

“The Spirit’s Work in Perseverance” □ WCF 17.2.c (TPH p929)

2024.03.10 Sabbath School Lesson

Hopewell ARPC, Culleoka, TN

17.2. This perseverance of the saints depends, not upon their own free will, but upon the immutability of the decree of election, flowing from the free and unchangeable love of God the Father;^a upon the efficacy of the merit and intercession of Jesus Christ;^b the abiding of the Spirit and of the seed of God within them;^c and the nature of the covenant of grace:^d from all which ariseth also the certainty and infallibility thereof.^e

c. John 14:15-24 15 “If you love Me, keep My commandments. 16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. 19 “A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also. 20 At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. 21 He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.” 22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, “Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?” 23 Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. ■ 1John 2:26–27 26 These things I have written to you concerning those who try to deceive you. 27 But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him. ■ 1John 3:7–9 7 Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. 8 He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. 9 Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.

d. Jer 32:38–41 38 They shall be My people, and I will be their God; 39 then I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear Me forever, for the good of them and their children after them. 40 And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from doing them good; but I will put My fear in their hearts so that they will not depart from Me. 41 Yes, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will assuredly plant them in this land, with all My heart and with all My soul.’

e. John 10:25–30 25 Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father’s name, they bear witness of Me. 26 But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you. 27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. 28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father’s hand. 30 I and My Father are one.” ■

2Thes 3:1–5 1 Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you, 2 and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men; for not all have faith. 3 But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one. 4 And we have confidence in the Lord concerning you, both that you do and will do the things we command you. 5 Now may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience of Christ. ■ 1John 2:18–19 18 Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour. 19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.

Jn 14:15–24

- A power for our perseverance greater than having Christ physically with us.
- The Spirit’s attendance to us alongside (paraclete/Helper).
- His dwelling within us. Ministering the fellowship of the Father and the Son (even the fellowship of the Spirit is a fellowship that points to Them).
- His work within us. Producing the right sort of love: giving us the commandments and the keeping of them. Applying the life of Christ to us from within; we work out what He works in, cf. Php 2:13.

1Jn 2:26–27

- Christ anoints not with water or oil but with His Spirit (baptism).
- Christ also gives teachers, but understanding and conviction come not from them but from His Spirit Who abides in us. This is how we abide in Him. this is why our abiding in Him cannot fail.

1Jn 3:7–9

- The new birth determines new purpose/mindset for the new man. Sin is not his practice or pleasure but his enemy and his burden. Righteousness is now his practice.
- Sin cannot come from the new nature. Though we commit it and are culpable, we identify it as a foreign hostile that has not sprouted from the seed of God, Whose offspring we now are. The Son of God is committed to destroying it and vivifying us.

▫ Our new self, our now true self, does not sin and cannot sin. And when Christ (and we, in Him) have destroyed what remains from the old man, only this sinless new nature and new man will remain. If there is a new man, he cannot lose this battle.

Jer 32:38–41

▫ The covenant of grace is that everlasting covenant in which the various covenant administrations of this world have participated.

▫ What is being looked forward to in this passage is not just the new covenant administration of the church under Christ the Son (as opposed to under Moses the servant). Truly, there would/ought to be more of a reflection of the everlasting covenant in this administration. But this passage does not find ultimate fulfillment in this world except in the case of the elect; and it will find ultimate and complete fulfillment in the next world, in which all members of the visible church will be members of the invisible church.

Jn 10:25–30

▫ We dealt with this passage at length in 17.1. The certainty of our perseverance is guaranteed by Who it is that accomplishes it.

2Th 3:1–5

▫ The Lord is the One Who makes us stand.

▫ The Lord is the One Who guards us.

▫ In the Lord is the confidence that we will keep doing as Scripture commands us.

▫ The Lord directs our hearts in the path determined for us by the love of God

▫ The Lord directs our hearts to stay in that path by the same determination and patience from Christ in which He Himself went to the Christ

1Jn 2:18–19

▫ Those who are of the light, of the true faith in the true Christ, continue therein to the end.

▫ Apostasy is no argument against the certainty of the perseverance of the saints. Rather, it is evidence that there are those who are in the church but not of the church.

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

So, we're gonna try and finish up as much as possible Article 2.

Uh, this week. This perseverance of the Saints, depends. Not upon their own free will. But upon the immutability of the decree of election, Flowing from the free and unchangeable love

of God, the Father Upon the FXT of the Merit and intercession of Jesus Christ. The abiding of the spirit and of the seed of God within them.

