

Romans Session 64
The Security of Salvation 4
The Believer's Possession of Divine Love

Romans 5:5-8 (NASB)

⁵ *and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*

⁶ *For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.*

⁷ *For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die.*

⁸ *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

Again, as we come to the study of the Security of Salvation, we are again reminded of the six links that Paul lays out for the Roman Church that link the believer to the Lord for Eternity.

1. The Believer's Peace with God (5:1)
2. His standing in Grace (5:2a)
3. His hope of Glory (5:2b-5a)
4. His possession of Divine Love (5:5b-8)
5. His certainty of deliverance (5:9-10)
6. His Joy in the Lord (5:11)

At this time, then, we want to take up number four in the list. Having looked at the first three, we see again and again how the believer is linked to Christ and to His Life.

He is at peace with God, in Christ,

He is standing in the Grace of God which has its foundation in the ongoing life of Christ,

He is promised that he will be clothed with the very Glory of Christ for eternity.

And now we see that he is in possession of the Divine Love of Christ.

This fourth and marvelous link, once again links the believer to Christ eternally.

Because they are in possession of the divine love of God;

"the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us."

When a person receives salvation through Jesus Christ, he enters a spiritual love relationship with God that lasts throughout all eternity.

The Apostle makes it very clear in verse eight, that he is referring to God's love for us, not our love for Him.

The most overwhelming truth of the gospel is that God loved sinful, fallen, rebellious mankind, so much that;

John 3:16b (NASB)

¹⁶ ***"He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.***

And as the apostle claims in verse nine, of this present chapter, if God loved us with so great a love before we were saved, when we were still His enemies, how much more does He love us now.

As if that were not enough, God even graciously imparts His love to us.

For those who accept His offer of **salvation**, God takes His indescribable and undeserved **love** and pours it **out within** the **hearts** of those who believe, **through** His Own **Holy Spirit** who he gives to them.

Taking the truth of eternal security out of the objective area of mind, Paul now reveals that, in Christ, we are also given subjective evidence of permanent salvation, evidence that God Himself implants within our deepest being, in that we love the One who first loved us.

1 John 4:7-10 (NASB)

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

⁸ The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

⁹ By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him.

¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

1 Corinthians 16:22 (NASB)

²² If anyone does not love the Lord, he is to be accursed. Maranatha.

Poured out refers to lavish outpouring to the point of overflowing.

Our heavenly Father does not proffer His **love** in measured drops but in immeasurable torrents.

The very fact that God gives His **Holy Spirit** to indwell believers is itself a marvelous testimony to His love for us, because He would hardly indwell those whom He did not love.

And it is only because of the indwelling Spirit that His children are able, to truly love Him.

Speaking about the Holy Spirit to His disciples He said;

John 7:38-39 (NASB)

³⁸ "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'"

³⁹ But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Those rivers of blessing can flow out of the believer only because of the divine rivers of blessing, including the blessing of divine **love**, that God has **poured** into them.

In the same way, our spiritual security is not in our ability to live godly but in the power of the indwelling **Holy Spirit** to make us godly.

Only God can make men godly, and the Spirit's leading us into godliness is one of the great evidences of salvation.

Romans 8:14 (NASB)

¹⁴ For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

With the longing to love, even the genuine desire to be godly is produced by the Holy Spirit.

Whenever we sincerely aspire to righteous living,

Whenever we have an earnest desire to pray,

Whenever we yearn to study God's Word,

Whenever we long to worship the Lord Jesus Christ with all our hearts,

We know we are being led by the Holy Spirit.

Whenever we experience the awesome awareness that God is indeed our heavenly Father, it is;

Romans 8:16-17a (NASB)

¹⁶ *The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,*

¹⁷ *and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ,*

The natural man has no such desires or experiences, and even Christians would not have them apart from being indwelt and led by the **Holy Spirit**.

Acknowledging His promises with the mind does not necessarily bring personal confidence to the heart, God makes provision for the emotional encouragement as well as the mental enlightenment of His children.

When the Lord is given free reign in our lives, the Holy Spirit will bear fruit in and through us, the first fruit of which is love.

Galatians 5:22-23 (NASB)

²² *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,*

²³ *gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*

If we live in such a way that we are in disobedience, we grieve the Holy Spirit, and He cannot then produce in our lives what He intends.

Therefore, when we live in disobedience, we not only will not feel loving toward God but will not feel His love for us.

With this in mind, Paul prayed for the Ephesian Church;

Ephesians 3:14-19 (NASB)

¹⁴ *For this reason I bow my knees before the Father,*

¹⁵ *from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name,*

¹⁶ *that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man,*

¹⁷ *so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love,*

¹⁸ *may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,*

¹⁹ *and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.*

Paul now knowing that his readers would want to know more about the quality and character of the divine love that filled them, Paul reminds them of the greatest manifestation of God's love in all history, perhaps in all Eternity;

⁶ *"For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly."*

While men were utterly **helpless** to bring themselves to God, He sent His only begotten Son, **Jesus Christ**, to die for us, notwithstanding the fact that we were **ungodly** and completely unworthy of His love.

When we were powerless to escape from our sins, powerless to escape death, powerless to resist Satan, and powerless to please Him in any way, God amazingly sent His Son to die on our behalf.

Natural Human love is almost invariably based on the attractiveness of the object of love, and we are inclined to love people who love us.

Consequently, we tend to attribute that same kind of love to God.

We think that His love for us is dependent on how good we are or on how much we love Him.
But as Jesus points out;

Matthew 5:46 (NASB)

⁴⁶ "For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?"

As theologian Charles Hodge observed,

"if God loved us because we loved him, he would love us only so long as we love him, and on that condition, and then our salvation would depend on the constancy of our treacherous hearts. But as God loved us as sinner, so Christ died for us as ungodly, our salvation depends on as the apostle argues, not on our loveliness but on the constancy of the Love of God"

God's love is supremely demonstrated by Christ's dying for the **ungodly**, for totally unrighteous, undeserving, and unlovable mankind.

In the human realm, by contrast, Paul observes *"that one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die."*

Paul is not contrasting a **righteous man** with a **good man**, but is simply using those terms synonymously.

His point is that it is uncommon for a person to sacrifice his own life, in order, to save the life even of someone of high character.

Still fewer people are inclined to give their lives to save a person they know to be a wicked scoundrel.

But God was so inclined, and in that is our security and assurance. Saved, we can never be as wretched as we were before salvation, and He love us totally then.

The God who hates every sinful thought and every sinful deed nevertheless loves the **sinners** who think and do those things, even while they are still hopelessly enmeshed in their sin.

Even when men openly hate God and do not have the least desire to give up their sin, they are still the objects of God's redeeming love as long, as they live.

Only at death does an unbeliever cease to be loved by God.

After that, he is eternally beyond the pale of God's love and is destined irrevocably for His wrath.

In Christ, we are forever linked to God by His love, demonstrated in (positive) blessings and (negative) mercy.