Spiritual Security

Intro: Notice what John said in 1 John 5:13 “These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.” It would be a profitable study to consider John’s epistle, written so we might know we have eternal life. We would find how we are to walk in the light and continue to purify ourselves (1 John 1:7; 3:3 “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin...33“And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.”), and when we do we have the blood of Christ continually cleansing us of sin. Thus, we know we have eternal spiritual security. However, I would like to approach this from another standpoint and look at what Peter writes in 1 Pet. 1:3-5 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, 5Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

I. GOD’S PROVISIONS

A. We receive the blessings of God.

1. All Spiritual Blessings; Eph. 1:3 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:”

2. No Condemnation; Rom. 8:1 “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”

3. A New Creature; 2 Cor. 5:17 “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

4. Children of God; Gal. 3:26 “For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.”

5. Redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
   a. Eph. 1:7 “In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;”
   b. Col. 1:14 “In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:”

6. Salvation; 2 Tim. 2:10 “Therefore I endure all things for the elect’s sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.”

7. Blessed when dead; Rev. 14:13 “And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.”

8. Prayers heard.
   a. Eph. 2:18 “For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.”
   b. Mat. 7:11 “If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?”
   c. 1 Pet. 5:7 “Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.”
   d. Heb. 4:16 “Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”

B. We have an inheritance.

1. Rom. 8:17 “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.”

2. 1 Pet. 1:3-4 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, “To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,”
   a. The inheritance described.
      (1) Incorruptible
          (a) It is not liable to decay, cannot be brought to a worse state.
          (b) Mat. 6:19-20 “Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:
But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal.”

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(2) Undefiled
(a) Free from any contamination or pollution.
(b) 2 Pet. 2:20 “For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.”

(3) Fades not away
(a) It was used to describe a flower which never lost its bloom or aroma.
(b) Fade away was used to denote a fire with never went out or was never quenched.
(c) It is everlasting.

(4) Reserved in heaven
(a) reserved is to keep, guard, watch over, or preserve.
(b) God is keeping this inheritance for us.
(c) It is not something we presently possess.

(5) For you—individual in nature.

b. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul. Heb. 6:18-19 “That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: 19Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;”

II. BASIS FOR GOD’S PROVISIONS

A. According to God’s mercy.

1. 1 Pet. 1:3 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,”

2. Tit. 2:11 “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,”

3. Heb. 2:9 “But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.”

B. By the resurrection of Christ.

1. 1 Pet. 1:3 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,”

2. Rom. 4:25 “Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.”

3. Rom. 5:10 “For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.”

III. RECIPIENTS OF GOD’S PROVISIONS

A. Those who have been begotten of God.

1. 1 Pet. 1:3 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,”
2. John 3:3, 5 “Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God...3 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”
   a. This birth embraces the Spirit.
      (1) The Spirit effects in man a new spiritual life.
      (2) Tit. 3:5 “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;”
      (3) He does this by the Word of God.
         (a) 1 Pet. 1:22-23 “Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: 21Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.”
         (b) Jam. 1:18 “Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.”
   b. This birth embraces water.
      (1) The only thing that embraces water in the New Testament is baptism.
      (2) 1 Pet. 3:30-21 “Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. 21The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:”
      (3) Acts 8:38-39 “And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. 39And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.”

B. Those who have gotten into Christ, where those blessings are:
1. Rom. 6:3 “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?”
2. Gal. 3:27 “For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”

IV. GOD’S PROTECTION
A. God has the power and promises to protect us.
1. John 10:28 “And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.”
2. Jude 24 “Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,”
B. 1 Pet. 1:5 “Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”
   1. Kept is a military term.
      a. It means to protect with a garrison or military guard.
      b. As used here it suggests a band of soldiers thrown about the faithful to protect and guarantee their safety.
      c. However, we must stay within the borders of the guard.
   2. By God’s power.
      a. 1 John 4:4 “Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.”
b. God’s power is in His Word; Rom. 1:16 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”

c. God also will work providentially to support and aid us.

3. It is not an independent operation of God.
   a. It is “through faith.”
      (1) From that system of faith (the gospel) comes man’s individual faith.
         (a) Rom. 10:17 “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”
         (b) Rom. 1:17 “For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”
         (c) Our faith must comply with the conditions of the system of faith; be obedient to the faith.
            i) Rom. 1:5 “By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:”
            ii) Rom. 16:26 “But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:”
      (2) It takes our effort to be kept by God’s power.
   b. We can lose our faith.
      (1) 2 Pet. 2:20-22 “For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. 21For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. 22But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.”
      (2) Luke 22:31-32 “And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: 32But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.”

Conclusion: We have a wonderful inheritance awaiting those who will keep the faith of God’s Word. We have assurance in the Bible that God will do His part and save us eternally. We also know, because of God’s rich mercy in giving us His Word, what we must do (the faith to our faith) to be saved. We can know that we have done those things and thus we know we have eternal life; 1 Pet. 1:9 “Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.”