

5. How do the following passages assure you that God is protecting you from falling away?

Romans 8: ³¹ What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² 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? ³³ Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ 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. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶ As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ 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.

John 10:24-29 and Ephesians 3:13-14 (see sermon outline)

Jude 1: ²⁴ To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy...

Philippians 1: ⁶ being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

6. Reread 2 Peter 1:10-11. Peter offers words of assurance and challenge. How can we offer the same kind of assurance mixed with challenge as we disciple others?

Dying Words (A Series on 2 Peter)

““Growing in Confidence When You Feel Vulnerable”
2 Peter 2:4-10a

We can be assured of _____ in our faith because God is aware of what’s happening and he’s at work doing something about it.

“If you build it, he will come.”

The big idea: **If** God protected the righteous and judged evil in the past, **then** he will do it _____. (2 Peter 2:9)

They’re feeling _____ to being manipulated, and they need greater confidence.

God as a Permissive Parent

Bible stories of God’s judgment of the wicked often _____ us.

The _____ in the Bible where God brings judgment down on people are few and far between.

Maybe less than _____ of the Hebrew people in the Bible ever saw God bring down judgment.

Bible people don't struggle with God's acts of judgment; they call out God for being _____ in the face of evil.

Modern, western people struggle with the idea of judgment. But it's not because we're more _____. Consider that it might be because the philosophy and worldview of our world has a problem with judgment. And that worldview is so ingrained into the way we think—so much a part of the water and air we breathe—that we find it hard to even imagine another way of thinking.

If God's retributive justice is an insurmountable _____ to you, may I suggest that you at least consider the possibility that the problem might be yours and not God's.

“Our Governor Can Beat Up Your Governor”

If one side of the coin is the question of God's passivity in the face of injustice and evil, the other side of the coin is the question of whether God will do anything to protect his _____.

There are many strong _____ in Scripture that if we are God's people, we can be confident of his love and his protection.

John 10: ²⁴ ...“How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.” ²⁵ Jesus answered, “I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father's name testify about me, ²⁶ but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. ²⁷ My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.

Ephesians 1: ¹³ ...When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession....

We are not on our own when it comes to staying _____ to God. God is at work to keep us, and (while we have a part in that) it's by God's power, not by our efforts, that we stay in the faith.

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. It can shake us up to our core when someone we respect walks away from their faith. Describe your thoughts and emotions when someone you respect walked away from their faith?
3. Read 2 Peter 2:4-10a. How does seeing the “if...then...” structure of this passage help us understand Peter's main point?
4. The story of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah might offer details we don't get from other stories of God's judgment. Read Genesis 19:1-16. How bad might things need to get before God brings down the hammer of his retributive justice in this age?