

The background of the slide features a faded, sepia-toned photograph of four large stone statues of men in historical, clerical-style robes. They are standing in a row, facing forward. The man in the center-right is holding a book. Below the statues, a stone ledge has a faint carving of the IHS monogram flanked by two decorative flourishes.

A SURVEY OF THE REFORMATION

ITS HISTORY & DOCTRINE

HISTORY

1. Intro & Early Church History
2. Church Schisms, & the Decline of the Roman Church
3. Forerunners of the Reformation
4. The Protestant Reformation
5. Reformation (continued), Puritanism & the Legacy of the Reformers

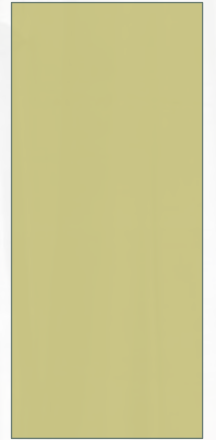
DOCTRINE

6. Reformation Doctrine: 5 Solas & Sovereignty of God
7. Background to the “5 Points” & Total Depravity
8. Irresistible Grace (cont.) & “Limited” Atonement
9. “Limited” Atonement & Unconditional Election
- 10. Unconditional Election (cont.) & Perseverance of the Saints**
11. Answering Objections & Why the Reformation Matters Today



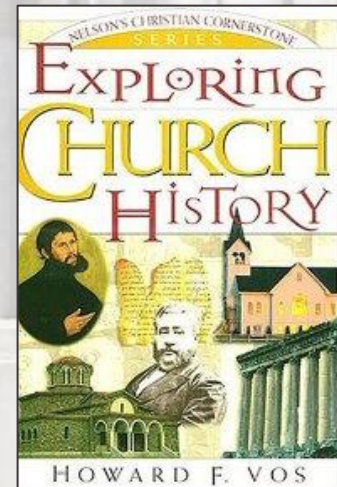
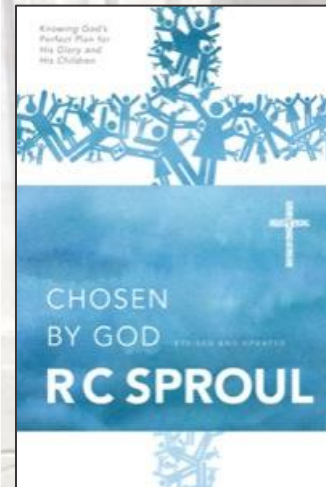
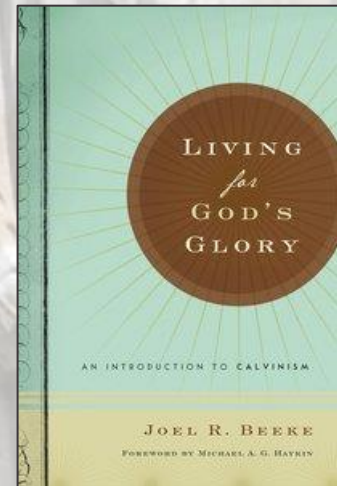
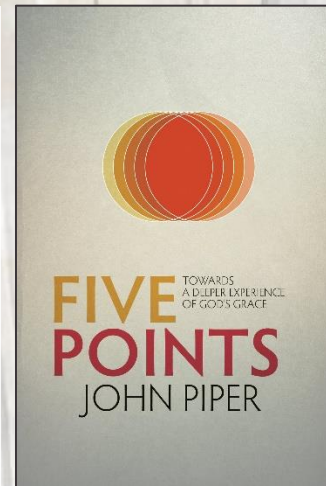
RECAP OF THE “FIVE POINTS” OF CALVINISM

BACKGROUND & DEFINITIONS



RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

- **Five Points: Towards a Deeper Understanding of God's Grace** by John Piper (Christian Focus, 2013) – available online at www.DesiringGod.org
- **Living for God's Glory: An Introduction to Calvinism** by Joel R. Beeke (Reformation Trust, 2008)
- **Chosen by God** by R.C. Sproul (Tyndale, 1986)
- **Exploring Church History** by Howard F. Vos (T. Nelson, 1996)



HOW IMPORTANT IS CALVINISM?