And the nature of the Covenant of Grace. From all where to rise with also the certainty and infallibility thereof. Now, we're going to Go ahead and skip the rest of the Scripture proofs behind. Uh, Part B there the efficacy in the mer of the Merit and intercession. Of Jesus Christ.

We Actually. Uh, studied heard preaching, all the way through the book of Hebrews. We've been in Leviticus. Well here, again, even this afternoon, the greatness of Christ's priesthood and his completed work. The certainty that what Jesus has done on the cross and what Jesus is doing now in heaven, will of course, be successful of this effective even now for us and also in Um, So, if you have sheets from the previous week and you have those Hebrews texts that belong to Section B of this article.

I do encourage you to meditate upon Those scripture passages. Uh, but we come now to how the perseverance of the Saints depends on. The abiding of the spirit of God. Within them, that is within the Saints. And this was something that the Lord Jesus promised when he was leaving, when he was preparing his disciples.

Now, you can imagine Uh, if you have been with physically with Jesus for three years, Any questions you had about theology or spiritual things, what you should do. You could always ask him and hear his voice and see his facial expression and compare it to what you see him doing.

And And when you lacked, Courage, you could look to him, you could even do like Peter on the water and cry out. Lord help. And when you are proud, you could be rebuked by him whether By a look or just by the fact that there is one, who is infinitely greater than you right next to you or even as was necessary at times in the gospels and surely.

Is necessary for us, if we have ears to hear the spirit bringing to mind in scriptures and placing us. In actual words. Uh, and so the apostles were indeed losing much. With the coming departure of the Lord, Jesus, with the coming Ascension of the Lord, Jesus Christ. Uh, and Second half or so of the Gospel of John, the Lord.

Jesus is preparing them for his departure. And one of the great things that he says to them and does for them as he prepares for his prepares them for him to leave is to assure them that he is going to send the Holy Spirit and that this is actually better for them than if he would have personally stayed.

That the holy spirit is going to be their helper. And so we have our first proof text for this. Persevering of the Saints, this coming of the Saints at last fully and finally the perfect Holiness. Perfect happiness. Depending upon the abiding of the spirit, the first scripture proof that we have.

Is John 14. And I have taken verses 15 through 24. If you have Your uh, household copy of The standards with the proof texts you could probably discover there. Whatever the narrower passage is, but we always provide a little broader context. As a crutch for. Um, for us who are not as bitterly educated as these men and their churches were So John 14 verses 15-24.

If you love me, keep my Commandments and I will pray the father And he will give you another helper that he may abide with you forever. The spirit of Truth. Then, the world cannot receive. Because it neither sees him nor knows him. But, you know, him. For he, dwells with you and will be in you.

I will not leave you orphans. I will come to you. Jesus, of course they're speaking. Uh, from something very close to his own experience. Uh, that often when a father died young and a father, would often die young in those days. Uh, the eldest brother in the household would become like a second father to the rest of the house, helping the mother and taking care of, of the rest of the children.

And the Lord Jesus evidently had had to do this, in his hope, in his own household. We read nothing of Joseph after Age 12 for the Lord Jesus Christ. And he was in the earth like an elder brother to us, ministering to us. Exactly. The will of father ministering to his Apostles, his disciples, exactly the will of father and leading them and directing them and helping them.

But now what happens, if the elder brother is taken away and he says, I'm not going to leave you orphans. Spirit who comes by the spirit who comes. Jesus himself woke up. And so, We must know the Holy Spirit as the spirit of Christ, and the spirit of the Who is not just with us.

Uh, but in US verse 17. And we'll come back to that, let's finish the reading first. A little while longer in the world will see me know more but you will see me Because I live you will live also. And so there is a seeing of Jesus Christ, that is by faith.

Not by sight. The world never actually saw Jesus. Sure. They laid eyes on his physical appearance. But when the word became flesh and they beheld him, did they behold his glory, as of the only begotten of the father That they Behold Him as full of steadfast, love and faithfulness.

That's a question for you. Do you see Jesus as the only begotten of the father? Do you know what? God the father is like in the person of Jesus Christ. When you see him, do you see all of that, steadfast love all of those cussed statements and declarations and displays of Yahweh himself throughout the Old Testament now in bodily form, and human form in the Lord.

Jesus Christ. Do you see the faithfulness of God? It's perfect. Keeping of all of his word, his perfect truthfulness. Do you see all of that in Jesus by faith? Because if that's not what you see, when you see Jesus Christ, if you don't see the Glorious God who created all things from whom and to whom through whom and to whom are all things to whom be the glory forever.

