

# Can Christians Lose Their Salvation?



Why do people doubt the doctrine of “eternal security” (AKA “Once saved, always saved.”)? We’ve all most likely known family members or friends who once seemed on fire for the Lord, and now they no longer resemble what they used to be spiritually. Why is this doctrine such a problem with so many? Here are some possible explanations.

➤ **Tradition** – “That’s what I was RAISED to believe . . . can’t believe all those folks would be WRONG.” It’s a corporate circling

of the wagons and defending those we are close to @ all costs . . . but when the TRUTH is at stake, we have a higher loyalty than tradition; In Matthew 15:6 Jesus said “**You nullify the Word of God for the sake of your TRADITIONS.**” Every TRADITION has its strengths and weaknesses. We can learn from ALL but are not BOUND by loyalty to any TRADITION. Reformed Faith, ALWAYS REFORMING kata Scripture.

- **Problem Passages** - There are a handful, in Hebrews 6 & 10. Understood in context, these Vv do NOT undermine the Bible’s teaching regarding Eternal Security. A rule of thumb: When a Vs-Vv seem to be saying something contrary to what the WHOLE BIBLE says, it’s time to revise!
- **Indulgence** – Some people think, “If I can’t lose my salvation, I can do whatever I please.” Those words are spoken by someone who does NOT understand the True Nature of Salvation, **Matthew 1:21**. Why would anyone who’s saved WANT to live in what they were saved from? Salvation ALWAYS results in changed BEHAVIOR. Always. Not perfect, but changed. The trajectory of the life is different, **Titus 2:11ff...** AND . . . we ARE called upon to be “Fruit Inspectors”!
- **Religious Leaders** – Some NEED to keep their sheep wondering about their salvation . . . to keep them under THEIR control. [ . . . church in Gadsden, in THEIR church OR . . . you need to question your salvation . . . ] Fear works. Ask any politician! But then it causes resentment.

The best way to tackle the question “Can Christians lose their salvation?” is to turn the question around to a GOD-CENTERED perspective and ask, “If it were possible for a Christian to fall fully and finally from salvation, what would that mean for the Trinity. The ramifications are serious!

## 1. What would it mean for God the FATHER?

- **It would mean God the Father would no longer be DESERVING of our GLORY and PRAISE and WORSHIP.** (*Jude 24-25; Psalm 56:13; 116:8; 121:3-8*). In Jude, God IS worthy precisely B/C of what He does. God KNOWS what you’re going dia & sees the power of this world to allure & appeal and promise you what it cannot give. God is aware of every cliff & dark alley & is ABLE to protect you. If God were to lose even ONE of His children, His power & integrity would be @ stake.
- **In other words, it’s NOT about US!** (*Jude 1*) Christians are NOT kept dia their own efforts, but kept safe IN JESUS CHRIST.
- **But don’t we have a responsibility to keep ourselves?** So what’s the connection and ultimate commitment? (*Jude 1*) The PROMISE of Vs 24 does NOT cancel out the COMMAND in Vs 21. In fact, Vs 24 provides the REASON WHY we can do Vs 21. God EQUIPS us & EMPOWERS us to DO what He commands. [Run track, just show up & wear any ole shoes you want to . . . trains, gives you the best shoes...]
- **What does Jesus say? (John 6:28-40)**

Some impossibilities: \*\*No IFS, ANDS, or BUTS!!!

- Impossible to come to Christ unless DRAWN.
- Impossible NOT to come to Christ.
- Impossible to be CAST OUT.
- Impossible to PERISH.

## 2. What would it mean for God the SON?

- It would mean that Jesus would have FAILED in the PURPOSE for which He DIED. (John 6:37-40; 10:14-18, 27-30) Jesus died to SAVE people, not just to give them an opportunity to have it for awhile & leave it.
- It would mean Jesus' WORD and PROMISE would have FAILED to come TRUE. (John 6:37; 10:27-28) That would make Jesus to be a LIAR, and His Words cannot be trusted; & if that's the case, we're clinging to a false hope from a false prophet!

## 3. What would it mean for God the HOLY SPIRIT?

- It means He would have FAILED in His work of SEALING the SAINTS. (Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30) What is that? A "seal" is a stamped impression in wax indicating ownership. ["THIS BELONGS TO STEVE JUSSELY"] The Spirit marks and claims Xns for their own.
- It means He would be a promise BREAKER. (2 Corinthians 1:21-22; 5:5) <sup>20</sup> For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God. <sup>21</sup> Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, <sup>22</sup> set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.
- It means He would have failed in His FIRSTFRUITS ministry. (1 Corinthians 15:20, 23) Firstfruits are GUARANTEES of more to come. It's present evidence of our being part of a future harvest. Same word used for Christ being the FIRSTFRUITS of those who are raised to life.

**HERE'S WHAT THE ISSUE OF ETERNAL SECURITY BOILS DOWN TO...** The POWER and INTEGRITY of GOD. Will God do what He SAID He would do? It's NOT about OUR ability, but GOD's. GOD has put the safety net of His salvation under His people [NOT Grand Canyon on a wire w/o a net...] BUT WHAT ABOUT THOSE WHO I'VE SEEN FALLEN AWAY? EITHER THEY WILL RETURN OR THEY WERE NOT SAVED IN THE 1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE. That we cannot know, but we CAN know that NO ONE who is truly saved is able to finally turn from God! God Himself has made sure of that!

## Some Questions For Serious Further Reflection

Read John 6:39 and ask

1. How perfect is the Father's will?
2. How good is Jesus at his job?
3. Does the word "nothing" mean *nothing*, or does it mean "some"?

**Read. John 6:40 and ask** 4. What does “eternal” mean?  
5. What does Jesus’ promise about the last day mean for “everyone who believes”?

**Read. Romans 8:28-30 and ask** 6. How does “predestined” jibe with insecurity?  
7. If God commits to glorify those he justifies, why do we think he won’t?  
8. Is justification really justification? Does it mean what it says?

**Read 1 Corinthians 1:8-9 and ask** 9. How long does God commit to keep us blameless?  
10. Is security dependent on our faithfulness or God’s? And how faithful is God?

**Read Hebrews 7:25 and ask** 11. Does “completely” mean “partly” or “temporarily”?

**Consider Hebrews 13:5, Read John 10:28, and ask** 12. Does “never” mean “never”?  
13. Does “no one” mean “no one”?

**Read Hebrews 10:10 and ask** 14. How long does Christ’s sacrifice last?  
15. How much does Christ’s sacrifice cover?

**Read Titus 1:2 and ask** 16. What kind of life did God promise?  
17. When did he promise it?  
18. Are God’s promises reliable?  
19. Wouldn’t denying his promise of eternal life be tantamount to calling him a liar?

**Finally:** 20. Is your sin more powerful than Christ’s blood? Is your weakness more powerful than God’s might? Are you that nut He can’t crack?

If our religion be of our own getting or making, it will perish; and the sooner it goes, the better; but if our religion is a matter of God’s giving, we know that He shall never take back what He gives, and that, if He has commenced to work in us by His grace, He will never leave it unfinished.

– Charles Spurgeon