- “**Calvinism**” is a family doctrine. It is for the people of God, not important for unbelievers to learn.
- This doctrine explains what happens “behind the scenes” in conversion (from God’s perspective). It is Biblical and **important, but secondary**.
- Calvinism is often **misrepresented**. People reject the caricatures rather than the real doctrine.
- The system of thought is easily explained by using the **term Calvinism**, but Calvinists don’t necessarily follow John Calvin on all points.
- Ultimately, Calvinism is a **humble doctrine**. It bows to the Word of God in spite of human tendencies to elevate man’s role in salvation.

SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

- God is the Sovereign & no one's will can diminish His.
- God's sovereignty is displayed in Providence & Predestination.

God “works all things according to the counsel of his will.” (Eph. 1:11)

God “does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, “What have you done?” (Dan. 4:35)

A large, light-colored stone relief sculpture depicting five bearded men in traditional ecclesiastical robes, representing the five Nicene Fathers. They are standing in a row, with the central figure holding a book. The background is a textured, light-colored wall. Below the figures, there is a stone ledge with a carved inscription in Greek characters: ΙΗΣΟΥΣ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

BIRTH OF THE “FIVE POINTS”

THE SYNOD OF DORT

- Counter-Remonstrants opposed the Remonstrants, and eventually the matter was officially considered by the Synod of Dort from 1618-1619.
- The **Canons of Dort** responded to each of the five Arminian (*Jacobus Arminius d.1609*) articles of Remonstrance.
 - 1st Point: Election and Reprobation
 - 2nd Point: Christ's Death and Human Redemption Through It
 - 3rd & 4th Points: Human Corruption, Conversion to God, and the Way It Occurs
 - 5th Point: The Perseverance of the Saints
- The Canons of Dort today endure as an important confession of faith in the Reformed Church.

THE FIVE POINTS OF CALVINISM

- Today, the five counter-points that Dort raised against the Arminians, are remembered as the “five points of Calvinism” [**TULIP**].

Total Depravity – Fallen Man’s Inability to Come

Unconditional Election – God’s Sovereign Choice

Limited Atonement – Our Particular Redemption

Irresistible Grace – God’s Gracious, Enabling Call

Perseverance of the Saints – The Completion of
God’s Work in Us

RECAP: TOTAL DEPRAVITY

Total Depravity (or Radical Corruption) means that every aspect of man is tainted by sin.... evil affects every part of our being – mind, will, heart, etc.

We are:

Children of Disobedience	Ensnared by the Devil
Enemies of God	Of our father the Devil
Blind to the Gospel	Lost in our sins
Apart from God	Cannot seek God
Cannot please God	Cannot understand truth
Cannot do good	Dead in our Sins
Have a dead heart	UNABLE TO BELIEVE

RECAP: IRRESISTIBLE GRACE

Irresistible Grace (or Effectual Grace) is God's grace overcoming man's resistance. It is God's inward call that imparts faith to the elect. Faith flows from a heart that has been regenerated.

We are:

Drawn by the Father	Received gifts:
Given to the Son	Faith
Granted to come/believe	Repentance
Circumcised Hearts	Conversion
Believe because we are sheep	Ordained/Appointed to eternal life

RECAP: PARTICULAR REDEMPTION

Particular Redemption (or Limited Atonement) refers to Jesus' death in the place of a particular group of sinners. Redemption blesses all mankind, and Jesus' blood is sufficient to cover everyone, but God intended Jesus to be Savior "especially of those who believe" (1 Tim. 4:10).