The one to whom every knee bows and every tongue confesses. He says I am God and there is no other. I declared it from the beginning. I laid the foundations of the earth. I stretched out the heavens. If that's not what you see, when you see, Jesus Christ by faith.

Then you don't see him. But that is what the Holy Spirit gives people to see. And to remember, Because many of you know that don't you? But just as children, you know, that you should obey mommy and Daddy but that's a very different thing. Than remembering moment by moment that you should honor.

Mom and dad that your heart should not even rise up against an instruction. They give you or a Prohibition, they lay upon you. It's very different thing to know that these things are true about Jesus and to see to live in light of the reality of these things about Jesus.

And so the Holy Spirit was going to come, Jesus says, and he is going to help us to live in the light of the truth that we know about Jesus to see him by faith, not with our eyeballs says one of the reasons why it's so harmful for us to disobey God's word and to have pictures images of him, who is the second person of the godhead even in his human nature.

He's still the second person of the godhead and our seeing of Jesus needs to be primarily by fa. Physical eyes upon him and the resurrection. To see him rightly the way he's talking about

here, and the way that That we have been talking about thinking about the last three or four minutes, it will be primarily first and foremost, a seeing by faith.

Remember, there are never any pictures of Jesus Christ. There are only Idols of false ideas. And so, Uh, wisely and well have the scriptures been understood and applied by our reformed. Oh, forebears. So, a little while longer and the world will see me, no more. But you will see me because I live you will live.

Also at that day, you will know that I am in my father and you in me. And I in you this is very important. The Holy Spirit comes, he doesn't just make us to see the Sun by faith and to see the father in the Sun by faith, but the fact that this Faith comes as a work of the Holy Spirit encourages us that God has started something in us that will never end.

What a great blessing to you. Dear children, when the Holy Spirit brings you to Faith, the greatest blessing is not Not just that you get to profess your faith and And Mom and Dad, and your congregation are very encouraged to bless God. For what appears to be a genuine work in your heart but the blessing for you is not what Mom and Dad and the rest of the congregation sees, it's what God gives you to see that he himself is the one who has given you that Faith.

Only way that this could really have happened in your heart that, you know, Jesus, To be who he says he is and that, you know, God in the Lord Jesus Christ. As if God the Holy Spirit, the third person of the godhead, Has come to be with you. And is dwelling in you.

Has United you to Jesus by that Faith. That's what faith does. That's how faith is an instrument of your salvation. It joins you to Jesus Christ and now here you are and you are united to the second person of the godhead. You are indwelt by the third person of the godhead.

And this third person of the godhead is convincing you that you're adopted by the Father. The first person of the godhead Know, yourself to have then this blessed Fellowship with the living and Triune God, At that day, you will know that I am in my father. Jesus. Speaking of his Union with the father and you in me and I in you This wonderful Fellowship with God, you don't become God.

But you do become United to Christ, and you get, um, and you have his perfect Humanity, worked out in you, applied to you until what God has determined remember. A couple weeks ago on the immutability of the decree of election, that those who are elected, are decreed predestined to be conformed, to the image of the sun, Romans 8, predestined to the adoption of Sons, Ephesians 1 And, Uh, the Lord Jesus even prays, of course, for us to know and experience this Unity with God.

How can someone Who has been brought into Fellowship. With the Triune got. In Union with the second person of the godhead and dwelt by the third person of the godhead, Adopted by the first person of the godhead, how can such a person ever lose their salvation? It's utter nonsense, isn't it?

And so, as we hear Jesus described to us, what the Holy Spirit, what is Holy Spirit? Whom he will send? What he is going to do, how our Salvation comes our Salvation that Jesus accomplishes. The cross comes to be applied in our lives as we hear Jesus. Tell us about that.

Work of the Holy Spirit. Become absolutely certain that we must at last Persevere. So what does this perseverance look like? Well, the spirit produces in us, of course, love for the Lord, that, uh, that is expressed in the keeping of his Commandments. This is not some different sort of Salvation than he has been Excuse me, giving his people ever, since the garden.

He declared to his people at Sinai that that Remnant that has always been within Israel. It was never a majority in Israel, but there was that saved Remnant. It's the same, it's the same work. So verse 21, he who has my Commandments and keeps them. It is he who loves me?

And he, who loves me will be loved by my father. That's true who loves me will be loved by my father. He who loves Jesus will be loved by the father. So, do you love Jesus? And if you love Jesus and the the same, the question has always answered the same as.

