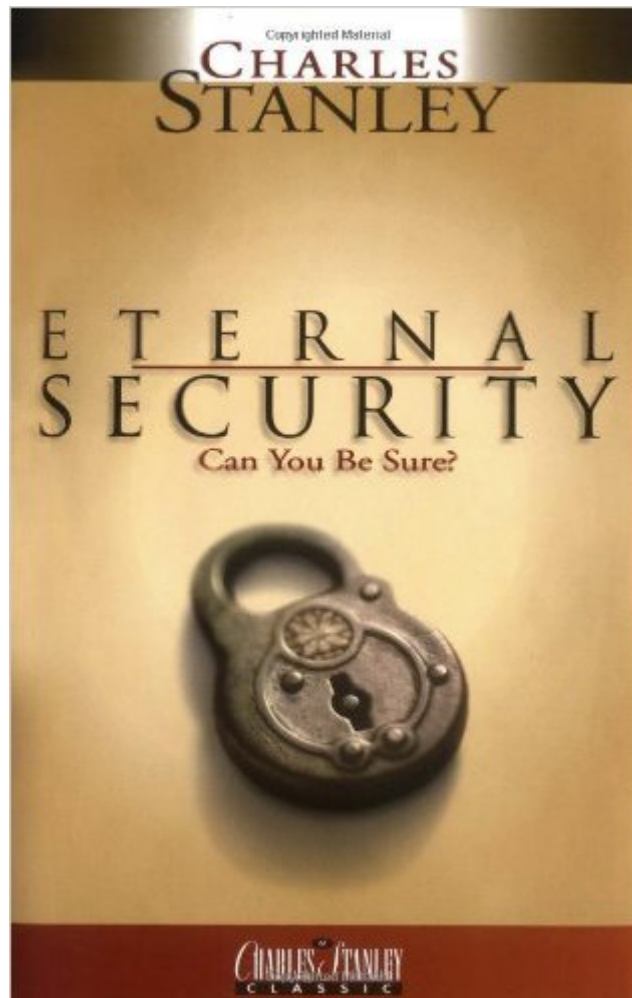


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Eternal Security: Can You Be Sure?



Synopsis

Do you ever find yourself wondering . . . Is it actually possible to know, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that I am going to heaven? If you say that my salvation is "eternally secure" and that I can never lose it, does that mean that I can commit any sin and still go to heaven? How can an understanding of "eternal security" make a difference in my Christian life? With the wisdom and skill of a man who has personally wrestled with these questions, internationally-known pastor and bestselling author Charles Stanley addresses the age-old issue of grace vs. works in this compassionate, straight-forward book. With questions at the end of each chapter, *Eternally Secure* is an excellent choice for individual or group study. "I know from experience that until you settle once and for all the question of whether or not you are eternally secure, joy will elude you. Therefore, it is my prayer that God will use this book in your life and that in the very near future you will be able to face life with the confidence that comes through knowing you are eternally secure."

•Charles Stanley Previously published in hardcover (0840790953).

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Customer Reviews

As a Charismatic in theology, I was raised in an atmosphere that was conditioned upon the belief that it was possible for a born-again christian to fall away and lose the salvation they had. Although it wasn't constantly spoken about, the belief lurked in the theological background as a sort of warning to luke-warm believers. Interesting thing that I have noticed is that not one preacher who believes this can state exactly at what point and what degree of sin will cause this precious loss. Interesting. I had had nagging doubts about "conditional security" for many years and the

theological contradiction that goes with it. Then I found Dr. Stanley's book. Charles Stanley has done a masterful job of tackling tough scriptures and dealing with the issue from both sides - exploring every nuance. Although I differ slightly on his handling of Heb 6:4-6, I am in agreement that it does not refer to losing one's salvation (but that is splitting hairs and being bald, I don't have many to split with!) In general, if you believe in the unconditional eternal security of the believer, you will find this book a refreshing and vibrant polemic against "maintenance-based" salvation. If you do not believe in eternal security, still this book provides a foundation as to why those of us who are fear-free in regards to our security believe this way.

