

Monkeys or Kittens?

John 10:22-30



Some young monkeys are very adept at holding onto their mother as she travels through trees. These infant monkeys do quite well clinging, but if weakness or sickness caused one to let go there could be a serious fall to the ground. Kittens need not hold on because their mothers carry them securely with their teeth.

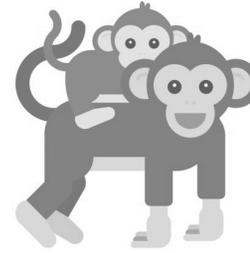
Which of these two modes of transportation best represents the security of the believer? Do we keep ourselves saved by holding onto Christ or are we kept saved by the living God holding onto us? Does our salvation depend on our ability to keep ourselves saved, or do we depend upon the keeping power of God? The Bible overwhelmingly supports the “kitten model.”

We do not keep ourselves saved by our own faithful living and good works, but we are constantly being “kept by the power of God” (*1 Pet. 1:5*). Thank God that our security does not depend upon our feeble efforts and our ability to cling to the Lord. The sheep are not responsible to keep themselves safe; that is the job of the Good Shepherd (*John 10*). The Lord Jesus is the “Shepherd and Bishop (Overseer) of our souls” (*1 Pet. 2:25*). As the Guardian of our souls, He watches over us and keeps us from eternal harm.

Every believer is “sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in [kept by] Jesus Christ” (*Jude 1*).

A weak or sick monkey may not be able to keep himself from falling, but our God is “able to keep us from falling, and to present us faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy” (*Jude 24*). Paul had full assurance of God’s keeping power: “He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day” (*2 Tim. 1:12; 4:18*).

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org



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