**Five Differences Between Perseverance of the Saints**

 **and Eternal Security**

**Author**: Article by Shawn Lazar, *Grace in Focus* magazine, May/June 2020, p10. Shawn Lazar is Director of Publications of Grace Evangelical Society.

1. “Perseverance of the Saints (POTS) is part of Calvinism”.

Eternal Security is the Free Grace Theology term. He uses the “Once Saved, Always Saved” term (OSAS).

1. POTS is “founded on Calvinist doctrine of Unconditional Election, where God predestines some individuals to eternal salvation, and the elect are guaranteed to persevere because God chose them to be saved”.

OSAS is “not based on any doctrine of election but on Jesus’ promise of everlasting life. (John 3:16, 36, 5:24, 6:35, 37). Lazar book, *Chosen to Serve*, defends the idea that election is for service, not salvation”.

1. POTS and OSAS have different views of the **condition of salvation**. POTS “advocates say people who fall away in error or unbelief never truly believed to begin with. POTS advocates that you are born again by a continuous faith that must be the “gift” faith that God gives to the elect. So salvation does not only depend on what you believe but how you believe it”.

OSAS says there is “only one kind of faith (persuasion that something is true) and that what matters is what you believe, not how you believe. Salvation requires a single act of faith in Jesus for eternal life”.

1. POTS view of “**sanctification is unconditional.** Since the elect are predestined to salvation, and God causes them to be sanctified, they will never fall into major sin or unbelief in this life but will persevere in faith and good works until death”.

 OSAS sees “**sanctification as conditional**. You have to choose to be

 a doer of the Word to be sanctified, and there is no guarantee that you

 will progress from a carnal state to a spiritual one. But believers are

 eternally secure whether they experience practical sanctification or not.”

1. POTS on **assurance**. “Under POTS you cannot be sure of your salvation because you cannot be sure if you are one of the elect with a special gift of faith who will persevere in faith and good works until death.”

OSAS view of “assurance is that it is not only possible, it is the essence of saving faith. Jesus promised believers everlasting life. Hence you cannot believe that promise without believing the life He gives is everlasting.’