Jesus:

Purchased the **Church** with His blood

Laid down his life for the **sheep**

Gave his life for his **bride**

Ransomed **a people** to God

Saved **his people** from their sins

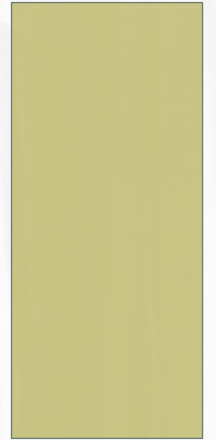
NEXT POINT

- *Man is so fallen, that he cannot seek God and is an enemy of God, resisting God's outward call to believe.*
= **Total Depravity**
- *For the elect, God graciously overcomes their resistance, enabling them to believe the gospel.*
= **Effectual Grace**
- *This gift of belief, is given to those who were purchased by the blood of Jesus Christ their Savior.*
= **Particular Redemption**
- *Ultimately, God's choice of who would be rescued from unbelief stems from his own sovereign will, and is not dependent on any special condition in those chosen.*
= **Unconditional Election**



TULIP: UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION

GOD'S SOVEREIGN CHOICE



UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION

*Since we are helpless and totally depraved, we need God to intervene. God doesn't sit on the sidelines and see who is worthy of being chosen, **God chooses**. And because of His choice, the "elect" live lives worthy of their calling. Scripture is quite emphatic that neither our belief nor our works fit us for being elected but rather, flow from our election.*

- Some prefer to use the phrase "**Sovereign Election.**"
- Emphasizes the free choice of God which stands behind why some people believe and others do not (because people are not able to meet any condition on their own).

ELECTION TEXTS

- Acts 13:48 “as many as were **appointed to eternal life** believed”
- Eph. 1:4 “he **chose us** in him before the foundation of the world, **that we should be holy and blameless** before him”
- 2 Thess. 2:13 “**God chose you** as the firstfruits **to be saved**”
- Rom. 8:29 “**predestined to be conformed** to the image of his Son”
- Rom. 11:5 “there is a remnant, **chosen by grace**”
- 1 Thess. 1:4 “we know, brothers loved by God, that **he has chosen you**”
- James 2:5 “has not **God chosen those** who are poor in the world **to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom?**”
- Titus 1:1 “for the sake of the faith of **God’s elect**”
- Mark 13:20 “**the elect, whom he chose**”
- Col. 3:12 “**God’s chosen ones**”

ELECTION

“I believe the doctrine of election, because I am quite sure that if God had not chosen me I would never have chosen him; and I am sure he chose me before I was born, or else he never would have chosen me afterward.” ~ Charles Spurgeon

- All Christians believe in election, because it's in the Bible.
- There are three basic views concerning election:
 - **Merited election** (God chooses those who are good)
 - **Conditional election** (God chooses those He foresees will believe through free will & prevenient grace)
 - **Unconditional election** (God chooses people who are depraved and unable to believe. He chooses them on the basis of his sovereign good pleasure.)

~ quoted in Joel Beeke, *Living for God's Glory* (Reformation Trust, 2008), pg. 60

THE POINT OF ISSUE

“Does God elect people because they believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, or does God elect people in order that they shall believe in Christ?” ~ Sam Storms

- To the Arminian, God’s **fairness** demands he treat everyone the same when it comes to election.
 - Jack Cottrell: God’s justice “leads him to treat all persons alike, and to bestow no special favors with respect to salvation.”
 - Henry Thiessen: “...only if God makes the same provisions for all and makes the same offers to all, is He truly just.”
- Sam Storms summarizes the Arminian view: “God’s justice makes it absolutely necessary that he do for one lost and undeserving sinner what he does for all.”

JUSTICE & MERCY

“Let us assume that all men are guilty of sin in the sight of God. From that mass of guilty humanity, God sovereignly decides to give mercy to some of them. What do the rest get? They get justice. The saved get mercy & the unsaved get justice. Nobody gets injustice.” ~ R.C. Sproul

- Experience and Scripture both tell us God doesn't treat everyone the same.
 - *Do we choose our parents, culture, health or location (in time as well as place)?*
 - *Did Jesus appear to every Jewish zealot like he did to the Apostle Paul on the Damascus Road?*
- Scripture teaches God has mercy on whom He wills – Ex. 33:19.
- Scripture teaches God withholds actions He knows would have resulted in belief and repentance – **Matt. 11:21-24**.