Although I was raised in church, I WAS NOT raised under the teaching of eternal security. Far from it. My Grandfather preached the Gospel for nearly 60 years and, in fact, preached very hard AGAINST such doctrine. Under my Grandfather's preaching, I was born again in 1990. All was well for several weeks. I was full of joy and faith in the Lord. I finally had a "peace that passes all understanding". It didn't take long, however, for the enemy to attack. First, He attacked the validity of my salvation. "How do you know you're saved? Can you be sure? What if you're not?" I was hounded, day and night, by these questions. Soon, you guessed it, my joy was gone. Sadly, I slipped back into sinful habits. But, this time it was different. I found myself committing these old sins again, but not to the enjoyment I previously had. I actually hated them! I was miserable. Under the doctrine I was raised in, I now was "lost" again, and needed to be "re-saved". But, somehow, that made no sense at all. How could I, or anyone, be "un-born" after they were "born again"? I WAS SO CONFUSED!!! While at a Christian bookstore one day, I saw Dr. Stanley's book. I flipped through the pages. Could this "eternal security" be true? Well, I decided to spend the money and buy the book. It's teachings were totally the opposite of all the doctrine I had been taught all my life, but I saw myself on every page. Wanting to do good, but falling short. (Paul had this same problem in Romans 7.) The book in no way condones sin, but it does condone the Grace of God that is greater than any sin. To make a long story short, besides the Bible, Dr. Stanley's book "Eternal Security" has helped me more than any! Thank you Dr. Stanley for teaching the Truth, knowing it wouldn't be accepted by many. (Just read some of the other reviews listed here!) By the way, I now Pastor a church and am truly discovering that "He will never leave us, nor forsake us"! Things have changed a lot since I gave my life to the Lord in 1990, but I've discovered that He's not a quitter. He is Faithful and True and will not deny Himself. Eternal security does not free us TO sin, as some mistakenly believe, but rather, it frees us FROM sin! The Truth makes us free!

I have read this book three times throughout the course of 23 years. I was brought up in the Baptist denomination where I was literally indoctrinated in the belief of once saved always saved. I never once questioned this teaching until I was exposed to many different religious beliefs at my office. Many respected people did not share my belief. Charles Stanley's book was a lifeline for me. I can now have assurance after reviewing the scripture that my salvation is secure. This book is literally not an easy book to read & understand. I know that Mr. Stanley comes from a holiness background that did not believe in eternal security & he had been quite adept in pleading his case until the time that the Holy Spirit began to convict him otherwise. He literally knows how the other half think & can make his argument using scripture commonly used to disprove eternal security by explaining the error of their theology. Salvation is a free gift given to those who accept this gift through faith. There are no strings attached. There are no sins that will make you ineligible to receive this gift. Likewise there is no list of sins which will disqualify you once you have received this free gift. God loves you unconditionally & sent His son to die for you at Calvary. Jesus paid your sin debt in full. Both heaven & hell will be full of sinners who have done terrible things. The only difference will be based on belief. Sin does not send you to hell, but rather your unbelief. He offers you salvation not just as a means of providing you with fire insurance, but for fellowship. He wants to adopt you forever. Once you have been saved, you will be given an invisible seal (to protect your soul) which has a lifetime warranty & cannot be removed. He wants to make you holy & pure-set apart for service. Hopefully the Christian will want to be obedient because he/she is grateful for saving grace. Even if your faith should fail & you should literally turn your back on God & fall back into sin, your salvation will remain intact & you will get into heaven even if you do not repent. Salvation is free & not contingent on works. The belief in eternal security is not a license to sin. Each Christian will face judgement after death & will be held accountable for his good & bad deeds-acts of commission & acts of omission. Those Christians who have been faithful & lived their lives to please God will be rewarded. Those Christians who lived to please themselves & engaged in all manner of wrong doing will get into heaven, but without rewards or the benefits a faithful Christian will have. This unfaithful servant will have tears due to unbearable sorrow over missed opportunities to serve the Lord. Take heart because God will wipe his/her tears away after a time. Lastly God has written every believers' name in the book of life at the foundation of the world so he will not blot anyone's name out for any reason. While God wants everyone to be saved, He knows that only a few will surrender their lives to Him & He knows each & every name of those who will ever be His. His children are safely in His hands & nothing can thwart His plan or steal them away from Him. My salvation is secure. I can trust Him because I know where I stand with Him. I serve Him because I

love Him not because I fear Him. I have a closeness- an intimacy & can call Him daddy. Thank you for calling my name one night a very long time ago when I was just 10 years old. The joy I felt when I received salvation was awesome. I still feel the same joy 44 years later.

Once again Dr. Stanley brings biblical truth to light as only he can, this is a great book for those seeking to learn about eternal security and what the bible has to say on this topic. Dr. Stanley has always given insight to the truth of the word of God.

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