

"ETERNAL SECURITY" DOCTRINE JUST GOT DEADLIER

ISSN 1595-63426342



Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called: Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied. Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ. I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not. (Jude 1-5)

"But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway."

1 Corinthians 9:27

"They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him....." **Titus 1:16a**

".....If we deny him, he also will deny us:" 2
Timothy 2:12b

"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; "Titus 2:11-12

"Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent." **Revelations 2:4-5.**

"Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: FOR IF YE DO THESE THINGS, ye shall never fall:" **2Peter 1:10.**

"He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels."

Revelations 3:5

".....but he that endureth to the end shall be saved." **Matthew 10:22b**.

Why Bother About OSAS?

ou have probably heard of the teaching about "Eternal Security", a.k.a. "Once Saved, Always Saved" (OSAS). Chances are you probably don't think it is worth splitting hairs over. The Apostle Jude (Jude 1:1-5) however obviously encourages otherwise.

OSAS is the belief that once a man is born again, he can never lose his salvation, irrespective of what he later does or fails/refuses to do. The reasoning is that since man did not do anything to get saved (it is of course true that salvation is entirely by grace), it also follows that he should not need to do

anything to keep his salvation. The parable of the wedding garment in **Mathew 22:2-13** however debunks this outright. The fellow who initially got a free undeserved invitation to the Wedding later ended up in outer darkness for failing to show appreciation for the invitation by observing the expected simple dress code.

nother little extension takes the OSAS argument much further, from "not doing" to "doing": nothing a believer DOES (not even the filthiest, most despicable action imaginable) can make him lose his salvation! After all, using the analogy of the physical birth, can a baby become "unborn" simply because of his wrong and unhelpful doings? How can a "new creation" then ever go back to becoming "old" again! The fallacy with this analogy is that it fails to recognize that salvation at this point in time is still an on-going process. The new birth saves us from the power of sin, but not yet from its presence (called temptation). We must ensure we continue to believe Him Who has saved us, and continue to follow Him, resisting all temptations hauled at us by the enemy of our soul, until we eventually reach eternity. At that point outside of time, our salvation would become consummated and totally irreversible (1 Peter 1:3-5, Revelations 3:5).

SAS comes with special in-built mechanisms and camouflages to make the Church continue to wave it aside as trivial. On the one hand, most OSAS teachers are quick to shout themselves hoarse that even though their teachings clearly make sin a non-issue, they actually do not support living in sin. Of course, that unrealistic assertion is not borne out by evidences that clearly abound! For instance, the Southern Baptist Convention in the United States, one of the major purveyors of OSAS, recently (at their 2010 convention in Florida) had to admit "a scandal that has become all too commonplace in our own churches". That scandal was higher incidence of adultery and divorce within the denomination compared with the "unchurched" they were trying to

evangelize! Unfortunately, it didn't occur to them that the situation might be related with their embrace of the doctrine of OSAS.

(See http://www.sbc.net/resolutions/1205/on-the-scandal-of-southern-baptist-divorce).

Then there is also the infamous caveat that goes with OSAS. Anyone who for some unfathomable reason loses his/her salvation (for example, Judas Iscariot) is readily denounced as never really having been "saved" to start with! As such, many in the Body of Christ tend to, even if subconsciously, dismiss the doctrine as merely a juvenile theoretical model for describing salvation. Probably unhelpful, but not worth spilling hairs over!

Unfortunately, the issue is quite more serious than that.

Two major problems have traditionally been associated with the OSAS doctrine, over the 700 years plus since it was brought to the fore in the medieval church. One is the implication for evangelism and discipleship. By traditional Calvinistic teachings, those who are earmarked for salvation would eventually be saved, while those destined for hell fire can do nothing to change the Under this scenario, the value of outcome. evangelism becomes questionable. Most OSAS teachers would however, vehemently protest being called Calvinists and declare their commitment to evangelism. However, the teaching of "once saved, for ever saved" clearly makes Christian discipline and discipleship redundant. As will be shown shortly, OSAS has zero tolerance for such admonitions that believers should "take heed, watch, and pray" (Mark 13:33), live sober and vigilant lives (1 Peter 5:8), walk not carnally, but in the spirit, (Galatians 5:16, Romans 8:1), etc. Not bothering to walk worthy of the vocation wherein we have been called (Ephesians 2:10, **4:1)** is the sure first step to becoming blinded

(2 Peter 1: 9) to the invaluable worth of our salvation, and consequently rendering ourselves no better than pigs unworthy of such pearls, in the first instance (Mathew 7:6, 10:13).

Clearly, **OSAS** is a great evil that must be fought!