A SPECIAL, TRIUNE LOVE

- **Man** is totally depraved, enslaved to his fallen nature. (T)
- God the **Spirit** gives an inward call that awakens them from death & provides spiritual regeneration to believe. (I)
- **God the Son** actually propitiated God's wrath for these awakened sinners, bearing the full penalty for their sin. (L)
- It follows, that **God the Father** stands behind this, and chose the individuals for whom Jesus would die, and for whom the Spirit would provide the inward call and efficacious grace. (U)
 - Supporting texts: Gal. 1:4, 2 Tim. 1:9-11, Eph. 1:3-14

THE GOLDEN CHAIN OF SALVATION

For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. [Rom. 8:29-30](#)

- **ALL** the **foreknown** were **predestined**
 - **ALL** the **predestined** were **called**
 - **ALL** the **called** were **justified**
 - **ALL** the **justified** will be **glorified**
- Teaches a special inward call – *all the called are glorified*
- So if belief is the basis for election, the very belief was granted by the call.
- Vs. 28 frames vs. 29-30 to be speaking of special grace

FOREKNOWLEDGE

- Not just a foreknowledge of personal choices.
- Must mean at least that God knows who He is choosing before He chooses them. But it means more.
- “Knowledge” or “to know” often has a greater sense than mere apprehension of facts.
 - Matt. 7:23 “I never **knew** you”
 - John 10:14, 27 “I **know** my own and my own **know** me... My sheep hear my voice and I know them”
 - Amos 3:2 “You only have I **known** of all the families of the earth”
 - Gen. 4:1 “Adam **knew** Eve his wife”
 - See also, Gen. 18:19, Jer. 1:5, Ps. 1:6, **1 Pet. 1:2, 20**

FOREKNOWLEDGE, cont.

“God’s foreknowledge is an active, creative work of divine love. It is not bare pre-vision which merely recognizes a difference between those who believe and those who do not believe. God’s foreknowledge creates that difference! ...God’s pre-temporal love and gracious affection for sinners...” ~ Sam Storms

CONTRASTS

- **NON-ELECT:** "...they stumble because they disobey the word, **as they were destined to do.**" ~ **1 Pet. 2:8b**
- **ELECT:** "But **you are a chosen race**, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession..." ~ **1 Pet. 2:9**
- **NON-ELECT:** Deception comes to those perishing "because they **refused to love the truth and so be saved.**" More delusion is given them so that they will all be condemned "who **did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.**" ~ **2 Thess. 2:10-12**
- **ELECT:** "But we ought always to **give thanks to God for you**, brothers beloved by the Lord, **because God chose you** as the firstfruits **to be saved**, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. To this he called you through our gospel..." ~ **2 Thess. 2:13-14a**

ROMANS 9 ON ELECTION

- **The clearest passage on God's unconditional election is Romans 9.**
- Paul's concern is seen in 9:1-6 & 10:1 – why are so many Israelites not saved? Has God rejected His people or forgotten his promise? Rom. 9-11 addresses this.
- God never intended that all Israel be saved – only a remnant – Rom. 9:6-7
- Just being physically connected to Abraham isn't enough – Isaac not Ishmael, Jacob not Esau – Rom. 9:7-13
- **The choice is God's, before their birth, not dependent on works, or of human will or exertion – Rom. 9:11,16**
- God's choice involves his **saving love**, as opposed to his **holy hatred** – Rom. 9:13

ROMANS 9 - OBJECTIONS

- **What makes Rom. 9 so clear is the natural objections that Paul raises and then answers.**
- **Objection 1:** Doesn't this make God unjust? – Rom. 9:14
- **Answer 1:** By no means. To be God means He can be discriminating with his mercy – Rom. 9:15-18
- **Objection 2:** How can God find fault with men? Rom. 9:19
- **Answer 2a:** Man is in no position to judge God, we are the clay and he is the potter – Rom. 9:20-21
- **Answer 2b:** God has the right to make vessels for honor and vessels for dishonor. And he has done so to display his glory and power. Rom. 9:22-24ff.