Are you keeping his Commandments? Because you could say I love Jesus. And you mean, I feel warm and fuzzy about him, or you mean, I've just learned that you should say that you love Jesus and that people smile real big at you, if, if you say that. And so, I like getting big smiles and I feel like God is smiling at me, too.

No, no, no. Us always has the same answer as are you keeping his Commandments? Because the genuine love the knowledge of Jesus Christ. As your creator, your savior, your God that knowledge that the Holy spirit gives you that. Love for Jesus that the holy spirit gives you, it always issues in obedience, not perfect, obedience yet, but always perfect obedience eventually.

And so we are much encouraged that if we have come to love the Lord, Jesus, it is because the father loved us from before the foundations of the world, and That love with which the father began, loving us. Romans 8, 29. Cannot ever end because it is in Christ Jesus.

Nothing shall separate us. From the love of God, that is in, that is in Christ, Jesus. And so, Here is a way to be certain of God's love to you, not because you earn it by obedience. But when you who do not have the strength or ability of it in you or from yourself, when you set out to obey, God out of love and you find that you are actually doing it not perfectly but partially Now, even that little part couldn't have come for you.

Couldn't it could it. And so you're encouraged again. This is the work of the Holy Spirit. He made me love God, he's giving me to obey God and if he has made me love God a little bit he is going to make me love God entirely like Jesus does and if he has given me to obey God a little bit he is going to give me at last to obey.

God entirely Like Jesus does. And so I may be certain that a love from the father has been Directed at me, from before, the world began has been directed at me throughout the history of the world has been directed at me, throughout my whole life and has brought me to this faith and this moment already and his love towards me will never stop coming.

I will be loved by the father forever. And so the Apostle remember in Romans 5, when he's talking about rejoicing, in the hope of the glory of God rejoicing, even in our sufferings, how does he describe the work of the Holy Spirit? Well, the Holy Spirit, pours, out the old translation, sheds abroad.

But it's using the the language from the Greek translation of the Old Testament for the drink offering. But here it's not just one vessel one vessel's worth that is Poured out. And the all at onceness of it. Is quickly finished. But the love of God, the Holy Spirit, pours out the love of God in our hearts, and it never finishes because there is not a finite amount.

And so he communicates us to us the love of the father in the Son and the love of the son. And this is the work of the Holy Spirit. And again, A work of pouring out a love that began outside of time and has. Uh, and as infinite I was going to say infinite in quantity but that's Uh, mathematically and theologically Incorrect.

It is quantity less. It is immense unmeasurable. It is not finite at all. That can never end. Who loves me will be loved by my father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. Judas, not as scary as said to him. Lord. How is it that you will manifest yourself to us and not to the world.

Jesus answered and said, to him, if anyone loves me, he will keep my word. And my father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me. Does not keep my words. And the word which you hear is not mine.

But the fathers who sent me. You can say this in many, many texts of scripture, but you can just say, John 14, 24 here dies. The idea. That Doctrine is unimportant so long as you love Jesus. Jesus says Doctrine is important to you. So long as you love Jesus.

And so if Doctrine isn't important to you, if getting the words of Jesus, right? Isn't important to you then by his own description of what seeing him and loving him? Looks like you don't actually love him. Now, there are many who thinking rightly about, Jesus matters to them, but they've been trained to talk against theology to talk against Doctrine.

And God forgive. Those teachers for whom, it would have been better that a millstone be tied around their neck and be thrown into the sea than to teach those churches full of in part. Actually, converted people that love and love of Christ and doctrine of Christ are ever intention with one another.

But it is. It is all a part of the spirit's work giving us the words of Christ so that we who love him will have his word and will keep his word and will love it. Um, Let's see if we have. Covered our bullet points.

Yes, I believe so. Let's move on to the next proof text for this. Uh, the perseverance of the Saints. Uh, depending upon The abiding of the spirit. Uh, within us and That is first John, chapter 2 And I use the word proof text. I Trying to retrain my Automatic mind, tongue connection to use the language scripture, proof.

Uh, the language of proof text. Undergone a couple centuries of abuse almost to which the Uh if you save proof tax, someone mean, someone thinks you mean my own unique strange Doctrine that no that not, everyone has to believe, but I've got a proof text For myself. No, we say scripture proof.

Because we're not talking about. Our, our own individual Doctrine. We're talking about, uh, what the scripture teaches, and the passages that demonstrate that, this is what God, the spirit has taught us from the Sun from the father. So first John 2, 26, 27. These things I have written to you concerning those who try to deceive you, But the anointing which you have received from him abides in you and you do not need that anyone teach you.