UNENDING MISREPRESENTATIONS

SAS teachers are constantly looking for various straws to cling to, in order to persuade their incredulous disciples they are really on to something nouvelle, profound, and not really so deviant. By reposting on social media, messages of highlyrespected holiness preachers, OSAS teachers quietly convey the impression that there is only a small gap (which presumably requires "hyper-boldness" to cross) between their messages and those of such men of God. Indeed, a portion of a message on the **Assurance** of Salvation can very well be mistaken for one on unconditional **Security** of Salvation, but in reality the gap is yawning! And no one familiar with the likes of Pastors Adeboye or Kumuyi could by any means attribute **OSAS** to them. As a rule, it is safe to specifically find out what a man of God believes about **OSAS** before linking them with (or, sadly, exonerating them from) the teaching. Later on in this article, we will be mentioning the one notable Nigerian minister who unfortunately now endorses OSAS; but many would probably be surprised to know that contrary to sly misrepresentations on the subject, the revered father of the Word of Faith movement, Revd Kenneth Hagin, categorially denounced the hypergrace teaching of OSAS while he was alive. In his words:

"Today there are not too many old school Calvinists -their doctrines have been watered down -- but now
there are "new school Calvinists." "New school
Calvinism" is basically the doctrine of eternal
security, or "once saved always saved,"

I believe in eternal security as long as you stay in Christ. He is able to keep you secure. But just because you are a son of God does not mean you are not a free moral agent. You still have a will of your own, and you can choose to stay in Christ or to forsake Christ altogether." (Kenneth E. Hagin, The Present Day Ministry of Jesus Christ, pp. 11, 12).

On its website the Kenneth Hagin Ministries further maintains that there is need for holiness, and that salvation is an on-going process to be consummated only at the second coming of the Lord Jesus:

without holiness no man can see the Lord. We believe in the Doctrine of Sanctification as a definite, yet progressive work of grace, commencing at the time of regeneration and continuing until the consummation of salvation at Christ's return (Heb. 12:14; 1 Thess. 5:23; 2 Peter 3:18; 2 Cor. 3:18; Phil. 3:1214; 1 Cor. 1:30).

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If the teaching of OSAS represents "new school Calvinism," there is yet a "new school OSAS" represented by the Hypergrace teaching which is currently on a wild rampage in Southwest Nigeria. Its major character is the vehement teaching against the concept of confession of sin and repentance from it. By this assault on a foundation stone doctrine of the Bible (Hebrews 6:1), Satan is using the hypergrace teachers in his desperate attempt to effectively block the gate of salvation to sinners.

HYPERGRACE AND CONFESSION OF SINS

In today's ungodly world system, confessing one's sins is the fastest way of getting an indictment, condemnation, and sure punishment. Hence, the soaring popularity of teachings on how to be brazen and self-assertive. People are being taught to deny wrongdoings or at least push the guilt to someone else while finding some excuse to exonerate or justify oneself. Slowly but surely, this teaching has now arrived in the Church under the banner of "hypergrace".

The Bible however has a different perspective. With a righteous Judge Who is not willing that people should perish in their sins, the only requirement for a sinner to go scot-free is that he admit the sin, be sorry for it, and accept the free offer of the substitutionary provision that would guarantee justification and discharge. Of course, like the Lord told the woman caught in adultery (John 8:11) or the man healed of an infirmity of

38 years (**John 5:14**), the sinner must thereafter undertake to "go and sin no more." In the model prayer the Lord taught His disciples, we are encouraged not only to own up to our trespasses, but also ask for forgiveness from God. Apostle John was unequivocal when he wrote: If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive! **1 John 1:9**.

ut more and more **OSAS** teachers are insisting that confession of sins is not only archaic and an "Old Testament concept," it is actually **THE ULTIMATE SIN!** The argument often goes like this: "Isn't repentance what WE do? And does it not amount to adding Works to Grace when it is insisted upon as a pre-condition to our receiving forgiveness? How dare we think that it is our repentance that brings us forgiveness of sins!" Thereafter comes the big hammer: "bringing up our sins to God's attention and asking forgiveness is actually nothing but an act of unbelief, the ultimate sin!" For good measure, **1John 2:9** is thrown in, that the Bible has already unconditionally declared that "your sins are forgiven!" Incidentally, the same interpretation is however not given to a similar verse like 1 Peter **2:24** which also unequivocally declares that we already "were healed" under the same deal that took care of our sins. **OSAS** preachers believe they can pray for healings today.

