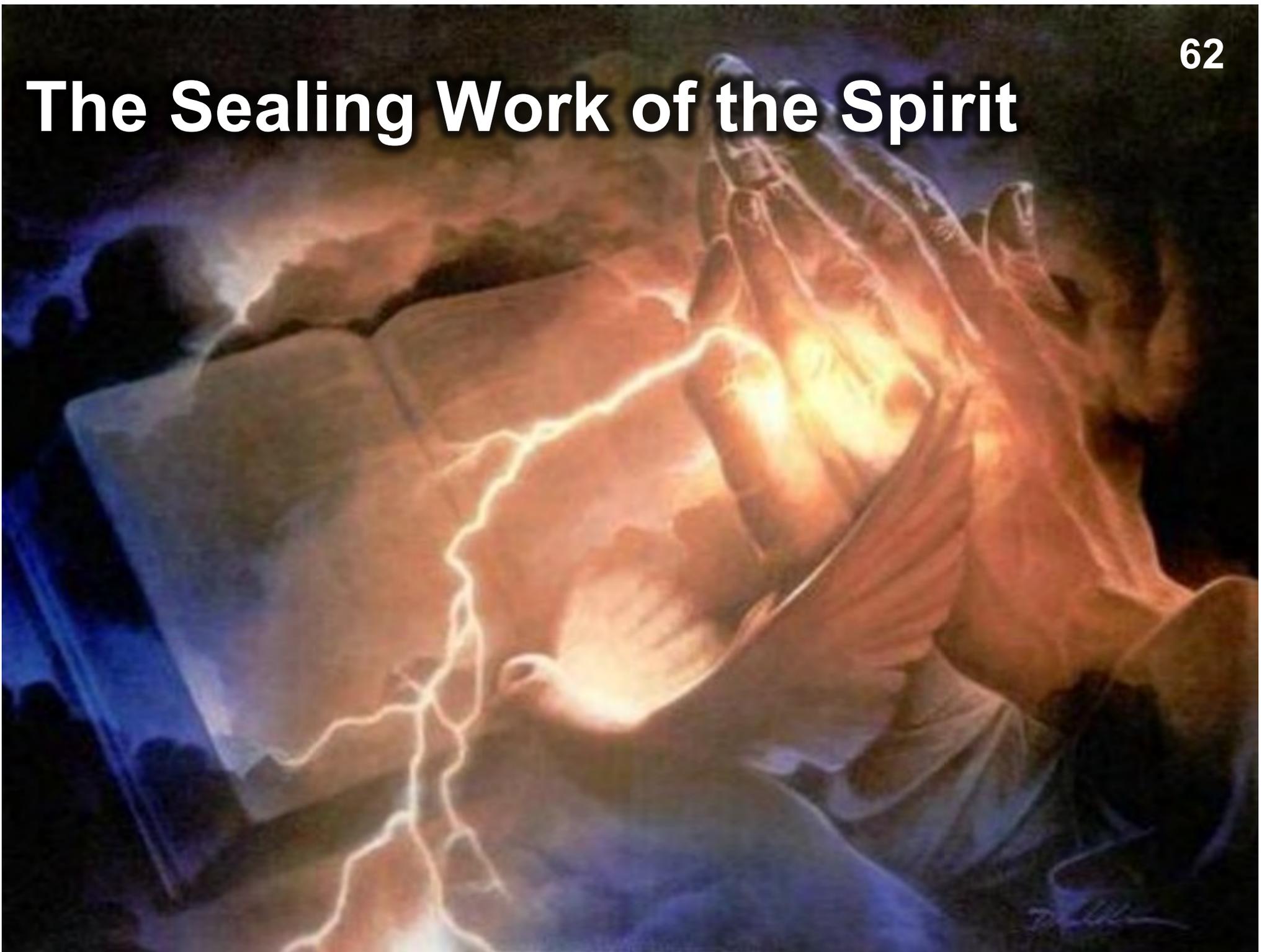
— John 5:24

# Permanent?

A cinematic still of Jesus with long brown hair and a beard, wearing a white robe and a white head covering. He is holding a large white scroll in front of him. The background is a dimly lit room with several windows featuring a cross-shaped lattice pattern. Other people in white robes are visible in the background, some looking towards Jesus.

**“All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away”  
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# The Sealing Work of the Spirit



*A Seal Guarantees Security and  
Provides Assurance*



A close-up photograph of a red wax seal on a piece of parchment paper. The seal is circular and has a slightly irregular, textured surface. The parchment paper is light brown and has some faint lines or creases. The background is a plain, light-colored surface.

**"Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,<sup>14</sup> who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory" (Eph. 1:13-14 NIV).**

*Assurance  
of  
Salvation*

*"If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup>For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved"*

*Romans 10:9-10 NLT*

# **The Nature of Salvation**

***Our deliverance from sin  
proves our security***

# **How** did God save us?

## Through His Grace—Not Our Works

"God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. <sup>9</sup>Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it" (Eph. 2:8-9 NLT)



# Assurance in 1 John 5:11-13

62 b) (2)  
63

Should we  
ever doubt?

Should we  
ever doubt?

Should we  
ever doubt?

And this is what God has testified:  
He **has given us eternal life**, and this life is in  
his Son. <sup>12</sup>Whoever has the Son **has life**;  
whoever does not have God's Son does not  
have life. <sup>13</sup>I have written this to you who  
believe in the name of the Son of God, so that  
you may know **you have eternal life.**"

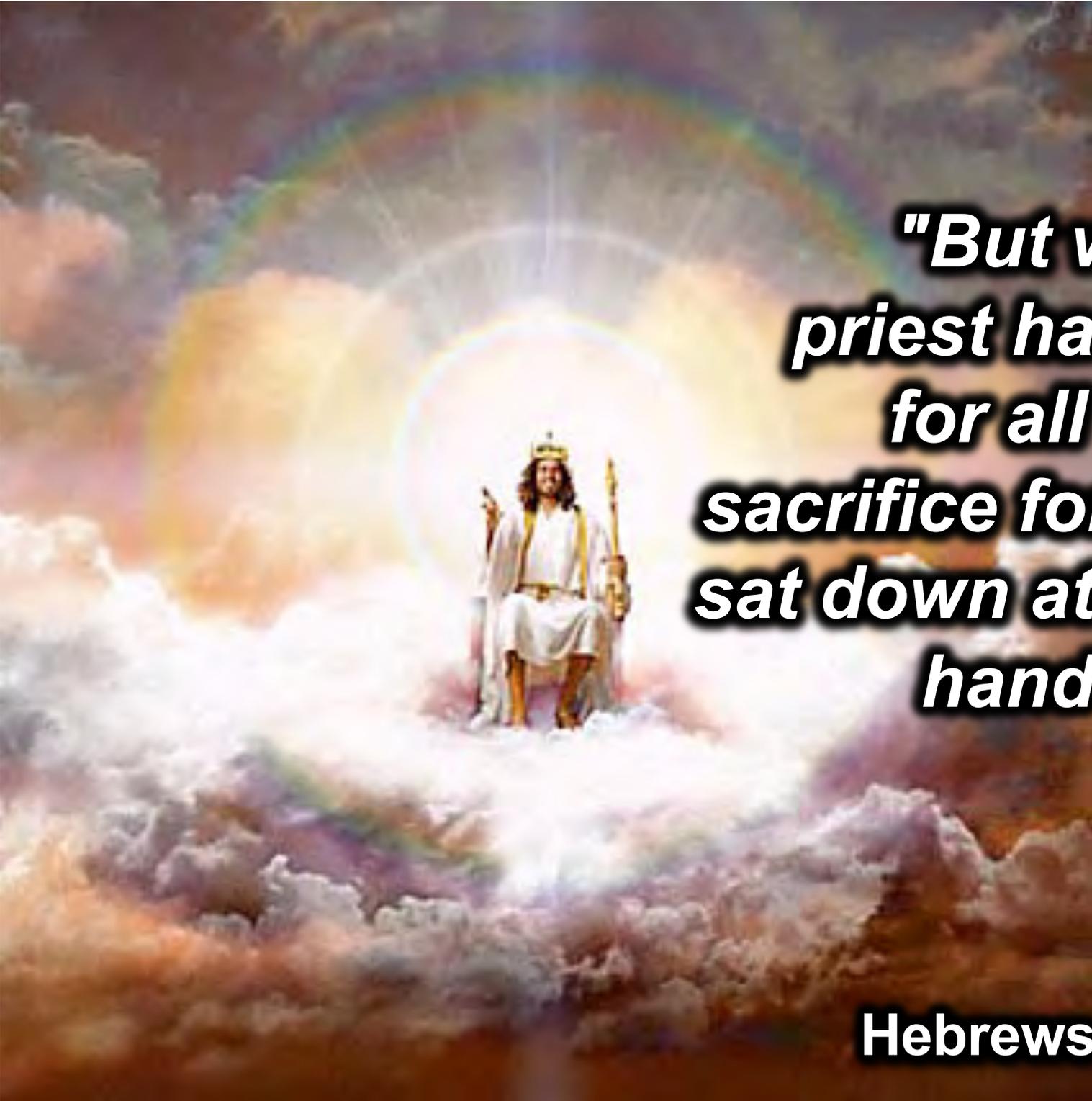
# The Believer's Standing Before God Proves Security

62  
c)



62

c) 1



***"But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God."***

**Hebrews 10:12 (NIV)**

**"There he waits  
until his enemies  
are humbled and  
made a footstool  
under his feet.  
14For by that one  
offering he forever  
made perfect  
those who are  
being made holy"  
(Heb. 10:13-14  
NLT).**



# No Condemnation (8:1)!

62  
c) 2)



# Security in Romans 8

- **We are not condemned—no Christian will go to hell (8:1)**
- **We are set free from the law of sin and death (8:2)**
- **We possess the Spirit of Christ (8:9)**
- **The Spirit will give us glorified bodies (8:11)**
- **We are adopted into God's family (8:14, 16, 17, 21, 23)**
- **We will receive the redemption of our bodies (8:23)**
- **We have hope that will be fulfilled (8:24-25)**
- **We will be conformed to Christ's likeness (8:29)**
- **All the predestined will eventually be glorified (8:30)**
- **Nothing can separate us from God's love (8:35-39)**
- **We are already more than conquerors over sin (8:37)**

**"For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."**

**Romans 8:38-39 (NAU)**

# **Biblical** Support for Eternal Security



# Roman's 3 Tenses of Salvation

TENSE	MY STATUS	FREE FROM SIN'S...	TIME	DOCTRINE OF...
Past	I have been saved	Penalty--by His death (3:21-24) Rule--by my death (6:3-7)	When I received Christ	Justification (Positional Sanctification)
Present	I am being saved	Power--by indwelling Spirit (8:2-14)	As I walk in the Spirit	(Progressive Sanctification)
Future	I shall be saved	Presence--by redemption of my body (8:22-25)	When I get my new body	Glorification (Final Sanctification)



Adapted from Kay Arthur, *1 Peter: In & Out* (Precept Ministries, 1990), 13

**Grace is...**

**G**od's  
**R**iches  
**A**t  
**C**hrist's  
**E**xpense

**Romans 3:24**

# Discussion Questions

- 1. Why do you think many people struggle to accept the doctrine of the eternal security of the believer?**
- 2. “If Christ came to seek and to save that which was lost, and yet we can somehow become unsaved—and therefore undo what Christ came to do—would it not be wise for God to take us on to heaven the moment we are saved to ensure we make it? Isn’t it unnecessarily risky to force us to stay here?” (Stanley, 10) Do you agree?**



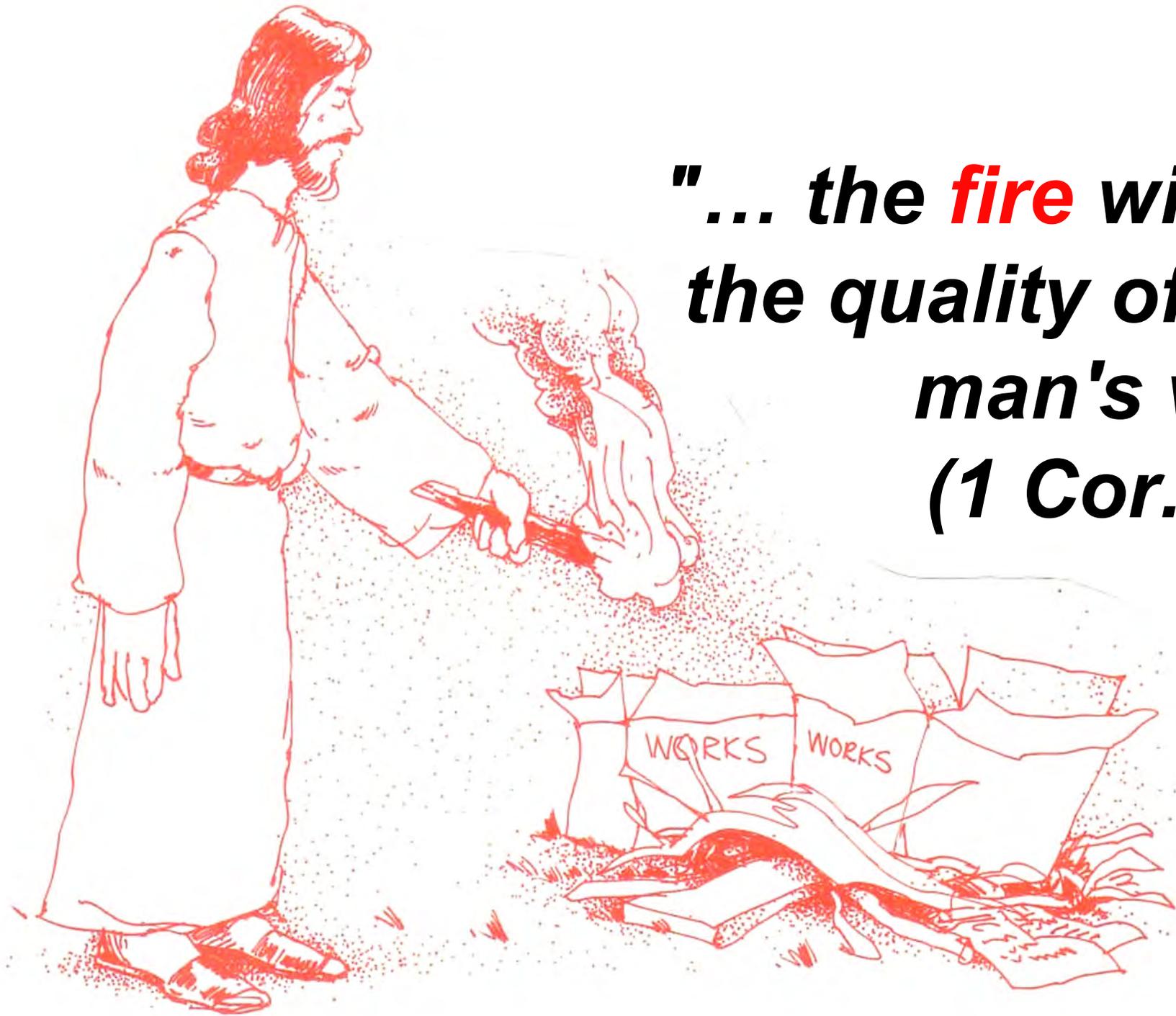
# Discussion Questions

- 3. “If our salvation hinges on the consistency of our faith, by what standard are we to judge our consistency? Can we have any doubts at all? How long can we doubt? To what degree can we doubt? Is there a divine quota we dare not exceed?” (Stanley, 95) Agreed?**
- 4. Do you think believing in the “once saved, always saved” view causes Christians to neglect their salvation? Why or why not?**



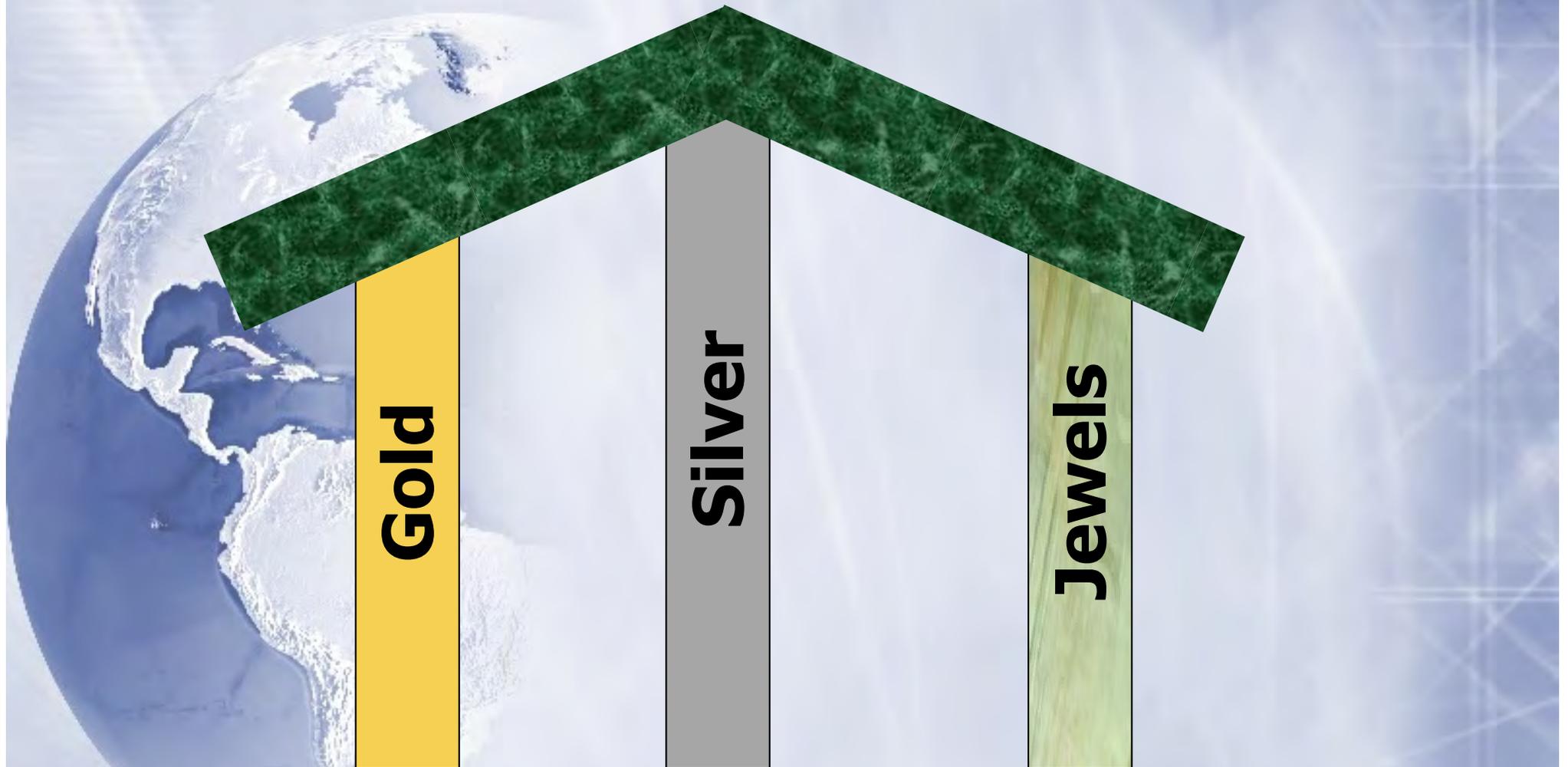
*Surprisingly, Paul affirmed the Corinthians repeatedly that they have eternal security:*

1. Their salvation will be maintained until the Lord's return (1 Cor. 1:8-9)
2. Even carnal believers will still enter heaven because of their saving faith but without rewards (1 Cor. 3:12-15; cf. 2 Cor. 5:10)



**"... the *fire* will test  
the quality of each  
man's work"  
(1 Cor. 3:13)**

# ***Lasting Building Materials (3:12a)***



**Foundation: The Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 3:11)**

# ***Perishable Building Materials (3:12b)***



**Foundation: The Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 3:11)**

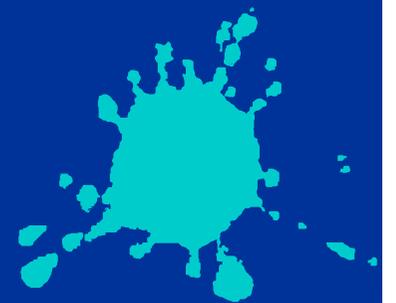


**"saved  
as  
through  
fire..."  
(3:15)**

*Surprisingly, Paul affirmed the Corinthians repeatedly that they have eternal security:*

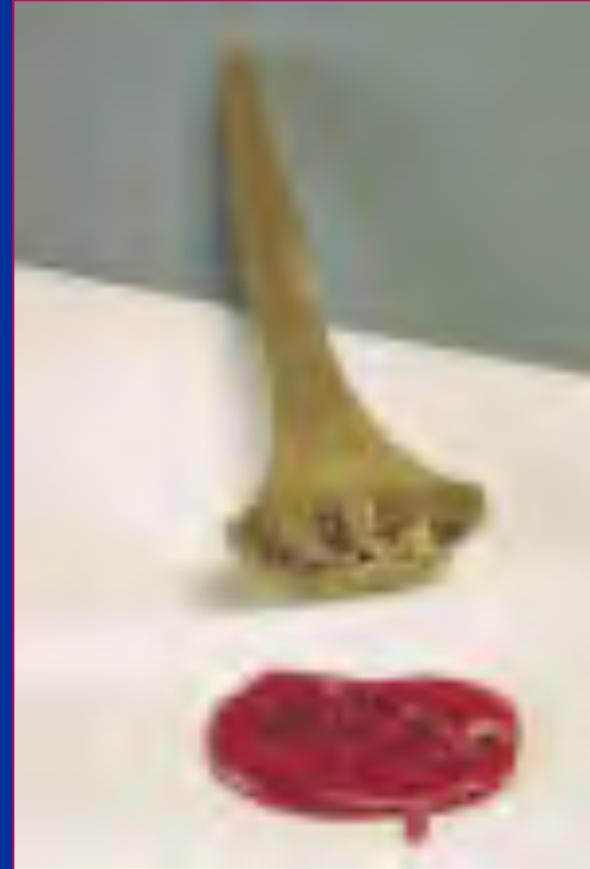
1. Their salvation will be maintained until the Lord's return (1 Cor. 1:8-9)
2. Even carnal believers will still enter heaven because of their saving faith but without rewards (1 Cor. 3:12-15; cf. 2 Cor. 5:10)
3. They should expel the incestuous man so Satan could even kill him, but he would still be saved (1 Cor. 5:4-5)
4. Even resurrection doubters should serve God fully since their service would be rewarded (1 Cor. 15:58)
5. God alone secured their redemption, for He sealed them with the Spirit to assure their salvation (2 Cor. 1:21-22)

# THE SEALING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



## Backgrounds

In ancient times a seal was usually made of melted wax on which a signature or sign of authority was stamped.



# A seal in ancient times meant:

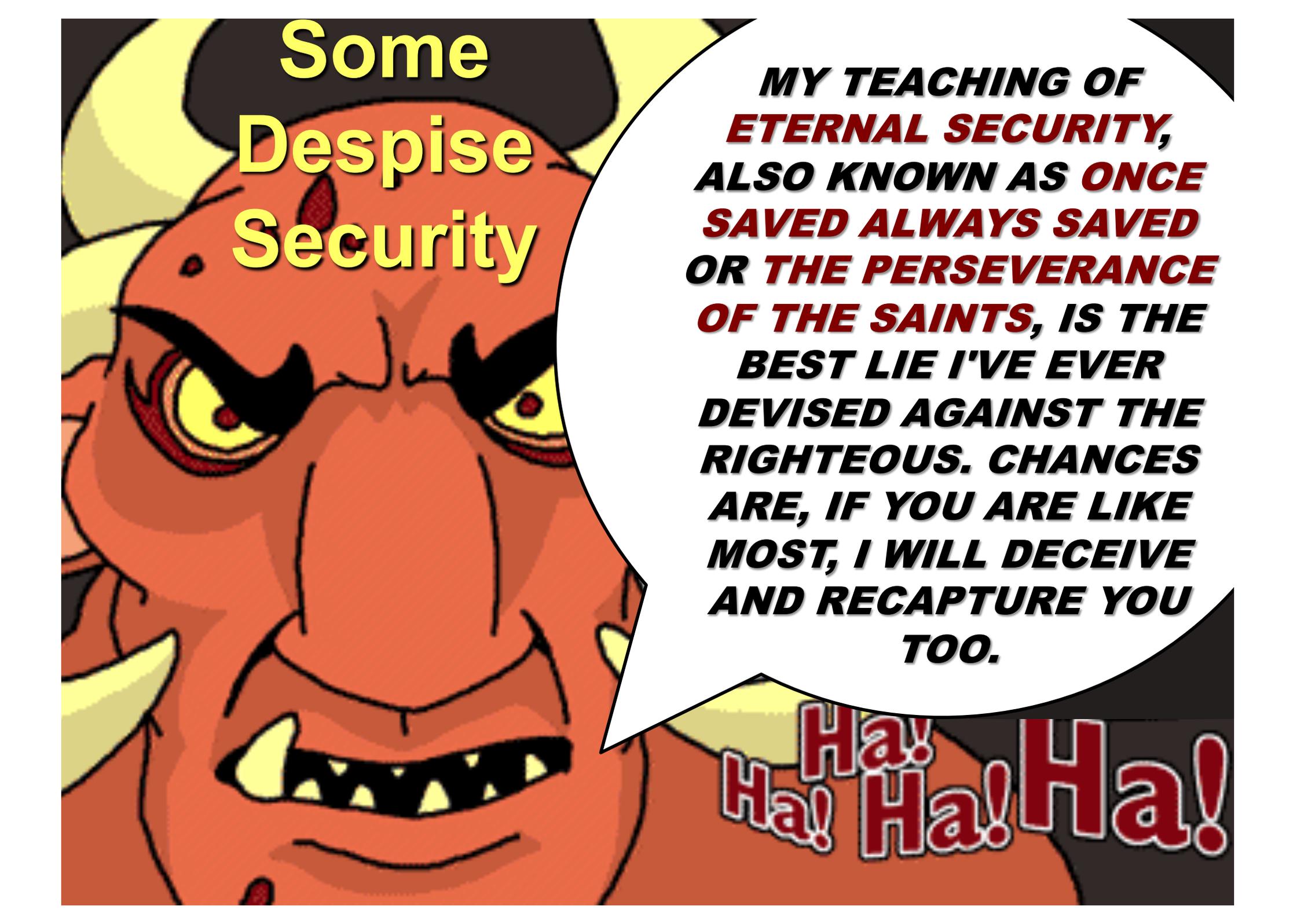


- Authenticity: It established the integrity and genuineness of a document or object
- Ownership: It established who owned an item
- Authority: It established who had the right to handle the object