ROMANS 9 - REFLECTIONS

*“If Paul meant that election is based on some foreknown human decision, **why did he not say so?** Instead he declares that the decree was made before the children were born and before they had done any good or evil. (9:11)... If Paul believed that God’s predestination was based on foreseen human choices, this was the context in which to spell it out... In verse 16 he makes it clear. **‘So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy.’** ...The apostle declares: It is not of him who wills. The non-Reformed views must say it is of him who wills... **This one verse is absolutely fatal to Arminianism.**” ~ R. C. Sproul*

ADDITIONAL POINTS ON ELECTION

- Election is “**by grace**” – Rom. 11:5-6, Eph. 1:5-6, Matt. 11:26, 2 Tim. 1:9-10
- **Grace means it is not deserved, so election cannot be “conditional.”**
- Election was “**before time**” – Eph. 1:4, 2 Tim. 1:9-10, Rev. 13:8, 17:8, Rom. 9:11
- *“To say that God chose us before the existence of all created things is to say that he chose us without regard to any created thing. Election is not something that awaits an event in human history... it antedates all human history.” ~ Sam Storms*

SPURGEON ON ELECTION

*“In the very beginning, when this great universe lay in the mind of God... before the mountains were brought forth; and long ere the light flashed through the sky, God **loved** His chosen creatures. Before there was any created being... when space itself had not an existence, when there was nothing save God alone—even then, in that loneliness of Deity, and in that deep quiet and profundity, His bowels **moved with love for his chosen**. Their names were written on His heart, and then were they **dear to His soul**. Jesus loved His people before the foundation of the world—even from eternity! And when He called me by His grace, he said to me, “**I have loved thee with an everlasting love**: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.” ~ C.H. Spurgeon*

NEXT POINT

- *Man is so fallen, he cannot seek God & is an enemy of God, resisting God's outward call to believe.* = **Total Depravity**
- *For the elect, God graciously overcomes their resistance, enabling them to believe.* = **Irresistible Grace**
- *This gift of faith, is given to those purchased by the blood of Jesus Christ their Savior.* = **Particular Redemption**
- *Ultimately, God's choice of who would believe stems from his own sovereign will, and is not dependent on any special condition in those chosen.* = **Unconditional Election**
- *God preserves all the elect so that not one of them is finally lost, and He also works in them so that they persevere in their faith.* = **Perseverance of the Saints**



TULIP: P PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

THE COMPLETION OF GOD'S WORK IN US



PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

God preserves all the elect so that not one of them is finally lost, but He also so works in them that they persevere in their faith. When they fall, they aren't utterly destroyed, they get back up. They bear fruit and have good works which testify to the genuineness of their professed faith. For those who fail to persevere, we are not the ultimate judge, God is. But we should exhort one another daily to "fight the good fight of faith". When understood properly, this point allows believers to take seriously the many warning passages and "if" statements in Scripture. It also gives us confidence to trust that "He who began a good work in [us], will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ (Phil. 1:6)."