In actual fact, this extremely toxic teaching is only a step away from the atheist's teaching currently prevalent in Europe declaring that "sin" does not exist, and that the teaching of the concept of sin to children constitutes child-abuse and dangerous indoctrination. Quietly but deliberately, **hypergrace**OSAS is firmly shutting the gates of Heaven against people by taking away from them, the key of repentance. How on earth did we get here?

here are two streams to this concept. On the one hand we have hypergrace teachers, typified by **Chris Onayinka** of the Saints Community Church, who argue that confession of sins is purely

an Old Testament concept. (e.g. Onayinka 2017: The Hyper Grace Gospel of Christ. pg 176-**183**). Thereafter, he boldly asserts that the only place in the New Testament where confession of sins is taught is in 1 John 1:9. This is of course not true. As previously pointed out, not only does the Lord directly encourage believers to admit their sins before God and ask for forgiveness (Mathew 6:12, Luke 11:4), the Apostle James, further encourages that believers confess their faults (same as sins) even to one another (James 5:16) Having falsely claimed **1 John 1:9** as the only verse in the New Testament that "suggests" confession of sins, Chris Onayinka thereafter picks on the word translated "confess" [homologia] and fraudulently suggests that the intended meaning of the word in the verse was actually "assent". Indeed, one of the meanings of homologia is "assent"; but there are also others, including "acknowledge" or "admit." statement in question, which is divided into two verses (verses 8 and 9), the apostle John began by writing, "if we say we have no sin....." Clearly the only reasonable follow-up, in verse 9, is "but if we admit/acknowledge our sins". This is the translation in every other major Bible translation. And to any reasonable reader of the King James version as well, the phrase "if we confess our sins" means exactly what it says, that "acknowledge our sins," we can trust God that those sins would be forgiven, they having been paid for anyway and justice already served.

With such fabricated and faulty foundations, Chris Onayinka proceeds to insist that "confession" in the New Testament can only be interpreted as an assent, in which case we can only confess positive things written concerning us in the Scriptures. Confession can indeed mean to assent to some scriptural truth, and keep holding to it - as in confession of our faith, viz, confessing that Jesus is the Lord, that we have been crucified with Christ, that we are the righteousness of Christ, that we

have victory by the blood, etc. But the primary meaning of "confession" is "owning up, and admitting to some wrongdoing!" The more technical meaning could not invalidate the clear meaning that we should also confess our sins both to God, and where necessary (mainly as a form of restitution) also to fellow men!

Strong dictionary, Greek G3670 ομολογέω homologeo. From a compound of the base of G3674 and G3056; to assent, that is, covenant, acknowledge: - con- (pro-) fess, confession is made, give thanks, promise.

But then, even this insistence on a restricted and contextually inappropriate translation of "homologeo" could not sell a seriously flawed and clearly mischevious concept. Chris Onayinka has one more joker in his sleeve. He insists that the punctuation in 1 John 1:9 is incorrect. According to the inspiration he has received, he believes that the verse ought to be correctly written as:

"If we confess, our sins he is faithful and just to forgive us, ..."

In summary, we can confess all we want to; but no, we are NEVER to "confess our sins"!

Not all "New School OSAS" teachers would attempt what Chris Onayinka pushes to his largely naïve and spell-bound audiences. These other teachers admit that confession indeed means confession, no more no less. But they insist that since the Bible says we are already forgiven, going to God for confession is actually an act of unbelief. An attempt to add some "work" to "Grace." How dare we imagine that it is our confession that gets us pardon, the warped reasoning goes!

Unfortunately, one of the champions of this outrageous new reasoning is the highly respected **Bishop Mike Okonkwo**, former president of the Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria and current holder of many important offices in the Body of Christ in the country. Declaring his shift from his position of some

40 glorious years, the Bishop said he is now keying in into the "present truth" which is making ministry much less strenuous for him. He however freely admitted that he has refused to pray to confirm the authenticity of the doctrine, as he probably is being advised to do. He insisted he was not going to do that-which in itself is a big eye-opener! On the issue of confession of sins, the Bishop declares:

"Under the law, forgiveness of sins is predicated on your confession. If you fail to confess it, you will never be saved. But under grace, this grace we are talking about, in the New Testament, No, you have been offered as a gift, the forgiveness of sins.... Even before you open your mouth he has already forgiven you".

Https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dSwbLujzltM (from minutes 5:53-6.30)

his would of course, have been okay, if the Bishop were referring to past sins. Or if his audience are not committing new ones. As the Bishop repeatedly emphasized, God knows that the believer will continue to sin over and over again, and He has provided ahead for the forgiveness of those sins even before they were committed. So no room for repentance or even just some remorse. And definitely no need for any confession. We might as well simply relax and continue in our sins, assured that grace will automatically expand to cover it. Sounds very much like the situation described in Romans 6:1! While a few members of the audience (apparently the pastoral assistants on the front rows) jumped for excitement, most of the congregation wore confused pensive looks. What an extremely distressing scene for the Church in Nigeria.

