

“He will Hold Me Fast”

John 10:27-30; Jude 24, 25

Originally written by Ada Ruth Habershon (1906) and later rewritten and arranged by Matt Merker (2013) and recorded by the Gettys. Ada Habershon, a British hymnist who worked closely with the famous American evangelist duo R.A. Torrey and Charles Alexander during their global revival campaigns. She became close friends with Charles Spurgeon who conducted the funeral of her father in their home. She also met and became a ministry partner and advisor to D. L. Moody. Harbison was a guest teacher on a number of occasions in the early years of Moody Bible Institute and Church.

While in Toronto in 1906, songwriter Robert Harkness had a conversation with a new believer who was struggling with the idea of staying faithful to Christ throughout his life. Later that day, Harkness wrote a letter to lyricist Ada Habershon about the “the need for a song which would give definite assurance in the Christian life.” A short time later, she sent back lyrics to seven different songs. One of them was “He Will Hold Me Fast.” Harkness wrote music for the hymn during church one morning, and four thousand people sang it that same evening.

Wikipedia has a nice and concise article on Ada R. Habershon here https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ada_R._Habershon which includes a list of her books and other publications. The message of the Hymn, “When I Feel My Faith Will Fail” which has become the present day Hymn “He Will Hold Me Fast.” Here is a clear Sermon outline for Sunday from John 10:27-30.

He Will Hold Me Fast

John 10:27–30

Big Idea:

Because Christ has given Himself for His sheep, conquered death, and continually intercedes for them, those who belong to Him are secure in His powerful and loving hands.

Text: John 10:27–30

“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.
I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.
My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand.
I and the Father are one.”

I. Divine Strength — He Is Strong Enough to Hold Us

“No one will snatch them out of my hand.” — John 10:28

Our assurance does not rest in the strength of our faith, but in the strength of our Savior.

A. He Holds Us Through Our Doubts

There are times when our faith feels weak and our confidence wavers.

But the security of the sheep rests in **the Shepherd**, not in the sheep.

We may struggle to hold on to Him, but He never struggles to hold on to us.

B. He Holds Us Through Our Fears and Failures

We know our own weakness due to the work of the Spirit within.

We have failed before, and we know we can fail again. Confession and repentance is the key to belonging and perseverance. The sheep hear the voice of the Shepherd and they follow - confession and repentance is evidence of following. These are two of the works of faith - confession and repentance. There is no such thing as sheep that don't follow.

Yet Christ's promise is not, *"You will never fail Me."*

His promise is:

"No one will snatch them out of my hand."

Our perseverance ultimately depends upon His preserving grace.

C. He Holds Us Through Satanic Attacks

The enemy seeks to accuse, deceive, discourage, and destroy. But Satan cannot overpower the Shepherd.

"No one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand." — John 10:29

The believer's security is ultimately protected by the power of God Himself.

D. He Holds Us Through Human Weakness

We are fragile.

Our emotions change.

Our circumstances change.

Our strength changes.

Christ does not change.

Our grip may tremble, but His grip never does. Our cognitive capacities may fail but God does not forget his sheep.

Application:

When you cannot trust yourself to hold on, trust the One who has promised to hold you fast.

II. Divine Cost — He Paid Everything Necessary to Save Us

Our security is not cheap sentimentality. It was purchased at an infinite cost. Our security is not based on emotional experience or a singular event we had. The source of security is divine.

A. The Ransom of Christ's Life Is Sufficient

Jesus said:

“I give them eternal life.” — John 10:28

The Shepherd does not merely protect His sheep—**He gives His life for them.**

The ransom price has been fully paid. Mercy and grace are not transactional agreements.

Nothing needs to be added to Christ's finished work.

His blood is sufficient.

His sacrifice is sufficient.

His righteousness is sufficient.

B. The Resurrection of Christ Is Our Victory Over Death

Jesus gives **eternal life** because He Himself conquered death.

The Shepherd who died for His sheep is the Shepherd who rose again and will raise us up.

Because Christ lives, those who belong to Him have a life that death cannot ultimately destroy.

The empty tomb is God's declaration that Christ's saving work has accomplished its purpose to create a people for his own.

C. The Mediation of Christ Is Our Present Help

Christ's work did not end at the cross or the empty tomb.

The risen Christ continues to represent His people.

He is our Advocate.

He is our Intercessor.

He is our Mediator.

Our salvation is secure because the Savior who purchased us is still actively caring for us.

Application:

You are not being saved by Christ's past work while being left to survive by your own strength today. The Christ who died for you is the Christ who lives for you.

III. Divine Delight — He Delights to Save His Sheep

Behind the strength of Christ and the cost of redemption is the **love of God**.

A. Christ Delights to Save

Jesus does not reluctantly rescue His sheep.

He willingly lays down His life for them.

The Shepherd seeks the lost.

The Shepherd finds the lost.

The Shepherd carries the lost home.

There is joy when a lost sinner is found. Christ does not merely tolerate His redeemed people.

He delights in saving them.

B. God's Love Sent Christ to Accomplish Our Redemption

John 10 ultimately points beyond the Shepherd to the unity of the Father and the Son:

“I and the Father are one.” — John 10:30

The Father gave the sheep to the Son.

The Son gave His life for the sheep.

The Father and Son together accomplish and secure our redemption.

Our salvation begins in the heart of God's love and is accomplished through the work of Christ and the active role of the Holy Spirit working in and through us.

C. God's Love Continues to Apply Our Redemption

The Father has given the sheep to Christ.

Christ gives them eternal life.

No one can snatch them from Christ's hand.

No one can snatch them from the Father's hand.

The entire Godhead is committed to the salvation and preservation of God's people.

Application:

Your salvation is not grounded in how tightly you can cling to God. It is grounded in how faithfully God has committed Himself to you.

Conclusion — He Will Hold Me Fast

The question is not:

“Am I strong enough to hold on to Christ?”

The better question is:

“Is Christ strong enough to hold on to me?”

John 10 answers with an emphatic **yes**. Jude ends his letter with this expectation.

Divine Strength:

He is strong enough to hold us.

Divine Cost:

He has paid everything necessary to save us.

Divine Delight:

He loves to save and preserve His sheep.

So when doubts come—**He will hold me fast.**

When failure comes—**He will hold me fast.**

When Satan attacks—**He will hold me fast.**

When my strength fails—**He will hold me fast.**

When death approaches—**He will hold me fast.**

Because the hands that hold us are the hands that were pierced for us.

“No one will snatch them out of my hand.” — John 10:28