# The Agent & the Extent



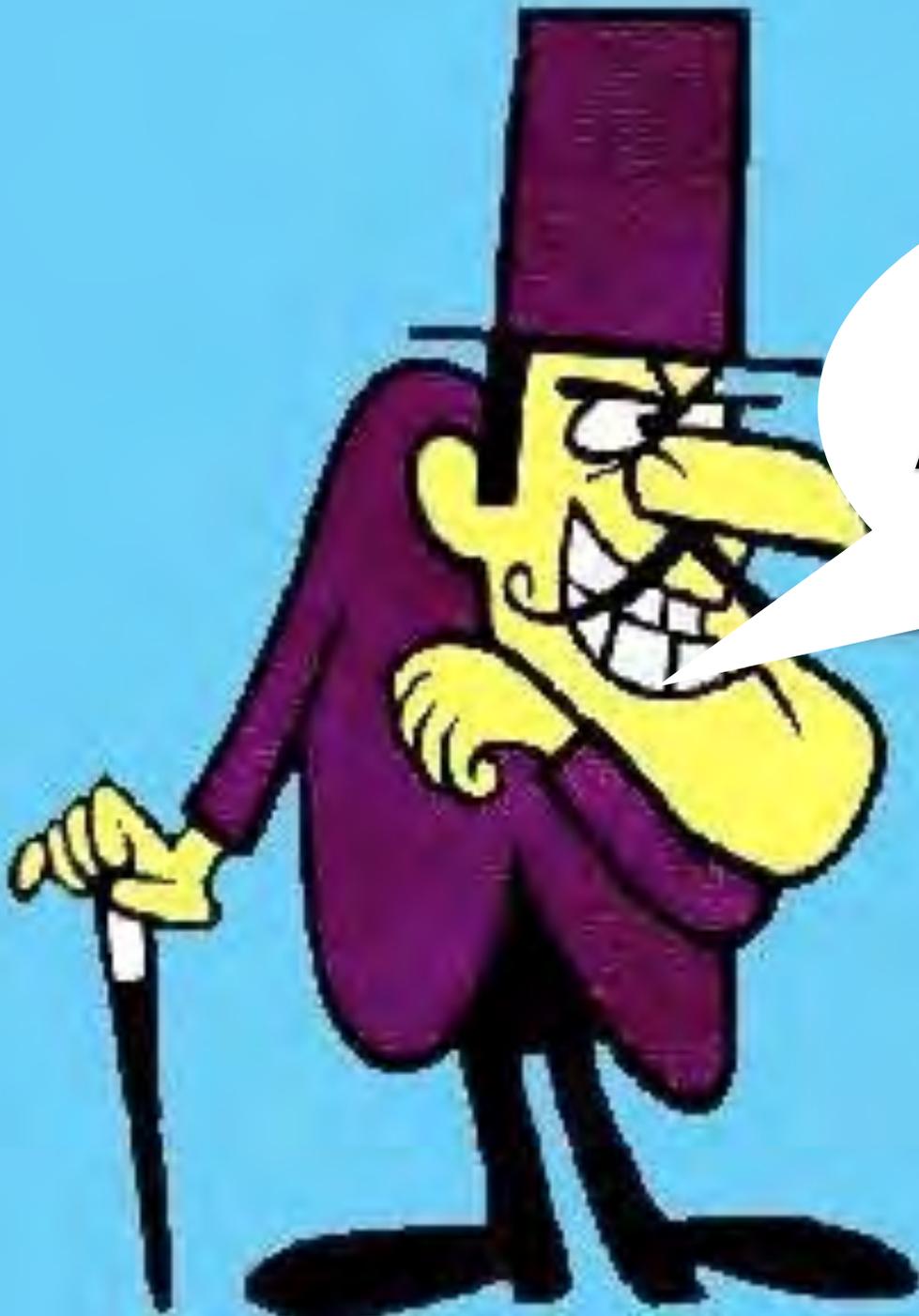
- God seals every believer and gives the earnest or pledge of the Spirit.
- "...set His seal of ownership on us, and put His Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come" (NIV)



**Some  
Despise  
Security**

***MY TEACHING OF  
ETERNAL SECURITY,  
ALSO KNOWN AS ONCE  
SAVED ALWAYS SAVED  
OR THE PERSEVERANCE  
OF THE SAINTS, IS THE  
BEST LIE I'VE EVER  
DEvised AGAINST THE  
RIGHTEOUS. CHANCES  
ARE, IF YOU ARE LIKE  
MOST, I WILL DECEIVE  
AND RECAPTURE YOU  
TOO.***

**Ha!  
Ha! Ha! Ha!**



***YOU CAN  
TRUST ME! I'M AN  
ETERNAL SECURITY  
TEACHER.***

SAVED

Lost

Saved

Lost

Lost

Saved

Lost

Saved



Saved

LOST

Saved

Lost

Saved

Saved



LOST

Lost

lost

LOST

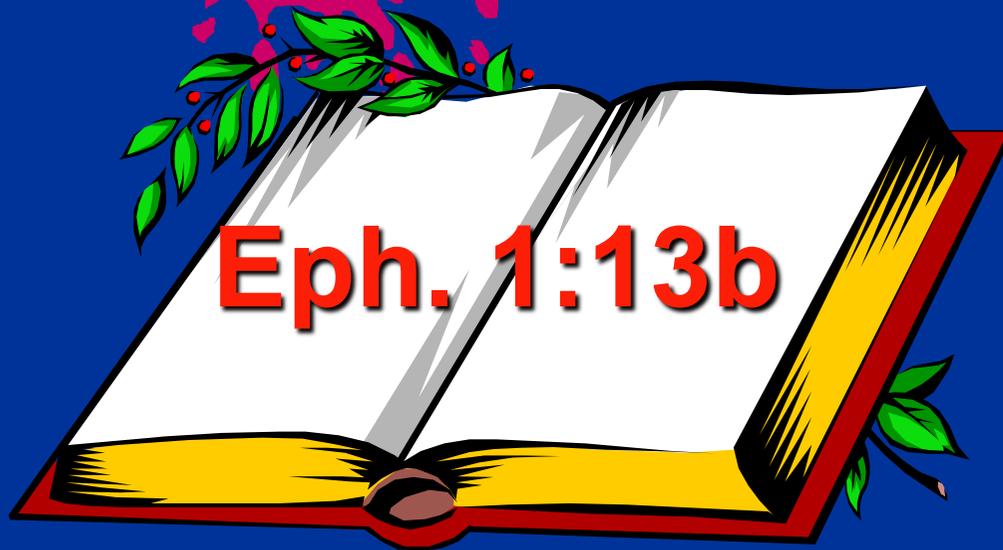
Saved

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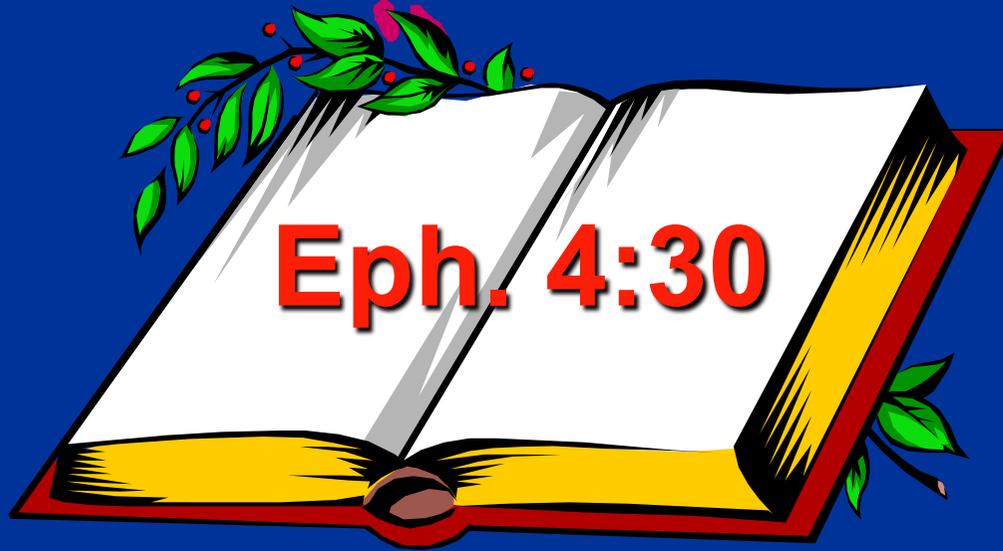
# The Sphere



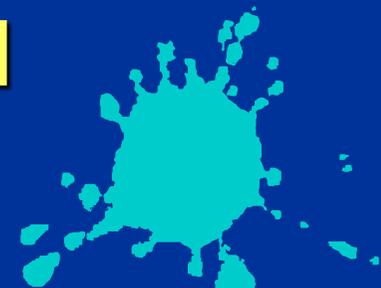
- We are not sealed "by the Spirit" but "with the Spirit"

- "And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, **you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit.**"

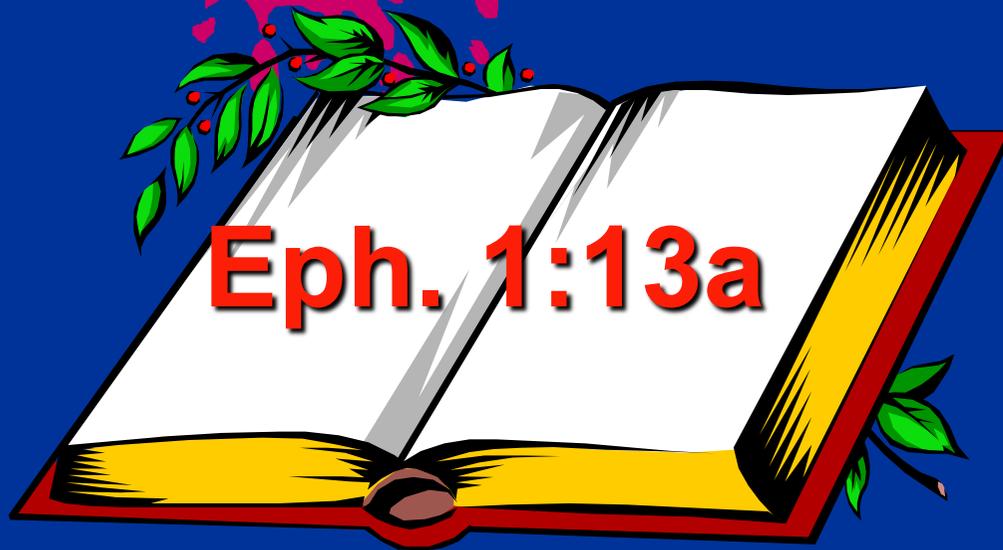
## The Extent of the Sealing



- Our sealing with the Spirit will last until our day of redemption.
- "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption."