Let's learn more about this perspective from a somewhat less familiar figure. Jack Kelley of the Rapture Forum is nevertheless a well-respected teacher of the Bible who we have cited on a few occasions on Church Arise!, especially on eschatological issues. Sadly, he is one of the international purveyors of **OSAS**.

Responding to the rhetoric question in **1 Corinthians 6:9** "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God?"

Kelley writes: "If we really read that verse carefully we would see it can't apply to believers because we are righteous by definition."

"By definition!" This is indeed a central posture in the OSAS doctrine. It is postulated, by definition, that all the exhortations in the Gospel requesting believers to stay off unrighteousness does not, and cannot apply to those who have been truly born again! To whom then were the epistles written if not the Church of God? As a matter of fact, the same treatment is given to statements made by the Lord Jesus Christ in the Gospels - depending on the convenience and particular shade of the OSAS doctrine, that the teacher subscribes to.

John Kelley goes on to attempt some rationalization:

"If you're a human being, you're a sinner. If you're a saved human being, your faith in what Jesus did for you has allowed God to attribute your **ongoing sinfulness** to the sin that still lives within you. From His perspective it's not you doing the sinning, but the sin that still lives within you." https://www.raptureforums.com/once-saved-always-saved/and-such-were-some-of-you/

The problem with this teaching is that it clearly acknowledges that sinfulness is "ongoing," but at the same time vehemently insists that such sin must be ignored and never "confessed." In this new scheme, there is no place for "resisting sin" (Hebrews 12:4), "resisting the Devil" (James 4:7, 1 Pet. 5:8-9)" denying ungodliness"(Titus 2:11-12), "walking worthy of the call" (Ephesians 4:1, Galatians 5:16, Romans 8:1) etc. Sadly, Bishop Mike Okonkwo counseled that instead of resisting, the Christian should rather rest and believe that his ongoing sins are being taken care of automatically. Contrary to all these teachings, a Christian is not expected to be committing sin as a lifestyle. [He who commits sin is of the Devil 1 John 3:8a]. Where through carelessness or foolishness he FALLS into sin, he is expected to quickly cry out for help and retrace his steps.[see for

example, Revelations 2:5].

Of course none can do any resisting on their own strength (Philippians 2:13, 4:13). That, specifically was why Jesus came. He came to save us from sins, destroying the works of the devil in the process (Mathew 1:21; 1 John 3:8). He has made available for us instruments to effectively deal with sin and remain victorious. It is left for us to cooperate with Him and make use of the instruments. These include daily "submitting to God" (**James 4: 6**), abiding in Him (**John 15:1-5**), prompt repentance, confession and restitution of sins as instructed by the indwelling Holy Spirit as part of the sanctification process, (Phillippians **3:12-14, 2 Corinthians 3:18**) and of course, being assured that as long as we cooperate and yield to Him, we are eternally secure! (Hebrews 3:6, 15 and Hebrews 10:35).

As it were, based on the fallacious grounds they are standing on, OSAS teachers are compelled to deny even this basic purpose of the Lord's coming as clearly stated in **Matthew 1:21, 1 John 3:8**, etc. Hence, according to Chris Onayinka: **Mathew 1:21** does not mean at all that Jesus will save people from their sins. Rather, "He will save (rescue and preserve) his people from the danger of their sins, that is, what sin will lead to. He will save his people from the judgment of sin" (**ibid, page 129**).

All these violent re-wording of Scriptures are done on no other basis other than that they don't fit the definitions these **OSAS** teachers have set for themselves, *a priori*.

Is it then any surprise seeing our nation in the troubling spiritual and moral state it is in today? Amidst increasing preaching of the Gospel and increasing Church attendance, chaos continues to reign as people continue to revel in sin and addiction, not just in the larger Society, but also

within the Church. With no visible difference between so-called believers and the heathen (cultists, Satanists, homosexuals, etc) it is little wonder the Church is being reduced to a circus show.

Clearly this matter of sin can never the trivialized. It is the very core of the Lord's mission. Any so called teacher who spends hours preaching on the "I do not condemn you," part of **John 8:11**, but fails to equally emphasize the "go and sin no more" aspect is clearly a false teacher. Irrespective of their sweet words of vanity (**Ephesians 5:5-6**).