But as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things and is true and is not a lie and just as it has taught you. You will abide in him. Now, whom of you did Jesus, physically baptize. It's not poured water on any of you has, he And whom of you did Jesus, physically anoint.

Neither has he poured oil? Physically upon your head although you sing That way, sometimes from the Psalms plus God. And perhaps if you have been ill and the elders have come and prayed for you and have anointed you with oil, you have been reminded that you are claimed by Christ as his as his very own and that your life belongs to him in that entirely devoted.

And consecrated way that a anointed Prophet or an anointed priest or an anointed king was totally consecrated to Uh, concentrated consecrated to the Lord God. And if you're a shorter catechism, kid Lord willing this afternoon, you'll be thinking about profit priest and King and how Jesus is the anointed, you know, capital T, capital A uh the Hebrew word is Messiah, which Which you can hear Messiah?

The Greek word is Christos. You can hear Christ. That's what we mean. When we say Christ, but the Lord Jesus has not anointed you with water or oil. And yet this says the anointing which you have received from him. This is the same as in chapter four of our Matthew series when John was baptizing with water.

And yet the people needed a complete change of heart and mind a complete change of attitude and their nature within them. Because the kingdom of God was at hand, Now, John's baptizing with water. Couldn't give them that repenting. What could give them that repenting? And he said there was one who is coming.

After him, who could even turn the Pharisee stone. Into a child of God, child of Abraham by giving him that new nature, because Jesus was going to baptize with what? And so, what question? A whom answer. He was going to baptize with the Holy. This is the anointing that every Christian.

Receives. And so uh every once in a while, I will preach in a context other than Hopewell Or we'll have a visitor or something and a very well-meaning, Christian who's just learned To talk this way will tell me afterward. Oh, That was right out of the Bible. You are anointed.

And um, if I'm thinking well on my feet, I will say and if you have come to believe in Jesus Christ. So are you dear ladies? So are you dear child? So are you Dear sir. For the only way you come to believe in Jesus Christ, as if he has anointed you by his Now, his Spirit doesn't just remain upon you, does he?

He abides in you. No one ever well. I, I guess if Baby is tipped too far back. If you happen to have an immersion and you, you don't It's baptism, is not designed for the ingesting of the water. And the anointing of oil definitely is not designed for the ingesting.

Uh, of the oil. And even the Holy spirit is not ingested, so much, is he? Because he goes not into the stomach. He goes into the heart. Galatians. Because you are children, he sent the spirit of his son into your hearts. Fence. Of course, the Lord. Jesus is the one.

By whom the spirit proceeds from the father. And he has sent his Spirit into our hearts and this is what it means. When it says you do not need that, anyone teach you how often this text has been twisted, For people who want to opt out of of Christ's, Ephesians 4 designed for his church.

He's given Apostles prophets and evangelists. By whom the Holy Spirit has caused this. The New Testament scriptures in the Old Testament scriptures if we're including those prophets of Christ for that's what they were according to First Peter chapter 1. And and so by whom we have the the scriptures There's no such thing as a True Believer who says, well, I don't need the Bible to teach me.

I have the Holy He's given Apostles prophets and evangelists but he's also given Pastor teachers. If this is saying that we don't need teachers at all and that we shouldn't have teachers for ourselves if they're somehow a crutch for the defective Christian or the un spiritual Christian. Than the language of Pastor teachers of your elders.

Being a gift from, uh, from Jesus upon his Ascension, his glorious entrance into heaven. Then that language is nonsense. But here he's saying. You don't need that, anyone teach you, you don't need that someone else. Produce conviction in you. Produce. Uh, the certainty that what is believed is true and the value or the certainty that that what is taught is true.

And the valuing of what is taught as precious, and the obligation of what is commanded as necessary. And teacher can't actually do that for you candy. Oh children, if Mom and Dad could do that for you, we would We would convince you, we would convict you, we would warm your hearts, we would spur your Wells.

We wish we could do that to ourselves. But bless God. The genuine believer who has the spirit from Jesus Christ. He has one dwelling in him by Christ's anointing with the spirit. Who brings that conviction of mind and heart and will. And so as the same anointing teaches you concerning, all things, And bless God.