# The Time of Sealing



- We were sealed with the Spirit when we believed.
- "And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit."

# The Spirit Guarantees Full Salvation

- Who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a **pledge** (2 Cor. 1:22 NASB)
- Now He who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave to us the Spirit as a **pledge** (2 Cor. 5:5 NASB)



# Pledge – ἄρραβῶν

- Down payment
  - First installment
  - Pledge
  - Figuratively in the NT,  
of the gift of the Holy  
Spirit to believers
- Friberg Lexicon





# In Summary:

- Every believer and only believers are sealed.
- God is the agent of the sealing.
- The Spirit is the seal.
- Each believer was sealed the moment he received Christ as Savior.
- Sealing lasts until the day of our redemption.



**Secure!**

**Sealing is a promise  
and guarantee  
of eternal security**



# Distinguishing Terms

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	<b>Eternal Security</b>	<b>Assurance of Salvation</b>
<b>Basic Meaning</b>	Being saved from the penalty of sin forever (once saved, always saved)	<u>Knowing</u> that we are saved from the penalty of sin forever
<b>Definition</b>	“The work of God which guarantees that the gift of salvation, once received, is forever and cannot be lost” (Ryrie, <i>Basic Theology</i> , 328)	“The realization of the truth of eternal security or perseverance” (Ryrie, <i>Basic Theology</i> , 328)

# Distinguishing Terms

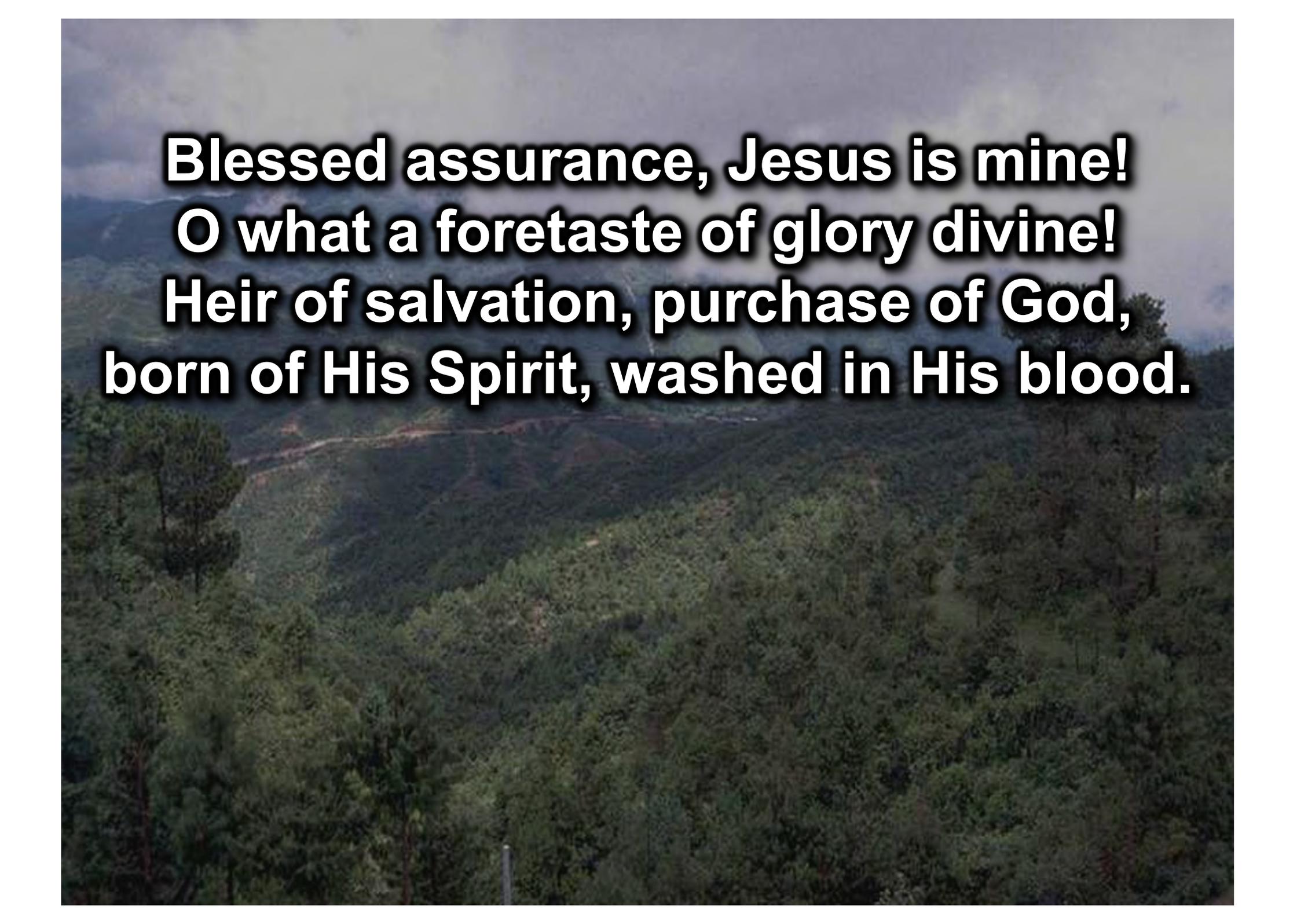
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	<b>Eternal Security</b>	<b>Assurance of Salvation</b>
<b>Spirit's Ministry</b>	Sealing (Eph. 1:13-14)	Assuring (Rom. 8:15-17)
<b>Believer's...</b>	Position as child of God (Rom. 8:16b)	Practice or confidence (Rom. 8:16a)
<b>Recipients</b>	All Christians possess	Some Christians doubt
<b>Permanence</b>	Can't be lost (John 6:39-40; 10:27-29; Rom. 8:30, 38-39; Heb. 7:25)	Can be lost (for this reason John wrote 1 John 5:11-13)
<b>Songs</b>	"I Know Whom I Have Believed" "In Christ Alone" "The Solid Rock"	"Blessed Assurance" (#367) "Now I Belong to Jesus"

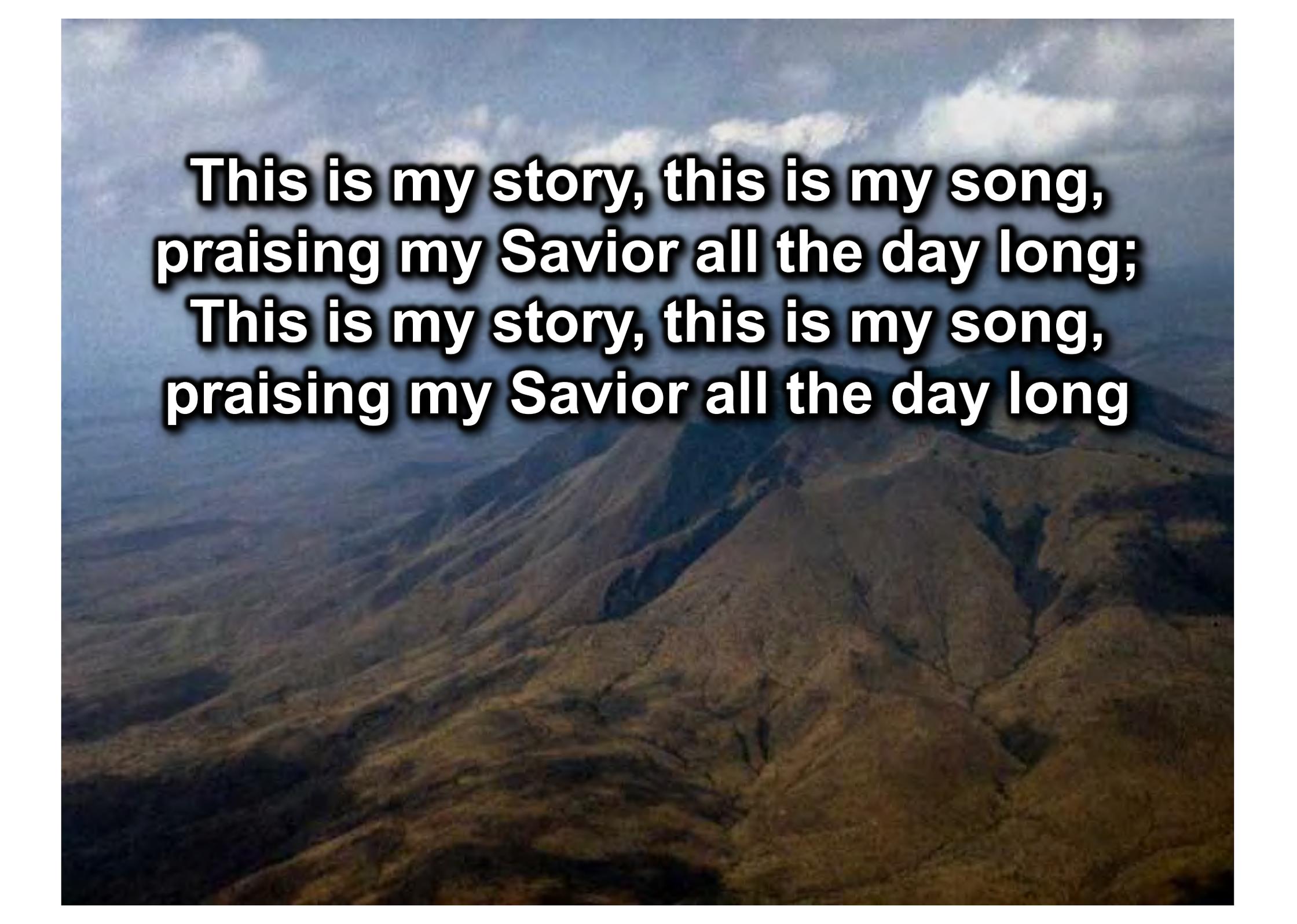
An aerial photograph of a vast mountain range. The mountains are layered, with the foreground showing more detail of the terrain, including ridges and valleys. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds. The overall color palette is dominated by earthy browns and blues.