The Lord is very clear on the need for sins to be repented of and acknowledged, in order for them to be forgiven. And indeed, it is doubtful if the sinner can ever be set free from their bondage and addiction without first settling that issue in their heart! It is therefore not a question of the Lord wanting to prove "difficult" or being parochial! While emphasizing that we need to forgive our brothers without any limits, if we expect God to forgive us our own sins, the Lord nevertheless made it clear that forgiveness is reserved only for those who ask for it. He said:

"Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and **IF HE REPENT**, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day **TURN AGAIN TO THEE**, **SAYING**, **I REPENT**; thou shalt forgive him. "(**Luke 17:3-4**).

The Lord further leaves us in no doubt on who will NOT be forgiven. He is the person who claims to be too enlightened to admit the sins he continues to flagrantly commit:

"Jesus said to them, If you were blind, you would have no sin; but because you now claim to have sight, your sin remains. "[John 9:41 Amplified]

CONCLUSION

From the Bible's description of the devil, and our victory over him, he is a toothless bulldog, whose only available weapon is **DECEPTION**. (1 Peter

5:8, Mathew 25:1ff).

Not surprisingly therefore, about the most warned-about hazard of the endtime is DECEPTION. However, in the **OSAS** worldview, deception is either meaningless or outrightly doesn't exist! Guess who would like people NOT to think of the possibilities of deception? According to Derek Prince, "Anyone who thinks he cannot be deceived is already deceived!"

Eternal Life (just like eternal damnation), is indeed eternal. It is God's will for all not only to acquire eternal life while here in time on planet earth, but that we should keep it beyond time to eternity (1 Timothy 2:4). The Lord has made adequate provisions for all these to happen. That is true Eternal Security. However saving "zombies" who play no role whatsoever in the salvation venture has no meaning for the Almighty. He needs our participation as free moral agents, to receive and follow the instructions He has clearly provided to accomplish our salvation. It is the lie from the pit of hell equating such required reasonable exercise of our God-given free will as "Works" that supposedly invalidates Grace.

The basic error in most of Calvanism including **OSAS**, is that it confuses scriptures that apply to corporate bodies and misapply them to individuals. For instance, whereas Israel and the Church are unconditionally guaranteed eternal triumph, individuals in those entities have to work out their personal salvation with sobriety and vigilance, ensuring they do not develop a heart that departs from the living God. (see Numbers 14:30-32, Mathew 16:18, 1 Peter 5:8-9, Hebrews 3:12). Likewise eternal damnation has no individual names written on it. For instance, though a close associate was to betray the Lord Jesus, it did not have to be Judas Iscariot; and though many people will have to join the devil in the lake of fire, it does not have to be you or me! (See Psalm 41:9, Mark 14:21, Luke 22:31, John 13:21-27, Matthew 25:41, **Revelations 20:10,15**). Addressing those who have already "escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust," who are called, elected, and

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"established in the present truth"; the Apostle Peter went ahead to offer a few simple instructions which IF followed and allowed to "abound," GUARANTEES Eternal Security:

" And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: FOR IF YE DO THESE THINGS, YE SHALL NEVER FALL: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 1:5-11)

Yes, Eternal Security is available but we must accept it on the terms prescribed by its loving and omnisapient Author!

SOME MORE SCRIPTURES FOR FURTHER STUDIES

Beware of Falling away: Hebrews 6:4-9, Hebrews 6:9-12, 1 Corinthians 10:12, Ezekiel. 33:12, Luke 9:62. Hebrews. 10:26. Ezekiel 3:20; 18:24-26, Mathew 25:1-13, 14-30, Luke 9:62, Acts 1:16-17, 25; Acts 8:13, 18- 24

Once deliberately throw out salvation, mocking God's provision, proud and smart in own eyes, then hopeless! Hebrews 10:26, Galatians 6:7-8; Romans 8:1-6; Galatians 5:16,25-26; Romans 6:1-4, 14-16, I John 2:15-16; Mathew. 4:1-11; James 4:6-7, I Pet 5:8, 2 Peter 2:20-22 John 10;10, 1Timothy 4:1

Things Children of God Can **Do IF NOT SOBER, VIGILANT, TAKING HEED, PATIENT:**

- 1. Fall from grace Galatians 5:1-4,13
- 2. Be led away with error 2 Peter 3:17
- 3. Err from the truth James 5:19-20
- 4. Weak brother may perish 1 Corinthians 8:11
- 5. Fall into condemnation James 5:12
- 6. Be moved away from the hope **Colosians 1:21-23**
- 7. Deny the Lord who bought them 2 Peter 2:1
- 8. Depart from the living God **Hebrews 3:12**
- 9. Can be a castaway 1 Corinthians 9:27
- 10. Can become accursed children 2 Peter 2:14



Published by:

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