That's the same truth, isn't it? That the God breathed or to use the language even more? Literally, God spirited scriptures, equip us for every good work. They are sufficient. And so when when the Apostle here says the ministry of the spirit within you is sufficient, he's not disagreeing with the Apostle Paul in second Timothy 3, when he says the scriptures are sufficient because it is that Spirit who gave us the scriptures and it is that Spirit who convinces our hearts of the scriptures and it is his sufficient use of his sufficient scripture that That makes it certain that every genuine believer is going to persevere in their faith.

Until the end, you will be perfectly. Holy So that you will be perfectly happy. Forever. This is why our abiding in heaven. Uh, cannot fail. Um, Let me just finish the seed of God. Within. First, John 3 verses 7 through 9. This is often not understood. And so I want to get that much done.

Uh, before we leave this again. For an indefinite time. Uh, first John 3 verses 7 through 9 little children. But no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as he is righteous. In other words, There is nowhere. That obedience that Springs from love for God, in the heart, genuine love for God and heart.

There is nowhere from which that can come except Union with Jesus Christ So the one who loves God and obeys God obeys his Commandments out of that. Love is a Justified Christian, no one but a Justified Christian. Practices righteousness. And the way that is being described here, He who sins is of the devil for the devil has sinned from the beginning.

For this purpose. The Son of God was manifested that he might destroy the works of the devil, whoever has been born of God does not sin. Yeah, you have one nature at a time. You do not have two Natures fighting within you. You have a new nature in Christ that comes from the seed of God within you.

You are The Offspring or the seed of God. This is given to you by the new birth. Uh, you are born again from above. Uh and so you have this new nature and you do have that remaining sin or that indwelling sin to use the language about that sin, which remains from the second half of Romans chapter seven.

Uh, and you do have therefore a battle. But the battle is not between two youths. The battle is between you as you are in Christ, the new you and what remains from the you that Jesus came to destroy. The you that you sing about and all those imprecatory songs, When you sing about the destruction of all of God's enemies and all of your enemies, and you realize that one of those enemies is your former self.

That you deserved to be destroyed, but God gave his son out of love for you even when you were an enemy and Christ died for you, even when you were this sinner of the devil, As verse 8, has described And so, Whoever whoever has been born of God does not sin for his seed remains in him, and he cannot sin because he has been born of God.

That's why? When you sin, you don't say, oh, that's not me in a way of saying, I'm not culpable for that. But you say, oh that's not me because that's not you. In your new identity in your union with Christ in your new nature. That's who you used to be.

That is that condemned old, man. That is your enemy and you are killing him and that's why you must not indulge any sin at all. Are on thought in your head or wrong word in your lips. Wrong work from your hand, that does not come from the you that must abide forever.

That comes from the you that is on death row and that you are supposed to be straight, the former you that you are supposed to be strangling and suffocating and beating and killing that you give not an inch. That you give not a breath, that you give not a morsel that you give not a sip.

That's why I said Dreadful. When someone who professes faith in Christ. Tolerates his sin at all. Tolerates. Even a little bit of it. Oh no. You must not do that. Because whoever has been born of God does not sin. You say that's an enemy thought. That's an enemy word.

That's an enemy's action. Would you kill it? And so, the perseverance of the Saints depends. Not upon their own free will, but As we have studied from these passages. The Abiding of the spirit of God and of the seed of God. Within. Praise God. If you are in Christ now, If this love for God, And hatred for sin.

And fellowship with the spirit and knowledge of Christ. If that is all just theology talk to you. If that's not part of your daily walk-in, daily thinking, daily living, Well then praise God. You have heard? Haven't you where from where it can come to you and in you And you may cry out for the gift of Christ's holy spirit of God's holy spirit.

Um, Your mom and dad and if you're an adult and you're thinking that you Uh, come tell your pastor, he will pray with you and for you, and the Lord will give you. The Lord will give you his Spirit. The Lord will save you. He'll give you that faith in Christ and it will no longer be just theology talk.

It'll be your life. All right, that's right. How we thank you, Father. Not only for teaching us that Those whom you have effectually called. To Faith. Must persevere. And that fifth to the end. But for the way you come near, By your spirit. Blessing your word and giving us that perseverance, even by the means, Of reading and hearing.

And thinking about your word we pray that he with whom Christ has anointed us, would indeed do that work in our hearts, giving a conviction that no other teacher and even ourselves could not give That you would be glorified in the Perfection. The perfecting the completing. Of your work in.

We do pray, Lord, that none of us would play Christian. It would play. But that each of us would know the reality. Of this salvation. This perseverance until you have made us perfectly holy that we might be perfectly happy in you forever. Grant it, we ask in Jesus name, Amen.