# **Blessed Assurance**

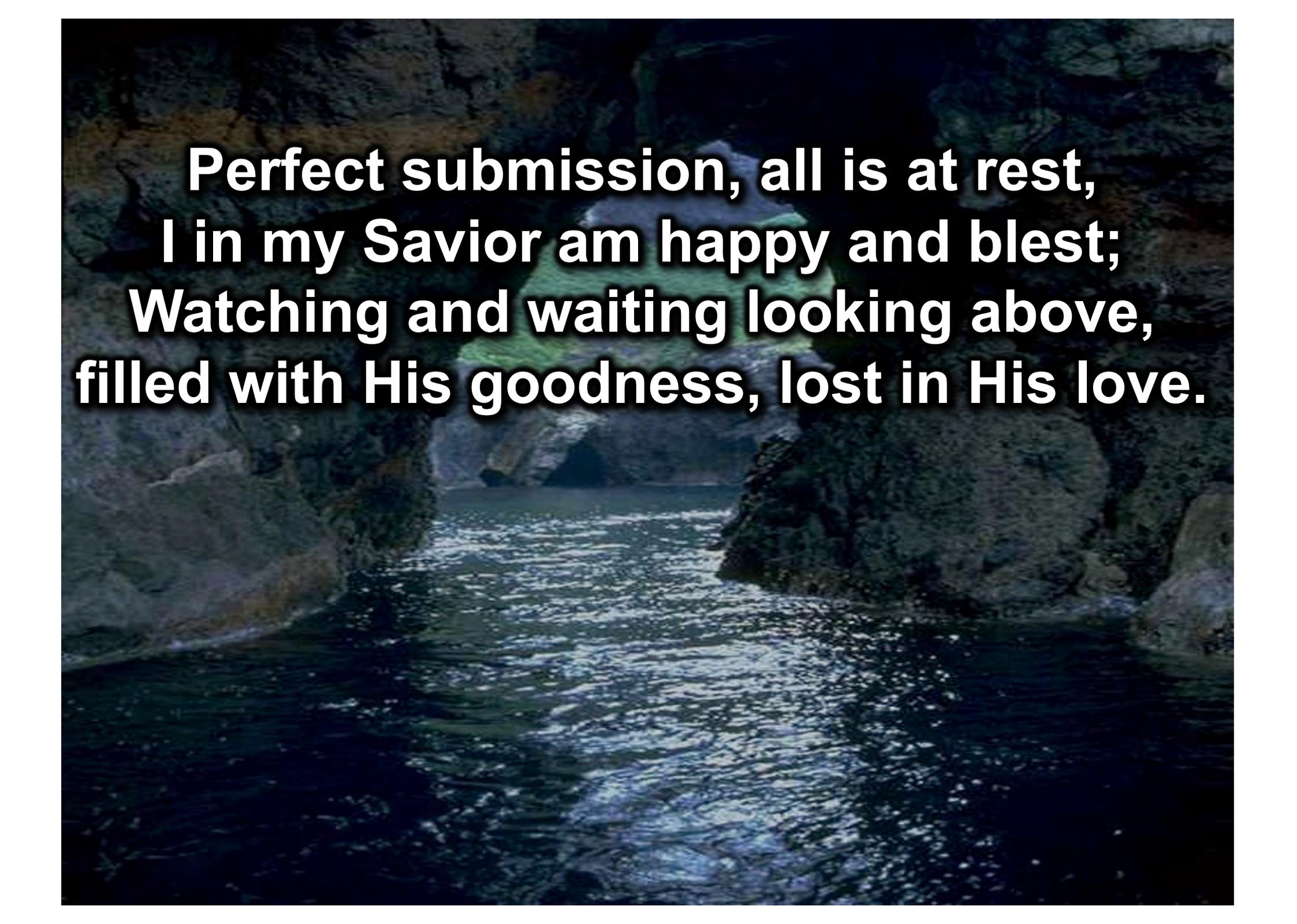
**Fanny Crosby**

A scenic view of a forested valley with a winding road, overlaid with white text. The background shows a lush green forest covering rolling hills, with a dirt road curving through the landscape. The sky is overcast and grey.

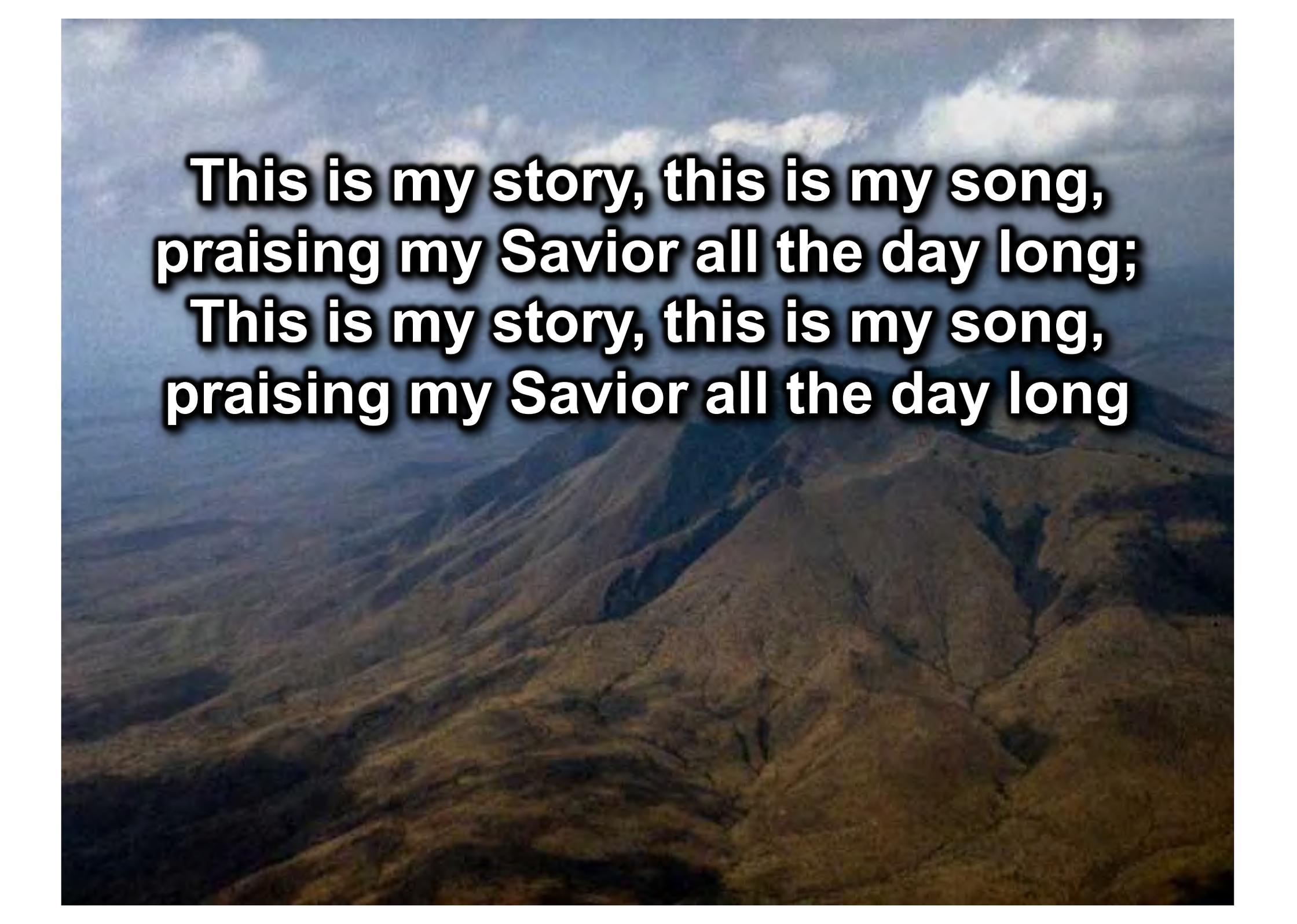
**Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.**

An aerial photograph of a vast mountain range with rolling hills and valleys. The terrain is covered in sparse, dry vegetation, appearing in shades of brown and tan. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds, and the overall lighting suggests a bright, clear day. The text is overlaid in the upper half of the image.