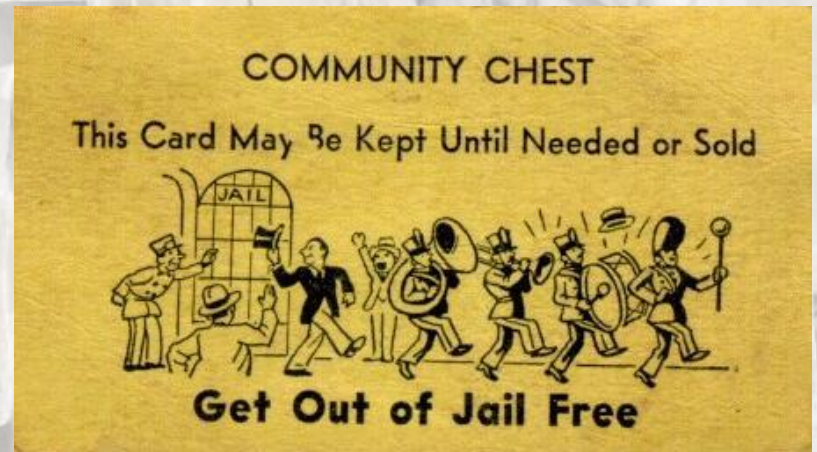
- Some prefer to use the phrase "**Security of the Believer**" or "**Eternal Security.**"
- Emphasizes that God completes His work in the lives of the elect so that none of them finally fall away from grace.

WHY “PERSEVERANCE”?

- Perseverance of the saints is often mis-stated as “preservation of the saints.”
- Preservation or “eternal security” is true. But perseverance speaks of the **obligation on the part of believers to persevere**, to “endure to the end.”
- Common Errors today:
 1. One can lose salvation (Pentecostal, true Arminian)
 2. One needs the Church rites to preserve salvation (R.C.)
 3. Once Saved Always Saved (most Baptists) – problem is a presumption that if you say the prayer, you are secure
 4. Free Grace theology / Easy Believism (some Evangelicals who are opposed to “Lordship salvation”) – error lies in saying repentance is something optional, the merest faith saves

ONCE SAVED, ALWAYS SAVED?!?!

- Emphasis should be: “once saved, always saved”
- Can lead to people treating salvation like a “get out of Hell free” card.

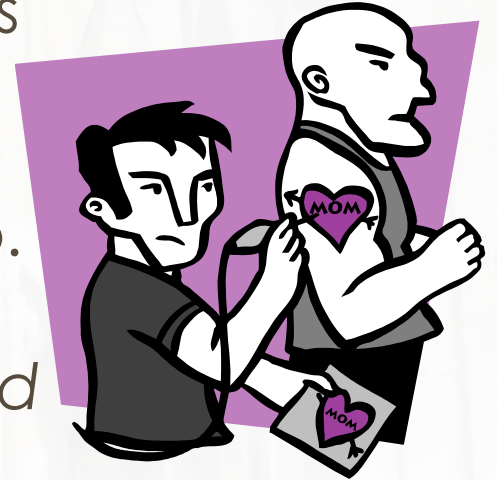


- People look for a “point in time” when they professed faith, rather than whether they currently possess faith.
- Evangelism is reduced to a method for getting people to “pray the prayer”
- And those who pray are told “since you confessed, you are saved.”
- Leads to worldly living and encourages backsliding.

EASY BELIEVISM

- The worst form of this treats the “sinner’s prayer” as a **magical formula**.
- A widely respected Baptist pastor has compared salvation to getting a **tattoo**.

“[Getting a tattoo] would involve a one-time-act on my part. Yet the tattoo would remain with me indefinitely. I don’t have to maintain an attitude of fondness for tattoos to ensure that the tattoo remains on my arm. In fact I may change my mind the minute I receive it. But that does not change the fact that I have a tattoo on my arm.... Forgiveness/salvation is applied at the moment of faith. It is not the same thing as faith. And its permanence is not contingent upon the permanence of one’s faith.”



