

Lesson 2: Assurance

The Certainty of Our Salvation

A Permanent Relationship with God

After having been converted, can we lose our salvation?

Definitely NO. When we receive Jesus Christ as our Savior we receive our salvation by grace, through faith in Jesus Christ. It is very important that we understand how this has permanently affected our relationship with God. We will see how, in the same way that salvation is received by grace, it is also maintained by grace, not by works.

In Lesson One we learned that there are two spiritual families: the family of God and the family of Satan. We learned that we become a part of the family of Satan upon our physical birth and that, just as John 1:12-13 says we are born into the family of God when we receive Jesus Christ. (“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”). In this lesson we will study what the Bible says about the impossibility of losing our salvation. The principles we will learn as we continue will help you to be solidly established in the grace of our Lord, according to the purpose which He has for you.

I. Who protects our salvation?

A. Let us remember that salvation was a gift from God, who permitted us to have a new relationship with Him.

1. Salvation was given to us by grace (free), through faith and not through works, so that none of us can boast. Ephesians 2:8-9
2. When we received salvation, a new bond was established between God and us: now we are His children and He is our Father. Understanding the father-child bond helps us to understand our new relationship with God. Galatians 4:6-7
 - a) We are always children of our earthly father because we were born of his seed. We could leave the country, forsake our father or stop acknowledging him as such, and never return to see him or to hear anything about him again. Even worse, we could stop thinking about him for the rest of our lives. We could even change our first and last names; but nothing would change the fact that he is our father and we are his children.
 - b) The same thing occurs with our Heavenly Father. We will never be able to reverse our spiritual birth. Upon conversion we are born into His family and we will belong to it forever. No one, not even God Himself, is able to change this fact.

B. In this new relationship with God, He has promised to protect the gift that He gave us.

1. In the Bible, salvation is considered to be an inheritance: the gift from a father to his child. God Himself has promised to make Himself accountable for protecting it. 1 Peter 1:3-5

- a) Our salvation is incorruptible (can never perish)
- b) Our salvation is uncontaminated (can never become spoiled)
- c) Our salvation is imperishable (can never fade away).

2. God has assured His gift of salvation by placing a seal of protection upon us, the seal of the Holy Spirit. Thus He guaranteed that we would receive the inheritance of our salvation. Ephesians 1:13-14

3. The Holy Spirit Himself confirms to us the new relationship which we have with God. Romans 8:16

C. In this new relationship with God, He has agreed to never take this gift from us.

1. Many believers live with the fear that God can rescind their salvation. Unfortunately, they disbelieve the word of Christ, who promised He would never remove us from His family. “All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out” John 6:37.

2. Being able to enjoy the assurance of our salvation is a matter of faith. If we trust in the words of Christ, we will enjoy that peace; if we do not trust, we will live in fear.

II. Is it possible for us to lose our salvation, even when God protects it?

A. No. Not even we ourselves are able to do anything to cause it to be stripped from us.

1. At this point we must recognize that we are not capable either to earn or to maintain our salvation. Even if we were able to do all the works of the law, only one violation of the commandments, in the eyes of God, would once again cause us to be guilty of having violated all of them. James 2:10

2. If obtaining salvation depended upon the good works that we do, then the death of Christ on the cross would have been in vain. Galatians 2:21

3. God knew that we would be incapable of maintaining our salvation. Therefore, He did not confer upon us the responsibility of caring for that which had cost Him so much.

B. No. We can't lose it, and no one can take it from us.

1. John 10:27-29 teaches that no one can make us lose our salvation.
2. God, our Father, is above all of us and He protects us. We are safe in His Hands.

C. No. Nothing can make us lose it.

1. 1 John 4:9 declares that the provision of a Savior for our souls is the expression God's love for us.
2. According to Romans 8:38-39; nothing will separate us from God's love. "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."
 - a) "Neither death". We will not lose it when we die.
 - b) "Nor life". We will not lose it while we live.
 - c) "Nor angels". None can take it from us.
 - d) "Nor principalities". Neither can a human authority take it from us.
 - e) "Nor powers". Satan cannot deprive us of it.
 - f) "Nor the present". Nothing that occurs in the present can cause us to lose it.
 - g) "Nor the future." Nothing that takes place in the future can cause us to lose it.
 - h) "Nor height". Nothing or no one who exists in the heavens can take it from us.
 - i) "Nor depth". Nothing which exists in the depths of the earth or of the universe will be able to take it from us.
 - j) "NOR ANY OTHER CREATED THING" will be able to separate us from the love of God.

III. What are the most common doubts about the certainty of our salvation?

A. What does the Bible mean when it affirms that “he who perseveres to the end, the same shall be saved?”

1. Be careful! The context of this verse in Matthew 24:13 is speaking of the Great Tribulation. And effectively, during this frightening period in the future, after the church has been snatched away, only those who persevere until the end of the tribulation will be saved.
2. Nevertheless, according to the Bible, at the present time if a person does not remain in communion with God and is not disciplined by Him, it is not that he may lose his salvation; it's that he never was saved. 1 John 2:19

B. How can I be sure that I am saved?

1. Rest assured in the testimony that God gives us. He says that if we have Jesus Christ in our hearts, we have eternal life. Furthermore, He says that He has written this to us so we can know, that is, that we understand and are certain that we have eternal life. 1 John 5:11-13
2. On the other hand, let us remember that it is God Himself who promised us eternal life. 1 John 2:25 says: “And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life.”
3. The Bible assures us that God, who promised us eternal life, does not lie. Titus 1:2 says: “In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began.”

C. What happens if I “don’t feel” saved?

1. Do not worry. Understand that our salvation is not based upon feelings, but is based upon that which is declared in the Word of God.
2. When we deal with something as crucial as knowing if we are saved, let’s never trust in what our heart “tells us.”
 - a. Jeremiah 17:9 says: “The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it?”
 - b. Don’t trust in what you “feel”; trust in what God has promised in His word. Proverbs 3:5 says, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding.”

Some Popular Beliefs

1. If we sin after having been born again, we can lose our salvation.
2. The believer must do good works in order to maintain his salvation.
3. If a believer takes his own life or commits some other atrocious sin or frightful crime, he will lose his salvation.
4. The doctrine of sure salvation opens the doors so that we may live a life of sin.

From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand why these teachings are completely false.

Write, in your own words, the spiritual principle from this lesson which has had the greatest impact on you:

Put into practice what you have learned:

1. Read the epistle of 1 John and underline the verses which teach you about salvation and eternal security.
2. Share these verses with your discipler.

What did we learn?

Circle either T (True) or F (False)

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| 1. As believers, all of us run the risk of being snatched out of the hand of God. | T | F |
| 2. The father-son relationship we now have with God is unalterable. | T | F |
| 3. A child of God cannot lose his salvation, except if he commits a sin of most grievous consequences. | T | F |
| 4. If our salvation could be earned through our good works, the death of Christ would have been in vain. | T | F |
| 5. In order to maintain our salvation, it is necessary to fulfill the Ten Commandments. | T | F |
| 6. Spiritual rebirth is irreversible. | T | F |
| 7. Salvation is never lost. | T | F |

Before Starting Lesson 3, memorize John 10:27-29

“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave *them* me, is greater than all; and no *man* is able to pluck *them* out of my Father’s hand.”