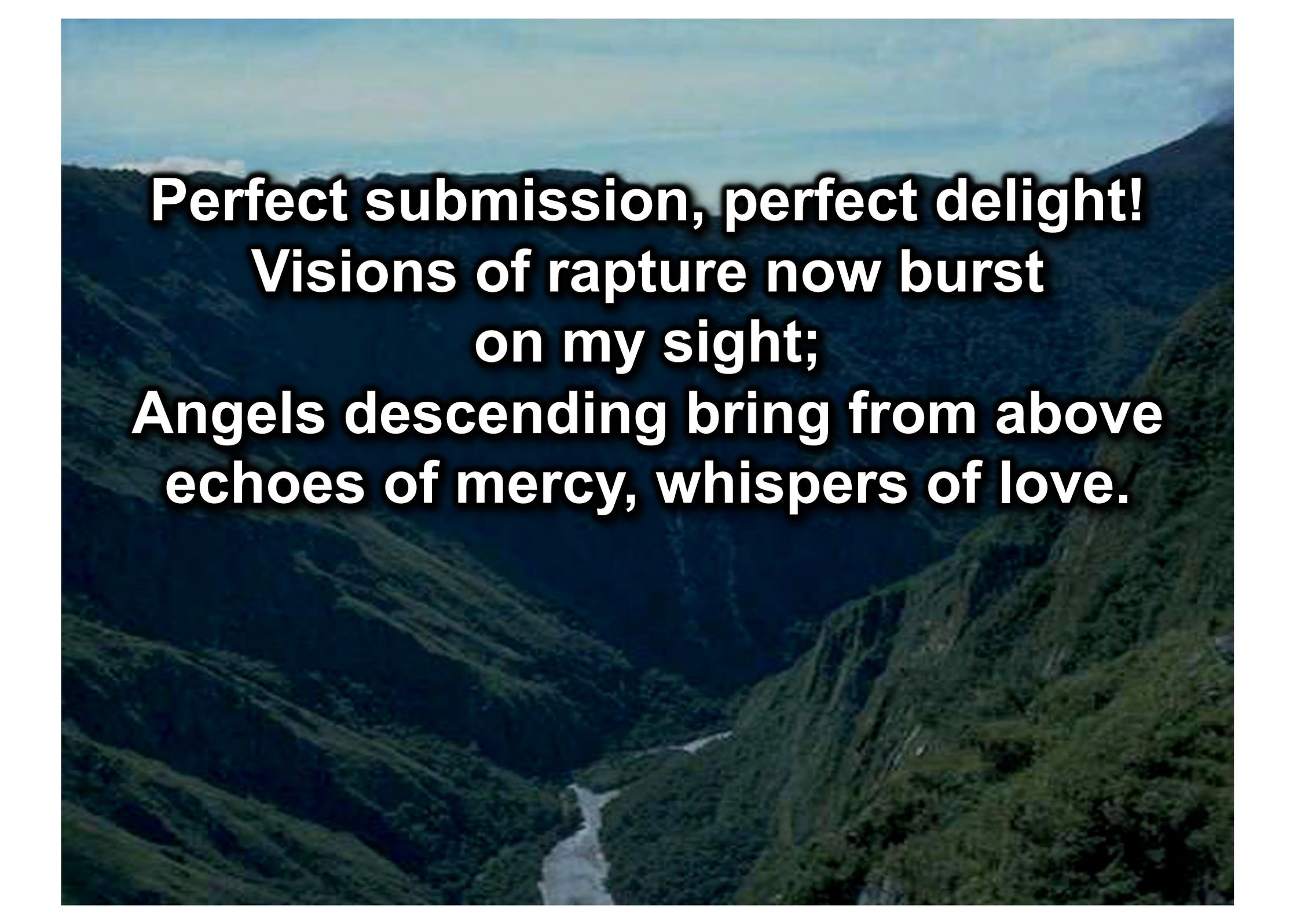
**This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long;  
This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long**



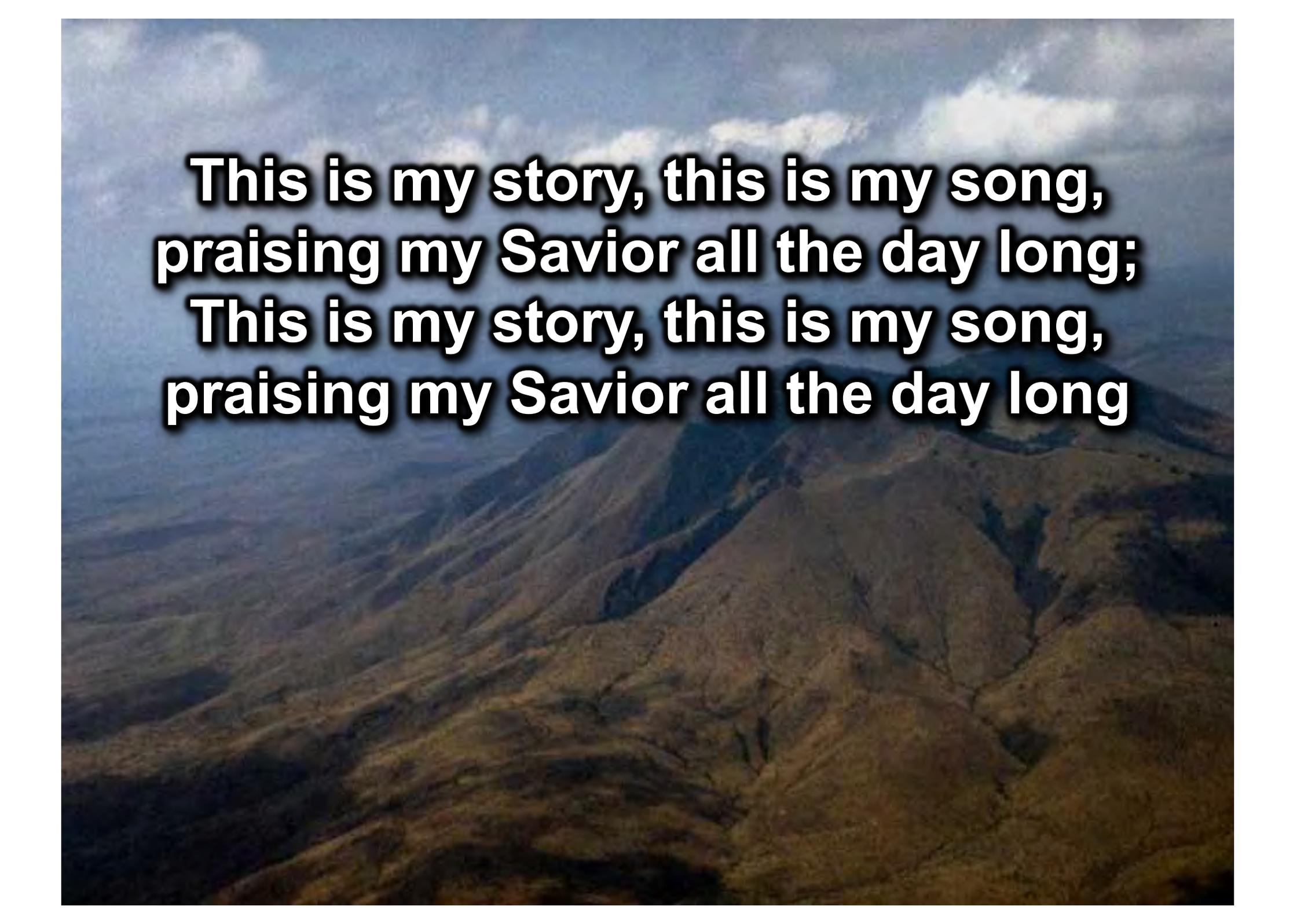
**Perfect submission, all is at rest,  
I in my Savior am happy and blest;  
Watching and waiting looking above,  
filled with His goodness, lost in His love.**

An aerial photograph of a vast mountain range with rolling hills and valleys. The terrain is covered in sparse, dry vegetation, appearing in shades of brown and tan. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds, and the overall lighting suggests a bright, clear day. The text is overlaid in the upper half of the image.

**This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long;  
This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long**

An aerial photograph of a deep, lush green valley. A river winds through the center of the valley, surrounded by dense vegetation. The valley floor is a mix of dark and light green, suggesting different types of trees and plants. The surrounding hills are also covered in green, with some rocky outcrops visible. The sky is a clear, pale blue, indicating a bright day. The overall scene is one of natural beauty and tranquility.

**Perfect submission, perfect delight!  
Visions of rapture now burst  
on my sight;  
Angels descending bring from above  
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.**

An aerial photograph of a vast mountain range with rolling hills and valleys. The terrain is covered in sparse, dry vegetation, appearing in shades of brown and tan. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds, and the overall lighting suggests a bright, clear day. The text is overlaid in the upper half of the image.

