Grace to You :: *Unleashing God's Truth, One Verse at a Time*

How Strong Is God's Grip?
Scripture: John 10
Code: BQ61511

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. (John 10:27–29)

The Lord articulated the wonderful truth that those who are His sheep need never fear being lost. **"I give eternal life to them,"** Jesus declared, **"and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand."** Nowhere in Scripture is there a stronger affirmation of the absolute eternal security of all true Christians. Jesus plainly taught that the security of the believer in salvation does not depend on human effort, but is grounded in the gracious, sovereign election, promise, and power of God.

Christ's words reveal seven realities that bind every true Christian forever to God. First, believers are His **sheep,** and it is the duty of the Good Shepherd to protect His flock. "This is the will of Him who sent Me," Jesus said, "that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day" (6:39). To insist that a true Christian can somehow be lost is to deny the truth of that statement. It is also to defame the character of the Lord Jesus Christ—making Him out to be an incompetent shepherd, unable to hold on to those entrusted to Him by the Father.

Second, Christ's sheep hear only His **voice** and **follow** only Him. Since they will not listen to or follow a stranger (10:5), they could not possibly wander away from Him and be eternally lost.

Third, Christ's sheep have **eternal life.** To speak of eternal life ending is a contradiction in terms.

Fourth, Christ **gives** eternal life to His sheep. Since they did nothing to earn it, they can do nothing to lose it.

Fifth, Christ promised that His sheep **will never perish.** Were even one to do so, it would make Him a liar.

Sixth, no one—not false shepherds (the thieves and robbers of v. 1), or false prophets (symbolized by the wolf of v. 12), nor even the Devil himself—is powerful enough to **snatch** Christ's sheep **out of** His **hand.**

Finally, Christ’s sheep are held not only in His hand, but also in the hand of the Father, who **is greater than all; and** thus **no one is able to snatch them out of** His **hand** either. Infinitely secure, the believer’s “life is hidden with Christ in God” (Col. 3:3).

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