

Romans 8:26-39

TULIP- Unconditional Election- Part 2

The question of unconditional election is not who is saved, but rather who is doing the saving. I say emphatically, if you have saved yourself, you can lose yourself. But if you have been saved by God through faith in God's Son, Jesus, God cannot and will not loose you. If the assurance of your salvation rests entirely on you, you will never reach a place of blessed assurance because you will never reach a point in this life where you do not, in some way, sin against God, if only in thought. All unrighteousness is sin and anything that offends the character of God is unrighteousness. So, how does the disciple reach a place of blessed assurance? Unconditional election. **The confidence that my salvation was not achieved by some act or merit of my own but rather by God's kindness and sovereign will.** And since it was not achieved by me, I have no reason to fear losing it. Now, what God starts in us God completes for if He doesn't God isn't God. There is nothing in us or in this world that will keep the elect from reaching the finish line of faith. If there is, no one makes it. Today we have another foundational text that affirms unequivocally the doctrine of unconditional election, and I want to share three things we do not have to fear as it concerns this doctrine.

**Fear not. This doctrine does not negate the teaching of Jesus that one must be born again. V26-30** <sup>26</sup>In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. <sup>27</sup>And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God. <sup>28</sup>And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who

love him, who have been called according to his purpose.<sup>29</sup> For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.<sup>30</sup> And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.” **Unconditional election is the assurance of rebirth. If Jesus is the firstborn we are those that follow him via rebirth through faith in him.** Follow my logic. As it concerns our first birth who here birthed him/herself? No one. And since we did not and could not birth ourselves the first time how could we by any means of our own be born again? Some say, well I heard the call of God, and I put my trust in Jesus and in doing so I was born again. I say no, in one fell swoop by the preaching/teaching of God’s word, Christ’s gospel, you were born again by the breaking in of the Holy Spirit upon your heart, leading you to trust Jesus in that very moment for all eternity. This is simplification of a spiritual phenomenon, but it is what happened. God from eternity burst in on our finite existence bringing us into an eternal existence in one fell swoop that to us appears to be this multilayered event that we initiated. But not so. Let me show you scripturally.

**1 Cor 12:3** “Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says “Jesus is accursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except in the Holy Spirit.” **ESV**

**Matt 16:15-17** “<sup>15</sup> “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” <sup>17</sup> Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven.” **NIV**

**John 6:63** “The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life.” **NIV**

**John 3:5-6** “<sup>5</sup>Jesus replied, “I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life.” **NLT**

**Fear not. This doctrine does not free the disciple from the call to obedience but rather gives the disciple every confidence that he/she will obey. V31-34** “<sup>31</sup>What, then, shall we say in response to these

things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup>He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup>Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.” The reason some believe that if we tell people “Once saved, always saved” that they will take advantage of this glorious biblical truth is we have not been convinced that what God has started in us by the indwelling of His Holy Spirit God can and will finish. Or we believe that God by His Holy Spirit did not do this work in us and thus we must start and finish the work of salvation by our own self-determination and strength. No so or possible. What we

must do is believe in the sufficiency of the one God has sent. Listen. Genuine belief produces in the heart of disciples a strong desire to honor and obey his/her master. This is why the disciple grieves when he or she sins against God. A true disciple will never find peace in willful habitual disobedience. Not possible because of God’s Holy Spirit, which is the chief thing that God has given us. If what Paul says here is true how could we ever believe otherwise.

**Phil 1:3-6** “<sup>3</sup>Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. <sup>4</sup>Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy, <sup>5</sup>for

you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. <sup>6</sup> And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.” **NLT**

**Heb 2:1-3** “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

**Finally, Fear not. Unconditional election makes clear that true disciples never walk away. V35-39** <sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” <sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup> neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” **Listen, a false disciple is a false disciple because he/she never truly believed. He did not lose his faith; he never had it. If nothing can separate the true believer from the love of Christ, from the love of God how can you lose your faith?** Not even you can separate yourself from the love of God/Christ. What true believer would want to do such a thing or could even do so?

**1 John 2:18-20, 24-28,** “<sup>18</sup> Dear children, the last hour is here. You have heard that the Antichrist is coming, and already many such antichrists have appeared. From this we know that the last hour has come. <sup>19</sup> These people left our churches, but they never really belonged with us; otherwise they would have stayed with us. When they left, it proved that they did not belong with us. <sup>20</sup> But you are not like that, for the Holy One has given you his Spirit, and all of you know the truth.... <sup>24</sup> So you must remain faithful to what you have been taught from the beginning. If you do, you will remain in fellowship with the Son and with the Father. <sup>25</sup> And in this fellowship we enjoy the eternal life he promised us. <sup>26</sup> I am writing these things to warn you about those who want to lead you astray. <sup>27</sup> But you have received the Holy Spirit, and he lives within you, so you don’t need anyone to teach you what is true. For the Spirit teaches you everything you need to know, and what he teaches is true—it is not a lie. So just as he has taught you, remain in fellowship with Christ. <sup>28</sup> And now, dear children, remain in fellowship with Christ so that when he returns, you will be full of courage and not shrink back from him in shame. <sup>29</sup> Since we know that Christ is righteous, we also know that all who do what is right are God’s children.” **NLT**

Unconditional election and irrefutable doctrine scripturally in my opinion. One full of grace that brings about a blessed assurance in the lives of disciples of Jesus the Christ. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.