

Study Guide: 1 John Lesson 51

February 11, 2026

This study guide is designed to facilitate a deep review of the theological principles discussed in the analysis of 1 John 2, specifically focusing on the relationship between divine security and human responsibility.

Short-Answer Quiz

1. According to the lesson, what are the two primary motives found in Scripture that call a believer toward a life of holiness?
 2. How is the concept of "purifying hope" secured and sustained in the life of a Christian?
 3. What is the specific relationship between the human will and the doctrine of divine sovereign salvation as presented in the text?
 4. How does the Holy Spirit utilize the commands and warnings found in Scripture to aid the believer?
 5. What distinguishes a "real" Christian from those who merely identify with the church but eventually walk away?
 6. Based on the discussion of John 10, what is the "divine security" side of the believer's relationship with Jesus Christ?
 7. How is the word "responsibility" defined and dissected within the context of a believer's response to God's Word?
 8. Why does the New Testament contain numerous commands for believers to be obedient if salvation is a work of God?
 9. In the context of 1 Corinthians 10:13, what is God's promise regarding temptation, and what is the believer's role in response?
 10. Describe the two potential reactions a person may have at the appearing of Jesus Christ according to 1 John 2:28.
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Answer Key

1. The two motives that call believers to holiness are fear and hope, which are described as being intertwined in the life of a faithful Christian.
2. Hope is secured by "abiding" or "remaining" faithful to Jesus Christ and is sustained through a Holy Spirit-energized response to the commands and warnings found in Scripture.
3. Salvation involves the will of the individual because one cannot be saved apart from their own act of believing; while God is sovereign, the individual is responsible for the act of faith.
4. When a believer hears the calls and commands of Scripture, the Holy Spirit influences the heart to obey, energizing the believer to remain or abide in the truth.
5. A true believer is characterized by an ongoing pattern of obedience and "abiding," whereas those who are not "the real thing" eventually decide they no longer wish to remain and walk away from the church.
6. Jesus Christ describes His sheep as being known by Him, protected by Him and the Father, and held so securely that no one can take them out of the Father's hand.
7. Responsibility is dissected as "response-ability," meaning the believer is called to respond to God's Word using the abilities and energy provided by Him.
8. The commands exist because biblical theology demands both the doctrine of eternal security and the doctrine of the perseverance of the saints; God's faithfulness is expressed through the believer's faithfulness.
9. God is faithful and will not allow a believer to be tempted beyond their ability, always providing a way of escape; the believer's role is to endure the temptation and "flee from idolatry."
10. At the coming of Jesus Christ, those who have remained faithful will have confidence, while those who have not abided in Him will be ashamed and may "shrink away" at His return.

Essay Questions

1. **The Tension Between Sovereignty and Responsibility:** Discuss the "profound connection" between God's eternal purpose and human responsibility. How do the doctrines of "eternal security" and the "perseverance of the saints" complement rather than contradict one another?
2. **The Nature of Abiding:** Define what it means to "abide" or "remain" in Jesus Christ according to the lesson. What are the practical evidences of abiding in a believer's attitude toward sin, the Word of God, and other believers?
3. **The Role of the Holy Spirit in Obedience:** Analyze the statement: "The God who keeps His people keeps His people through the energy of the Holy Spirit in response to their will." How does this shape our understanding of Christian growth and holiness?

4. **The Consequence of Faithlessness:** Examine the warnings regarding "terminal judgment" and the "illegitimate hope" of those who abandon the true gospel. What are the dangers of adhering to a "warped" or "perverted" gospel that makes a person feel justified without submissive obedience?

5. **Biblical Illustrations of Keeping:** Compare and contrast the "keeping" mentioned in Jude 21 ("keep yourselves") and Jude 24 ("Him who is able to keep you"). How do these verses work together to illustrate the security of the believer?

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Abiding (Remaining):** The act of staying committed to the truth of God's Word, persevering in faith, and maintaining a continuous relationship of obedience to Jesus Christ.
- **Atonement (Provision on the Cross):** The sacrificial work of Jesus Christ to provide salvation and reconciliation between God and man.
- **Divine Security (Eternal Security):** The doctrine that those who belong to God are protected and kept by the power of the Father and the Son, ensuring they will not be lost.
- **Holiness:** The state of being set apart for God's purposes, driven by the intertwined motives of fear and hope.
- **NKJV (New King James Version):** The specific translation of the Bible used for the scriptural references in this study.
- **Perseverance of the Saints:** The theological requirement that true believers must continue in faith and obedience to the end of their lives to prove the reality of their salvation.
- **Preterist:** A term mentioned as the "word for the week" (spelled P-R-E-T-E-R-I-S-T), referring to a specific theological viewpoint held by some scholars, such as R.C. Sproul.
- **Purifying Hope:** The expectation of the second coming of Jesus Christ that motivates a believer to live a holy and faithful life in the present.
- **Responsibility:** Defined in the text as "response-ability"; the duty of the believer to respond to the influence of the Holy Spirit and the commands of Scripture.
- **Terminal Judgment:** The final, eternal sentence of hell for those who do not abide in Jesus Christ and instead face His return with shame rather than confidence.

Scriptural References

The following passages from the **NKJV** are central to the themes of this study:

Reference	Scriptural Text
1 Corinthians 1:8-9	"...who will also confirm you to the end, that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."
1 Corinthians 10:13	"No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it."
1 John 2:28	"And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming."
Jude 21	"...keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life."
Jude 24-25	"Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen."