

WCF Prayer:

Chapter 17 - Of the Perseverance Of The Saints

Holy and gracious God,

You powerfully call us to faith and set us apart by your Spirit, whom you send to dwell within us. How wonderful it is that we are accepted in your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. We marvel that, because of Him, you will never allow us to fall totally or finally from your grace, nor to become permanently estranged from you.

We are comforted by the assurance that you enable us to persevere to the end, securing our eternal salvation. Thank you, Lord God, that your salvation is truly everlasting. We humbly acknowledge that our assurance does not rest upon the strength of our own will, but is established firmly in your gracious character and sovereign action:

- Praise you that as our loving Heavenly Father, your eternal decrees are unchanging;
- Praise you that the merit of Christ's cross flows continually to our benefit, as He intercedes for us unceasingly from glory;
- Praise you that your Spirit is ever-present and abiding within us;
- Praise you that your covenant of grace is steadfast and sure.

We are blessed in every way by this infallible assurance! We have complete certainty that you will enable us to persevere to the end. Praise be to you: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Yet, Lord, we shudder knowing that Satan and the world tempt us. We are alarmingly aware of the sin that remains within our fallen natures. We confess with sadness that there are times when we neglect the means of grace you have gifted us and fall into grievous sin.

Heavenly Father, it saddens us to think that we might wander in that sin for a season, incurring your Fatherly displeasure and grieving your Holy Spirit. You are righteous to withdraw the comfort of your grace during such times.

When our hearts are hardened by sin and our consciences clouded; we damage ourselves and cause offense to others. We ponder with heavy hearts how we bring your rightful judgments upon ourselves even during our earthly lifetimes.

Yet, we praise you for your free and full saving grace, which persists with us despite our lapses. We praise you that we have a great High Priest, Jesus, who remains our advocate at your side. Lord, what mercy!

In Jesus Name,

Amen