

Convincing Convictions

Do you know why you believe what you believe? Would you be able to explain to someone else what the Bible teaches about core doctrines such as the Deity of Christ, salvation by grace alone, the inspiration of Scripture? In this section of *Stepping in the Light* will be brief explanations of basic doctrines. Some doctrines will be presented in more than one issue, maybe in many issues over the course of time, as each doctrine is multifaceted. Use “*Convincing Convictions*” as a tool to become strong in faith and able to “rightly divide the Word of truth.”



Snuggle in His Arms

OR THE DOCTRINE OF ETERNAL SECURITY

by Mrs. Joanne Bass, Armington, IL

Jesus calls Himself the Good Shepherd and me His sheep in John chapter 10. I like to think of myself as His *little* sheep, because that helps me see His strength and wisdom in relation to my weakness and need. I picture myself as a little lamb in the Shepherd's arms, like in the pictures we've all seen. He is gentle and loving, and I am resting in His care, abiding in His strength.

In fact, in verse 28, Jesus tells me He holds me, not only in His arms, as I delight in picturing, but He holds me in His hand. “And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand.” I am a *very* small and weak sheep, and He is the supremely strong Shepherd.

The verse we just read, John 10:28 is full of vital truths:

A. I am His sheep. This is true of me because I am a believer.

B. He gives me eternal life—“eternal” means forever.

C. I shall *never* perish. Never means never.

D. I am kept in His hand, and no one is able to pluck me out of His hand.

He is the Good Shepherd and I am His little sheep. I became His sheep when I received Him as my Savior from sin. He rescued me from sin—that's what He did on the Cross for me as the sinless substitute for my sin. I didn't deserve His death; in fact, He died because what I truly deserved was an eternity without God in Hell.

Look at the Shepherd picture again; in fact, let's make

it a video. I, a wandering sheep, look to Jesus, trusting Him as my Savior from sin. He, the Good Shepherd, lifts me from the bondage of sin, making me His own. *I* did nothing good to become His sheep—*He* did only good. I became His through His goodness and none of my own.

I am in His strong Shepherd arms now, and He promises me eternal life. He tells me He cannot lie (Titus 1:2), and so I know this eternal life means *forever*. He moves me from His arms into His protective and secure strong hand and tells me no man can pluck me out of His hand, and He goes on to say I am in His Father's hand, and no man can pluck me out of His Father's hand. I am safe in His hand, His Father's hand is around His, and I am securely sealed by the Holy Spirit of Promise (Ephesians 1:13-14).

I don't know if you know this, but I am prone to wander; that is the nature of sheep. It is my strong and faithful Shepherd Who is responsible to keep me. He knew when He lifted me that I could never keep myself. If I were to be lost, it would not be my failure, (I fail so often) but the Shepherd's, because He is my Keeper (Psalm 121:5).

I am in His hand, I got into His hand by His grace alone, and it is His grace and strength that keeps me there. If I doubted the eternality of my eternal life, I would be ignoring the faithfulness, strength, and grace of my Good Shepherd.

What a joy to rest in my Shepherd's strength! What peace!

What motivation for loving, obedient service!
What security! 🏠



“Absolute dependence on what God has done equals salvation; absolute dependence on what God has said equals assurance.”