SECURITY TEXTS (GOD KEEPS)

- **John 10:26-30** “I give them eternal life, and they shall **never perish**, and no one shall snatch them out of my hand”
- **John 5:24** “**has** passed from death unto life”
- **Rom. 8:33-39** “**[nothing] shall separate** us from the love of God in Christ”
- **Heb. 10:14** “**perfected for all time** those who are being sanctified”
- **1 Pet. 1:5** “by God’s power... **being guarded** through faith for... salvation”
- **Phil. 1:6** “he who began a good work in you **will bring it to completion**”
- **1 Thess. 5:23-24** “Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, **he will surely do it.**”

IF TEXTS (MAN MUST ENDURE)

- **1 Cor. 15:1-2** “the gospel... by which you are being saved, **IF you hold fast... unless you believed in vain**”
- **Col. 1:21-23** “you... he has now reconciled... **IF indeed you continue in the faith**, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel”
- **Mark 13:13** “the one who **endures to the end** will be saved”
- **Heb. 3:12-14** “we have come to share in Christ, **IF indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end**” (see also 3:6)
- **John 8:31** “**IF you abide in my word**, you are truly my disciples”
- **Rom. 8:13** “**IF by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body**, you will live”
- **Heb. 12:14** “**holiness** without which no one will see the Lord”
- **Luke 8:13** “**believe for a while... [but] fall away**”

GOD WORKS IN HIS ELECT TO ENDURE

- **Phil. 2:12b-13** “work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for **it is God who works in you**, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.”
- **Hebrews 13:20-21** “**working in us** that which is well pleasing in his sight”
- **Jude 22, 24** “Keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life... Now to him who **is able to keep you** from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy.”
- **Phil. 1:6** “**he** who began a good work in you **will bring it to completion** at the day of Jesus Christ”
- **1 Cor. 1:8-9a** “[Jesus Christ] **will sustain you** to the end guiltless... God is faithful”
- See also: 1 Cor. 15:9, 2 Cor. 3:5, 2 Cor. 9:8, Gal. 2:20

WHAT ABOUT BACKSLIDERS?

- The truly saved, will return to the Lord – **Prov. 24:16**
- Difference between Lot and Esau, Peter and Judas.
 - (2 Pet. 2:7 & Heb. 12:16-17; Jn. 13:27 & Luke 22:31-32 cf. Jn. 17:11-12, 24)
- Those who apostasize, **never were truly regenerate.**
 - **1 John 2:19** “went out from us, that it might be manifest they were not all of us”
 - 2 Cor. 13:5 “Jesus Christ is in you, unless indeed you fail to meet the test”
 - Matt. 7:23 “I never knew you; depart from me”

ASSURANCE

- Assurance is in **God's objective work** for us, but is bolstered by evidences of grace in our lives.
- We don't point necessarily to "a time and place" or an "action we did" we point to Christ's death for us.
 - Heb. 12:1-2ff.
- **Present FAITH:** Are we believing in Christ NOW? – Jn. 3:16
- **Pattern of FRUIT:** A godly life (i.e. endurance) is evidence of the reality of our faith.
 - Gal. 5:22-23 "fruit of the Spirit"
 - Col. 1:6 "bearing fruit and growing"
 - Phil. 1:11 "fruit of righteousness"
 - 1 John 5:3 "we keep his commandments"
 - John 15:16 "your fruit should abide"
 - 2 Pet. 1:5-10 – long-term growth

CAUTION

- Jesus does teach we will recognize false teachers “**by their fruits,**” but we should not be self-appointed “fruit-inspectors” (Matt. 7:16)
- The “thief on the cross” and Lot are examples of true believers that would have failed the fruit test.
- **God is the judge, not us.** (Matt. 7:1, [Rom. 14:3-4](#))
- We are to welcome all, and be considerate of others weaker than us. **We should encourage faith not chase it away.** (Gal. 6:1-2, [1 Thess. 5:14](#), Rom. 15:1-7)
- Don't despair, “doubts” are not the problem of unbelievers. *The very struggle against sin is evidence of God's work begun in our hearts.* (Heb. 12:1-11)

THE WHOLE PICTURE

- *Man is so fallen, he cannot seek God & is an enemy of God, resisting God's outward call to believe.* = **Total Depravity**
- *For the elect, God graciously overcomes their resistance, enabling them to believe the gospel.* = **Effectual Grace**
- *This gift of faith, is given to those purchased by the blood of Jesus Christ their Savior.* = **Particular Redemption**
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