

Eternal Security #2

Can a true believer ever be lost?

Understanding the Terms

Believer: someone who has personally acknowledged the Lord Jesus Christ as his personal Savior.

True: not a mere profession or knowing about Christ but a real commitment and acceptance of His work on the cross as the only way of salvation.

Ever: covers every circumstance and possibility. i.e., suicide, premeditated sin, willful sin, sin past, present, future, and its nature.

Lost: by the term in the question, we mean the loss of body, soul, spirit in Hell forever; however, I would remind us that a believer out of fellowship with God is a loser. He loses

- (1) fellowship with God—1 Jn 1; Ps 66:18; Ps 51:12
- (2) fellowship with God's people—1 Cor 5:11
- (3) his testimony and influence—2 Tm 4:10
- (4) his opportunities for rewards—1 Cor 3:15; Rev 3:11
- (5) possibly his physical life—1 Cor 5:4; 1 Tm 1:20; 1 Jn 5:16; 1 Cor 11:30

Other Terms:

1. *Eternal Security*: saved forever without condition (the only condition being that of knowing Jesus Christ as Savior).

2. *Saved Again-Lost Again*: the false teaching that a true believer can lose his eternal salvation and must be saved again and again.

3. *Backsliding*: often misunderstood term taken to mean one can be lost if he “backslides.” (The word is found only 17 times in the Bible and that in the O.T.: Prv 14:14; Jer 3:6, 8, 11, 12, 14, 22; 8:5; 31:22; 49:4; Hos 4:16; 11:7; 14:4; Jer 2:19; 3:22; 5:6; 14:7—and it is a word that deals with the nation, Israel; however, its application would indicate the meaning to be a loss of fellowship and blessing of God rather than eternal loss of favor and grace.)

4. *Once Saved-Always Saved*: cf. #1

Underscoring the Basis for the Belief That a True Believer Can Never Be Lost

A. It Is Based upon the Passion and Personal Work of the Lord Jesus Christ

1. cf. “sin” & “sins” i.e. “nature” & “acts”—compare 1 Jn 1:7, 8 with 1 Jn 1:9, 10; Rom 3:23 “all sinned” (in Adam) with Rom 6 & 7 and the acts of sin.
2 Cor 5:21 “made sin for us” and 1 Pt 2:24 “bore our sins”
2. cf. “BLOOD”—Acts 20:28 “church purchased”
Rom 5:9—“justified by His blood”
Eph 1:7; Col 1:14—“redemption through His blood”
1 Pt 1:19—redeemed with precious blood
1 Jn 1:8—“blood cleanses from all sin”

Heb 10:10—"once for all" and vs. 14 perfected forever and vs. 18 "no more offering"

B. It Is Based upon the Terms Used in the Bible

1. "Eternal Life," "Everlasting life"—Jn 3:16 (not "temporary" life)
2. "Born Again"—Jn 3:3 (How does one become "unborn again?")
3. "Justification"—Rom 3:20; Gal 3:8; Rom 2:13; 3:23-24; 4:2-8 (the word means "to render, show or regard as just or innocent, free)
4. "redemption" to deliver—cf. Rom 3:24 footnote of Scofield Bible
5. "Never Perish"—Jn 10:28 (unconditional, no ifs)
6. "Sealed"—Eph 1:3; 4:30 (seal denotes authority, ownership, security)
7. "Gift"—Rom 6:23 (God doesn't take back His gift)
8. "In the Beloved"—Eph 1:6 (Believers are called by this word, and it is the same word the Father uses of Jesus)

C. It Is Based upon the Veracity of God and His Word—2 Tim 3:16

Heb 6:18—impossible for God to lie
 Rom 3:4—let God be true and every man a liar
 Titus 1:2—God, who cannot lie
 Num 23:19—God is not a man that He should lie
 1 Sam 15:29—the strength of Israel will not lie
 Jn 10:35 and Ps 89:35

D. It is Based Upon Positive Declarations of Scripture

Jn 3:16, 36; 6:37; 10:27-30; (Jn 6:39; 7:12, 18:9); Mt 7:21-23; Rom 8:30;
 Eph 4:30; 1 Jn 3:9; 2 Tim 4:18; Phil 1:6
 Compare word "chasten"—Heb 12; 1 Cor 5:1; 11:30; 1 Tim 1:20; 1 Jn 5:16

E. It is Based Upon Biblical Illustrations

1. Old Testament
 - a. Abraham—(Gen 20; 12:10)
 - b. Lot—(Gen 19:30-38; cf. 2 Pt 2:6-9)
 - c. David—(2 Sam 11; cf. Ps 51)
2. New Testament
 - a. Judas—(Lk 22:3; Jn 6:70-71; 12:4; 13:2, 26; 17:12; Acts 1:16, 25; Ps 69:25; 109:8)
 - b. Peter—(denial and restoration)
 - c. Annanias and Sapphira—(Acts 5)
 - d. Man in 1 Cor 5 was restored—(2 Cor 7:6-12)
 - e. Demas—(2 Tim 4:10)
 - f. John Mark—(Acts 13:13; cf. 2 Tim 4:13)
 - g. Alexander and Hymaneus—(1 Tim 1:20; cf. 2 Tim 2:17)

Why Do People Reject "Eternal Security?" (That's too easy)

It is based upon human experience. (A term commonly used is, "Yes, but I once knew a man or woman who was saved and became a _____.")

It is based upon human emotion or "feeling." (Feeling saved is nowhere taught or found in the

Bible.)

It is based upon human exertion or “good works.” (Gal 3:5; Eph 2:8, 9)

It is based upon human extension or “holding on to God.” (cf. Jn 10:27)

It is based upon human explanation or “mis-understood Scriptures.”

1. Mt 10:22—“endure to the end” used of persecution
2. Mt 24:13; Mk 13:13—“endure to the end” used of tribulation
3. Heb 6:4—written to Jews who almost got saved
4. Heb 10:26-29—cf. in chapter “once for all,” “one sacrifice,” explain “willful”
5. Gal 5:4—“Fallen from grace” means the exact opposite of what it is taken to mean. Those who try to get saved by “law” are fallen.
6. 1 Jn 3:9—“Cannot sin” is in the continuous present tense, translated “cannot habitually sin.”
7. 2 Pt 2:20-21—written of false teachers and false prophets and speaks of the fact their nature (vs. 22) has not been changed
8. Jude 3-13—speaks of Godless men

Emphasizing the Danger of Neglecting Responsibility for the Saved

1 Jn 2:1-2—God’s will is for us to “sin not” (cf. Rom. 6:1)

“This belief is not a license to sin but a freedom and liberty that keeps me from sinning.”

GREATER IS HE THAT IS IN YOU THAN HE THAT IS IN THE WORLD.

Good works are a result of salvation (Eph 2:10; 1 Jn 3:7-10)

Phil 2:12-13—we are to work out what He works in.

The word “full assurance” (one word in Greek) is found 4 times in the N.T.:

- 1 Thes 1:5—full assurance of the gospel
- Heb 10:22—full assurance of faith
- Col 2:2—full assurance of understanding
- Heb 6:11—full assurance of hope

LIFE’S KEY

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