

GOD IS: FOREVER FORE-LOVING

Trying to understand God's foreknowledge is a bit like renting an Airbnb house. You filter the features. But you don't ask to review plumbing or electric installation specifications. You assume all the amenities work. In much the same way, when thinking of your salvation, you tend to remember the moment you turned the valve or flipped the switch of faith to trust in Jesus. That's because your experience of salvation is in the present. Yet when you study the Bible, you see how God is at work behind the scenes in the past, present, and future for your salvation. The Holy Spirit writes in Romans 8:29-30, "*for those whom He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son...and those whom He predestined He also called, and those whom He called He also justified, and those whom He justified He also glorified.*" It's the "golden chain of salvation." Salvation is all of God, every link, start to finish.

1- God fore-loved in eternity past. This is the past-tense of salvation: "*you have been saved.*" We've seen how the Bible speaks of God's fore-knowledge in terms of His fore-loving. If you are in Christ today, it is because you have been saved from eternity past before the foundation of the world. God's fore-loving is for specific people for a specific purpose: to be united with Christ. "*Those whom He foreknew*" are the people He elected, predestined, called, and justified. God's foreknowledge involves His will. Just as in Acts 2:23 God foreknew Christ and planned redemption through Him, so God in eternity past takes action as He elects those He fore-loved, choosing to predestine them to be conformed to Christ, to guarantee that His love will redeem them and transform them, through each link of the golden chain. 1 Peter 1:2 "*elect...according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Son, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with His blood, (v3) He has caused us to be born again.*" Ephesians 1:4 "*even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ according to the purpose of His will, to the praise of His glorious grace with which He has blessed us in the Beloved.*"(v13) *and sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of His glory.*" Amazingly, all this occurred in eternity past, through God's fore-loving. Scripture considers all of these aspects of salvation as good as done, as Romans 8:30 says "*He also glorified.*"

2. You experience God finishing what He begins. This is the present tense of salvation, "*you are being saved.*" Theologians describe the acts of God in salvation as "monergism" which means God works this Himself, in contrast to "synergism" working together, which is how the sanctification aspect of salvation unfolds. Jesus saves you. *You have been saved* is monergism, *you are being saved* involves synergism, *you will be saved* is monergism. From your perspective, "*you are being saved*" begins when you believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. You're not aware of God's fore-knowing, you're only aware of now knowing God in Jesus by the Holy Spirit in ways you could not imagine before. You turned a valve and living water flowed - but you did not plumb the water or invent the valve. It is God's gift. He fore-loved you in eternity past for the moment you come to faith. His fore-loving fore-knowledge extends to eternity future, when you will experience being glorified, finally complete in Christ with Him forever. Inbetween is today, physical life on earth with new spiritual life in Christ, as you "*are being saved*" - conformed to Christ, becoming more like Him as you trust and obey, by His power, getting ready for heaven.

3- God fore-loved for eternity future. The future tense of salvation is "*you will be saved.*" Having trusted Christ, you are being sanctified, and you will be resurrected, judged, rewarded, glorified. Then you will be fully finally saved, living not on earth but in eternity future in the new heavens and earth. The future tense of salvation is sure and secure just like the past and present tense, because Scripture says those whom God foreknew (past) He also glorified (action that occurred in the past to be experienced in the future). The guarantee (present) is the indwelling Holy Spirit as downpayment of your eternal inheritance (future). Romans 8:31 "*what then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? v39 Nothing in all creation shall be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*" If you are a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ today, it's all because of God. That's why you can trust and obey Him today, as you are being sanctified to become more and more like your Lord and Savior. You are fore-known and fore-loved forever, from beginning to end. Having been saved, you are now being saved, and you will be saved. Forever fore-loved. Hallelujah! All to the praise and glory of God!