

Assurance of Salvation: Reasons I Believe a Believer Cannot “Fall from Grace”

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It's difficult to put in a nutshell beliefs regarding the security of the believer, also known as “once saved, always saved”; “perseverance of the saints,” “the question of “falling from grace.” Nevertheless, we will make an initial attempt at putting what we understand the biblical teachings to be on this subject.

You may at times have doubted the validity of your own salvation. Further, you may be called upon to help others who wonder whether they have “fallen from grace” or ask how they can be sure of their salvation. God's Word offers assurance of salvation based upon *“These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.” 1 John 5:13 (NKJV)* John wrote, then, to build the faith of believers.

Fourteen reasons true believers may rest assured they will be saved in the end:

1. Because God has guaranteed those whom He gave to Christ would come to Christ, and would be raised by Christ in the end.

“All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.”³⁸ “For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.”³⁹ “This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day.”⁴⁰ “And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day” (John 6:36-40 NKJV).

“No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. John 6:44 (NKJV)

2. Because believers are “the called ones” of God and will fulfill His purposes.

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28).

3. Because what has been born cannot become unborn.

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, (1 Peter 1:3 NASB).

4. Because one who becomes a child or “son” of God cannot become an orphan.

"But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe in His name; Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God" (John 1:12).

5. Because at the moment of faith (when a person is “born again” as stated above), a heavenly home is reserved.

“. . .to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you... (1 Peter 1:4 NASB).

6. Because believers are kept, not by their own efforts, but by God’s power; He sustains our faith.

“. . . who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time” (1 Peter 1:5 NASB).

7. Because Christ proves the genuineness of our faith through testing that culminates in the saving of our souls.

“In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, ⁸ whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, ⁹ receiving the end of your faith--the salvation of your souls (1 Peter 1:6-10 NKJV).

8. Because at the moment I accepted in faith that Christ paid for all my sin, I entrusted Him to keep and carry ALL my sin (in my past, present, and future) to the end.

"For the which cause I also suffer these things; nevertheless, I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day" (2 Tim. 1:12).

9. Because my faith rests in Jesus Christ (not in myself) completing the good work He began in me.

“Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Phil. 1:6).

10. Because only those foreordained to eternal life by God believe.

"And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord; and as many as were ordained to eternal life, believed" (Acts 13:48).

11. Because when I believed in Jesus, He promised I would not be judged as a sinner deserving death, but as an innocent deserving life (because of Christ's mercy).

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life (John 5:24 NKJV).

12. Because everlasting life begins at the moment of salvation.

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life, and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him. For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. He that believeth on Him is not condemned; but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God" (John 3:36, 16, 18).

13. Because all of heaven would have no reason to rejoice at the moment of salvation of a sinner if the sinner could fall and become lost again. Wouldn't they just wait until it was a sure thing—at the moment of death?

"I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons which need no repentance" (Luke 15:7

14. Because every sinner who is "justified" at the first moment faith is exercised (declared righteous) is also spoken of as "glorified" in the end.

"Moreover, whom He did predestinate, them He also called; and whom He called, them He also justified; and whom He justified, them He also glorified" (Romans 8:30).

Final Thoughts

***Meaning of "Endurance"**

Let us understand the idea of endurance as being a characteristic of Christ's sustaining power. All true believers WILL endure to the end. Endurance to the end is the *evidence* of true faith, not the *means* of salvation achieved by human effort.

"And ye shall be hated of all men for My name's sake; but he that endureth to the end shall be saved" (Matt. 10:22).

He is saying that it is the "enduring ones," those who are saved by faith, also called the "holy ones," or "saints," even in their incompleated state on earth who will most certainly be saved in the end.

-Paul made clear to the Galatian church how ludicrous it would be for them to believe they had been saved by faith but *kept* saved and sanctified by their own efforts! If they could do nothing to earn salvation, they certainly could do nothing in their own flesh to

make themselves holier before God, and it naturally follows then, that they could do nothing to undo their salvation because they were kept saved by Christ, not their own doing.

Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh? Gal 3:3 (NKJV)

Did this mean they could do whatever they wanted since Christ would forgive? Paul addressed this misconception as well.

“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? ² Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?” Romans 6:1-2 (NKJV)

A person who sins rampantly, resting in the assurance Christ has forgiven, may very well be unregenerate, for by definition, a person who has been changed (regenerated) longs to please the Lord and submit to His will and cannot continue in sin without regard for God’s holy character.

*** “Falling Away”**

Hebrews 6:1-6 is a difficult passage to understand in light of the discussion on “falling from grace.” Though we cannot fully discuss it here, we can determine one thing it DOES NOT mean. If one interprets Hebrews 6:1-6 to mean the saved can “fall from grace,” he must also believe that those who fall from grace can never repent again and be saved.

“For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost; And have tasted of the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come; If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put Him to an open shame” (Heb. 6:1-6).

***How Shall We Respond to these Truths?**

The Word of God does not urge us to live terrified that we’ve *lost* our salvation but to evaluate whether we are *truly* in the faith. Paul urged the Corinthian church members to examine themselves on the basis of Christ’s requirements to see if they were truly believers.

“Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?” (2 Cor. 13:5).

What is the difference between true faith, which saves unto the end, and faux faith, that deceives a person into thinking he is a believer when he is not?

A person with true faith has godly sorrow over his sin that produces repentance (2 Corinthians 7:10), has a testimony of conversion (John 3:3), has received salvation at the moment of repentance and faith (Rom. 10:13), is saved on the basis of God's grace through faith alone (Eph. 2:8-10), has committed his life to Jesus Christ, God in the flesh (Luke 9:23, John 1:14), has a transformed heart (Gal. 2:20), reflects faith through transformed actions as a "doer" of the Word (James 2:22), can discern God's will (1 Cor. 2:14-15), trusts Jesus as the only way to salvation (John 14:6), believes Jesus Christ was raised and lives today (Rom. 10:9-10), and has the witness of the Holy Spirit within (Rom. 8:16).

A person with faux faith may experience regret without repentance toward God (2 Cor. 7:8), may believe he has gradually grown into salvation, may believe he must be morally good (or work) in addition to faith for salvation (Gal. 3:1-3), may believe in God without believing in the One whom He sent (James 2:19, John 6:29), may mentally agree that Jesus lived and died for his sins, may be very religious or very spiritual (2 Tim 3:5, 7), may believe Jesus is a way to salvation, has no transformed heart, possesses no ability to please God or to discern His will (1 Cor. 2:14), has no hope, and no power of the indwelling Holy Spirit

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Other Scriptures:

"They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us" (1 John 2:19 NKJV).

"Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe and tremble" (James 2:19).

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ²² 'Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' ²³ 'And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!' Matt 7:21-23 (NKJV)

In a nutshell, a believer can rest assured his salvation is secure until the end because salvation---justification (we were saved), sanctification (we are being saved), and glorification (we shall be saved)—is **a work of God, not man.**

"... Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God" (John 1:12).