Once Saved - Always Saved. Is this a true statement?

Some in the religious world believe that once a person is saved, they are always saved. The statement as presented indicates that once you have salvation, that is it, you are in. However, the use of the word salvation as presented in the statement, once saved, always saved does not make the statement definitive or even proven. Regarding the word salvation in religion, Google AI states, "Salvation is a broad religious concept meaning deliverance or rescue from harm, ruin, or loss, often through divine intervention." Google AI provides a better understanding of what salvation is by providing the fact that divine intervention is necessary for salvation to occur (qualifying with "often through divine intervention," giving no definition of who or what is divine. God is divine). This leads us back to the question: Is the statement once saved - always saved a true statement.

Considering the statement, once saved - always saved, if the statement is true why does the New Testament present so many passages from God that lead one to a different conclusion? Jesus declared, "But he who endures to the end will be saved" (Matthew 10:22), and "But he who endures to the end shall be saved" (Matthew 24:13). If one is permanently saved, why endure until the end? Jesus continues by presented the same conceptual idea when speaking to the Christians in Smyrna. "Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life" (Revelation 2:10). The crown of life Jesus is speaking of is referencing eternal life, which is salvation. Why must one remain faithful until death if one is continually saved based upon their initial salvation?

James furthers the idea that salvation is contingent by writing, “Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him” (James 1:12). James speaks of the same enduring so that one might be approved. Why the necessity of enduring to be approved is one is stamped for salvation one time regardless of what one may do that could be disapproving? The same basic thought is expressed in James 1:25. The Christian who continues to live by the gospel of Christ, “and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed…”

Peter continues by providing the same instruction. Peter is writing to Christians, “those who have obtained like precious faith with us…” (2 Peter1:1). He instructs, “Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election (their salvation) sure…” Why? “For so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 1:10-11). The words “for so” carry the meaning as a result of.” Their continued service would allow them salvation.

Peter also warned to be sober and vigilant, “because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Peter 5:8). How would it be possible for the devil to devour someone who was already saved if that person cannot lose his or her salvation? Obviously, the warning is that one can lose his/her salvation if they do not remain diligently faithful. This helps us clearly understand why Jesus said, "Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown life" (Revelation 2:10). Let us purpose to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling (Philippians 2:12).