

## *State vs. Standing*

### LESSON FOUR IN THE SALVATION SERIES

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#### **Colossians 3**

*1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.*

*2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.*

*3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.*

In our lesson entitled, *Who is a Christian?*, we learned:

When you fail to distinguish your natural state from your standing in God, you begin to doubt your salvation. There are three types of Christians:

- 1) There are Christians who do not waiver when asked the question, "Are you saved?" Immediately, their answer is, *Yes*. They know it without a doubt and can not be swayed by the doubt and unbelief of others.
- 2) Other Christians are saved, but are not certain of their salvation. They base salvation on works and their natural surroundings. If they wake up one morning and don't feel spiritual, suddenly, they feel that they've backslidden. They struggle to separate the natural from the spiritual on a continual basis. *Not of works, lest any man should boast* (Eph. 2:9)
- 3) Those who are not saved, but somehow are persuaded that they are.

### **Your STANDING**

Your standing in God does not have to waiver based upon your present state. Once we receive Christ as Lord and Savior, we become sons of God, which makes us heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ.

#### **John 1:**

*12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:*

*13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*

Because your life is "hid in Christ," regardless of what you go through, you remain a son of God.

*16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:*

*17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. (Romans 8:17)*

This is why, throughout scripture, the Word of God warns us that we won't be without suffering, but it does not effect who we are in God. All things work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose (see Romans 8:28). So when bad things happen to those who love God, God has a predetermined purpose, which in the end can only manifest good results. This is not a license to sin, but God's blessed assurance of His predetermined plan for those who love Him, which can not be altered by life's present circumstances. We mistakenly think

that when something goes wrong in our lives, we're plucked from the hand of God. John 10:27-29, however, confronts this myth:

*...they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.* Just as the Blood gives you salvation, it is that same Blood that keeps you saved.

## Your STATE

*Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity. 2 Timothy 2:19*

Your STANDING in God is sure, but it's your STATE that can often vary due to the two natures that now exist inside of you. As discussed in lesson one of this series, the old nature does not cease to exist after salvation, but you **can** overcome him. As the old nature continues to challenge the standards of the new man, spiritual warfare becomes an eminent part of the Believer's life in order to maintain focus and vigilance in God.

Romans 7:15-17

*15For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I.*

Just like Paul, we often find ourselves doing things that we know are wrong and hate doing, yet somehow find our flesh engaged in doing.

*16If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good.*

*17Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.*

It is not the spirit that causes us act out those things which we know are wrong, but the old man, the flesh, the sinful nature that dwells in us. This nature will never cease to tempt you, but this does not mean that you have to continue giving into it. You hold the power to overcome and conquer those things which are tirelessly attempting to control and conquer you.

Where are you currently located in your Christian walk and experience? Are you wallowing in the bondage of Egypt; enjoying the promises of Canaan land; or wandering about in the wilderness still questioning your salvation?

- Those who are saved and know it, enjoy the fruits of the Promised Land.
- Those who are saved, but are not sure of their salvation often wander about in the wilderness, struggling with the old man on whether or not to return to the bondage of Egypt—the world.
- Those who are not saved but think they are, are those who refuse to leave Egypt, but occasionally enjoy the songs of those who've been freed from bondage.