



Can You Lose Your Salvation?

"I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them from me.
(John 10:28, NLT)

Some people worry that because of some sin, they no longer are saved. But can you commit a sin that would cause you to lose your salvation? If that were true, what sin would be the final straw? How would you know? Think about this. When God says you have *eternal* life, doesn't that mean forever? Absolutely! Why? Because your salvation does not depend on what you did, but on what God did. God saved you by your faith in the person and work of Jesus, not by anything you did. He even gave you the faith to believe! (Any verses that some people take to mean a person can lose their salvation must be studied in relation to the whole Bible, not just one verse taken out of context.) *"God saved you by his special favor [grace] when you believed. And you can't take credit for this. It is a gift from God."* (Ephesians 2:8, NLT) God did it all! Through the work of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, a believer will never lose his/her salvation.

The guarantee of the Father

The Father guarantees eternal security. He is all-powerful. How can anything or anyone hinder or prevent him from saving you by grace through faith in his Son? Before God made the world, he loved you and chose you in Christ Jesus to be innocent in his eyes. Through what Jesus did, he adopted you into his own family. (Ephesians 1:4-5) Nothing can ever separate you from such an awesome love!

However, like any good father, when you continue to disobey, he disciplines you, but he never disowns you. For example, some of the Corinthian Christians were living worldly lives. One man in the church was actually having an affair with his father's wife (probably his stepmother). Instead of mourning and dealing with this sin, the Corinthians were actually proud of how tolerant they were! Paul scolded the congregation and told them to cast the unrepentant man out of their church fellowship. (When you sin, your fellowship with God is broken but not the relationship.) The purpose was not vengeful but to help the man come to his senses and repent, which he did. Then they restored him to their church fellowship. (1 Corinthians 5:1-5)

Other Corinthians gobbled up the food at their potlucks before communion, causing some to go hungry and shaming the poor. Unbelievably, others were getting drunk, disgracing the church. Paul condemned their actions. He told them, "You should prepare your heart as you come to communion, confess your sins and think about what Jesus did for you and

why he did it. By not doing this,” he explained, “many of you are weak and sick, and some have even died!”

Rather than let them continue in their sin, God simply took some home to heaven. However, they did not lose their salvation. (1 Corinthians 11:17-34)

The guarantee of Jesus

By his sacrifice on the cross, Jesus made eternal security possible for you. He died in your place, removed the barrier that separated you from a holy God and brought you into his family when you believed. God declared you righteous by faith, apart from works.

How is Jesus keeping you safe? After resurrecting from the dead and ascending to heaven, he sat down at God’s right hand. What is he doing? He is continually praying and interceding for you. *“Therefore he is able, once and forever, to save everyone who comes to God through him. He lives forever to plead with God on their behalf.”* (Hebrews 7:25, NLT) Isn’t it comforting and encouraging knowing that Jesus is praying for you in your struggles?

The guarantee of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit also assures you that you are eternally secure. When you became a believer, because of what Jesus did, the Holy Spirit placed you into union with Christ. You are “in Christ” and “Christ is in you.” The Bible never teaches that you can lose this relationship. Secondly, he gave you spiritual and eternal life, which makes you a new person in Christ (regeneration). *“What this means is that those who become Christians become new persons. They are not the same anymore, for the old life is gone. A new life has begun!”* (2 Corinthians 5:17, NLT) This can never change! Physical birth makes you a child of your parents forever; spiritual birth makes you a child of God forever.

The indwelling Holy Spirit is a seal to you. *“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”* (2 Corinthians 1:22, NIV) In ancient times, a seal was proof of a completed transaction, a sign of ownership and a guarantee of security, since only an authorized person could break the seal. How wonderful that God will never break the seal! You cannot break it either.

The Holy Spirit is a down payment toward things that are to come. If you purchased a car, you would make a down payment, pledging to pay the rest. In a similar way, the Holy Spirit is a down payment of God’s personal pledge of what is to come. *“And he has identified us as his own by placing the Holy Spirit in our hearts as the first installment of everything he will give us.”* Wow! (2 Corinthians 1:22, NLT)

You are “in Christ” and are “accepted in the beloved.” By grace (God’s special favor), you are saved and seated with him in the heavenly realm. How much more secure can you get? *“For you died when Christ died, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. And when Christ, who is your real life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.”* (Colossians 3:3-5 NLT) Isn’t it comforting that you never have

to worry about losing your salvation? Doesn't that make you love and long to obey such an awesome, loving God?

Attitude Check:

- How completely do you trust God to keep you in his care?

Explore:

- Read the following Scriptures: 1Peter 1:5, Romans 8:31-39, Romans 3:23-28, Hebrews 9:11-14 and John 17:11. Write in your journal, thanking God that you are his forever.

Talking with God:

- Thank you, Father, for your guarantee that I am in your family forever. Thank you that nothing can take away your love. I am yours!