**This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long;  
This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long**

# The Fire

"Dear friends, if we deliberately continue sinning after we have received knowledge of the truth, there is no longer any sacrifice that will cover these sins. <sup>27</sup> There is only the terrible expectation of God's judgment and the raging fire that will consume his enemies" (Hebrews 10:26-27 NLT).

**Hell fire?**

**No, Jerusalem fire!**

# The Problem with Labels

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*Must we be one or the other...?*

**Reformed?**

...or...

**Arminian?**

**Many do  
Fall Away**

**Weaknesses**

**Loss of  
Salvation**

**Eternal  
Security**

**Strengths**

**Reality of  
Apostasy**

**Partakers View Has  
Both Strengths &  
Neither Weakness**

**Jody Dillow is the key author of the Partakers View**



# **Final Destiny**

***The Future Reign of the  
Servant Kings***

***Joseph Dillow***



# Views on the Warning Passages

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<i>Issues</i>	<b>False Believer</b>	<b>Former Believer</b>	<b>Carnal Believer</b>
<i>What group of Jews is being addressed?</i>	<b>Unbelievers: Professing "Christians" in the assembly who are not really believers after all</b>	<b>Believers: Christians who sin because they do not see the superiority of Christ</b>	<b>Believers: Christians who sin because they do not see the superiority of Christ</b>
<i>What is the nature of their punishment?</i>	<b>Never had salvation</b>	<b>Loss of salvation</b>	<b>Loss of reward</b>
<i>What is the result?</i>	<b>Hell</b>	<b>Hell</b>	<b>Divine discipline (even by death)</b>
<i>Which theology perspective holds this view?</i>	<b>Reformed (Presbyterian, BP, etc.), some Arminians</b>	<b>Arminian (Methodist, AOG, Nazarene, etc.)</b>	<b>Partakers (Baptist, Bible church, etc.)</b>

# Views on Security & Perseverance

<b>Issues</b>	<b>Reformed</b>	<b>Arminian</b>	<b>Partakers</b>
<b><i>How does each system define election and perseverance?</i></b>	<p>God sovereignly elects to salvation and helps believers persevere in faith until death</p>	<p>God elects those whose <i>free will</i> accepts Christ and preserves them unless they lose faith</p>	<p>God <i>elects</i> to salvation; some do not persevere, but the faithful will partake of rewards</p>
<b><i>What specific elements of salvation make up this system of belief?</i></b>	<p>Total depravity  <b>U</b>nconditional election  <b>L</b>imited atonement  <b>I</b>rresistible grace  <b>P</b>erseverance</p>	<p>Natural inability  <b>C</b>onditional election  <b>U</b>nlimited atonement  <b>R</b>esistible grace  <b>C</b>onditional perseverance</p>	<p>Total depravity  <b>U</b>nconditional election  <b>U</b>nlimited atonement  <b>I</b>rresistible grace  <b>C</b>onditional perseverance</p>

# Views on Security & Perseverance

<b><i>Issues</i></b>	<b>Reformed</b>	<b>Arminian</b>	<b>Partakers</b>
<b><i>How does this view see carnal Christians (e.g., 1 Cor. 3:1-5)?</i></b>	<b>They aren't Christians or are at a low level of spiritual commitment in a particular area</b>	<b>They spurn Christ to the point of almost losing their salvation</b>	<b>These believers lack blessings now and later (but are still saved)</b>
<b><i>Do all believers persevere until death?</i></b>	<b>Yes 1 Cor. 15:2; Phil. 1:6</b>	<b>No Rom. 8:13; Gal. 5:21; 6:8</b>	<b>No 1 Cor. 3:15; Rev. 3:26</b>
<b><i>Can a true Christian lose his salvation?</i></b>	<b>No, it is eternally secure</b>	<b>Yes, it is not eternally secure</b>	<b>No, it is eternally secure</b>

# Views on Security & Perseverance

<b>Issues</b>	<b>Reformed</b>	<b>Arminian</b>	<b>Partakers</b>
<i>Is 100% assurance of salvation possible?</i>	No, since no one knows if he has genuine faith that will persevere	No, since no one knows if he will persevere	Yes, if one knows Christ as Saviour
<i>How does this system counsel believers in habitual sin?</i>	"You better re-examine whether you genuinely trusted Christ"	"You either lost your salvation or never were really saved"	"You must turn from your sin to be fully rewarded (Heb. 3:14)"
<i>How do those struggling with sin gain spiritual motivation?</i>	From fear that they may not actually be saved after all	From fear that they may not have sufficiently maintained their salvation	From fear that they will miss key rewards (their inheritance can be lost but not their salvation)

# Views on Security & Perseverance

<b><i>Issues</i></b>	<b>Reformed</b>	<b>Arminian</b>	<b>Partakers</b>
<b><i>What actually results in the listeners from this teaching?</i></b>	They may become carnal Christians by doubting their salvation	They believe God must always be appeased (low view of grace)	They will more likely appreciate God's faithfulness to them
<b><i>Who holds this view?</i></b>	John Calvin (d. 1564), Reformed churches, Presbyterians, Charles Hodge, Arthur Pink	Jacob Arminius (d. 1609), John Wesley, Methodists, Wesleyans, Nazarenes, Holiness churches, Pentecostals/Charismatics	Baptists, Bible churches, Joseph Dillow, Zane Hodges, Earl Radmacher, Charles Ryrie

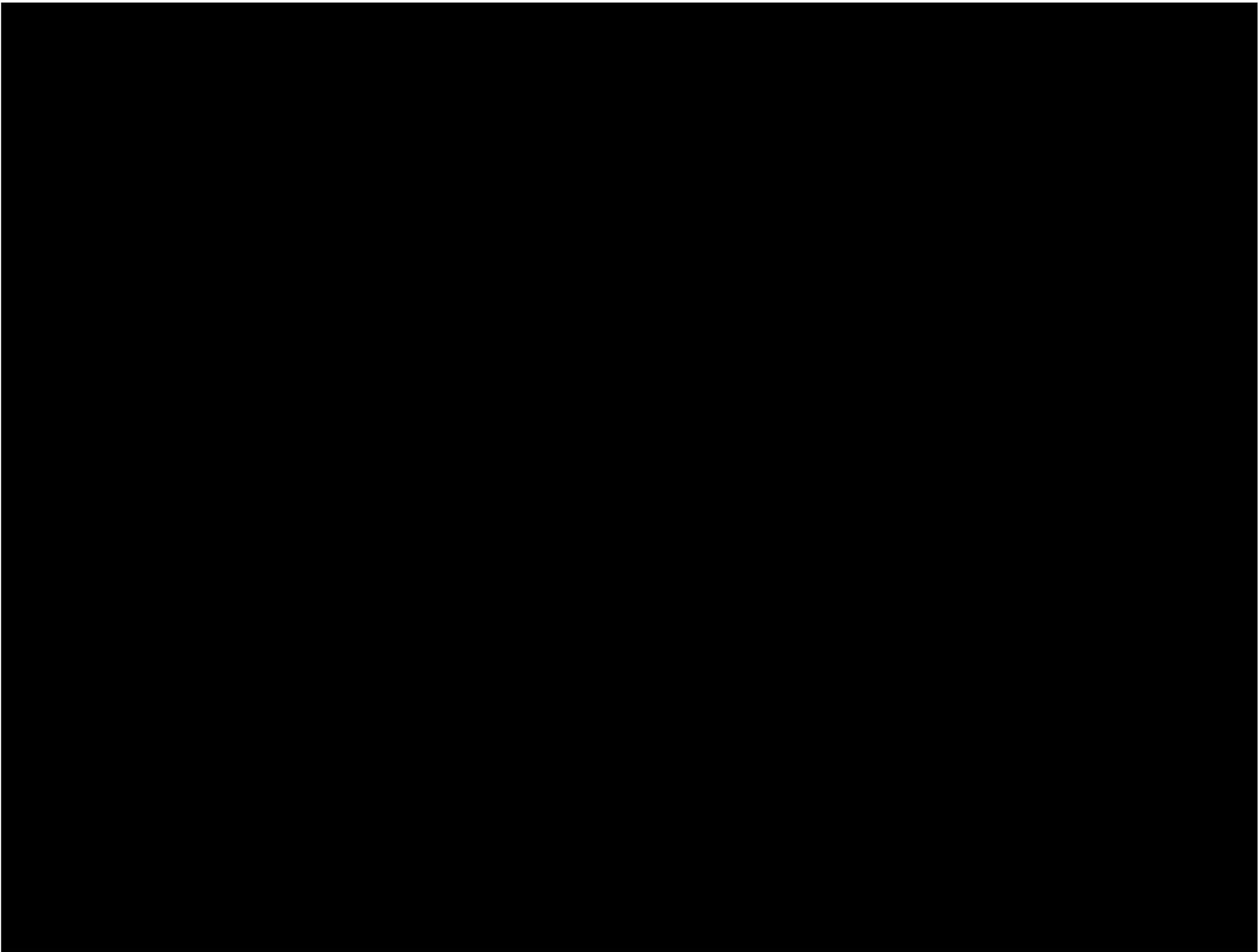


**What is the meaning of the  
cross of Christ?**



# **Biblical Support for Eternal Security**

- 1. Start only with the Bible.**
- 2. Show the Bible teaches salvation by grace through faith alone.**
- 3. Show that since salvation is only by grace, it can only be lost through God's fault.**



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