

# Blueprints for Belief

*Laying the Theological Foundations for Constructing Your Faith*

**Westminster Confession of Faith 17.1-3 – November 12, 2025**

1. They, whom God hath accepted in his Beloved, effectually called, and sanctified by his Spirit, can neither totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace, but shall certainly persevere therein to the end, and be eternally saved.

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; upon the efficacy 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 which arises also the certainty and infallibility thereof.

- **Jeremiah 32:40** – “I will make with them an everlasting covenant... I will put the fear of me in their hearts, that they may not turn from me.”
- **John 10:28–29** – “I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father... is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand.”
- **Romans 8:1** – “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”
- **Romans 8:35–39** – “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?... neither death nor life... nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
- **Romans 11:29** – “For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.”
- **1 Corinthians 1:8–9** – “He will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son.”
- **Philippians 1:6** – “He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”
- **Jude 24** – “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.”

3. Nevertheless, they may, through the temptations of Satan and of the world, the prevalence of corruption remaining in them, and the neglect of the means of their preservation, fall into grievous sins; and, for a time, continue therein: whereby they incur God’s displeasure, and grieve his Holy Spirit, come to be deprived of some measure of their graces and comforts, have their hearts hardened, and their consciences wounded; hurt and scandalize others, and bring temporal judgments upon themselves.

- David (Adultery and Murder)
  - **Psalms 51:17** — “A broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.”
- Peter (Denial and Hypocrisy)
  - **Luke 22:32** — “But I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.”

## Objections

*“If salvation is guaranteed, believers might become careless, thinking they can sin without consequence.”*

- **Romans 6:1–2** — “Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means!”
- **Titus 2:11–12** — “The grace of God... trains us to renounce ungodliness.”
- Perseverance is not permission to sin. The grace that preserves us is also the grace that transforms us.

*“What about professing believers who later renounce the faith? Doesn’t that show salvation can be lost?”*

- **1 John 2:19** – “They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us.”
- Perseverance does not apply to everyone in the visible church, but only to those who are truly united to Christ.

*“What about the warnings in Scripture? ‘It is impossible... to restore them again to repentance’ (Heb. 6:4–6). ‘If we go on sinning deliberately...’ (Heb. 10:26).”*

- The warnings are real, but they function as instruments of God’s perseverance, not proof of its failure. The immediate context actually emphasizes that true believers will persevere:
  - **Hebrews 6:9** — “Though we speak in this way, yet in your case, beloved, we feel sure of better things — things that belong to salvation.”
  - **Hebrews 10:39** — “We are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.”

## Discussion Questions

- 1) If God guarantees the perseverance of His people, why do Scripture and the Confession emphasize the importance of prayer, Word, sacraments, and fellowship?
- 2) In what ways have you personally experienced God’s preserving grace through hardship or correction?
- 3) How might this help you counsel or comfort a fellow believer who has failed badly?