

Security (Can I Lose My salvation?)

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life. John 5:24 (John 3:18)

Are my sins forgiven until my next sin? Perhaps you have struggled with this common though. Many believe you can lose your salvation if you willfully or habitually continue in sin or if your sin is too big. This mistaken belief weighs down every aspect of the Christian life. Fear, shame, and doubt are common reasons believers do not experience a lasting breakthrough.

What is Security?

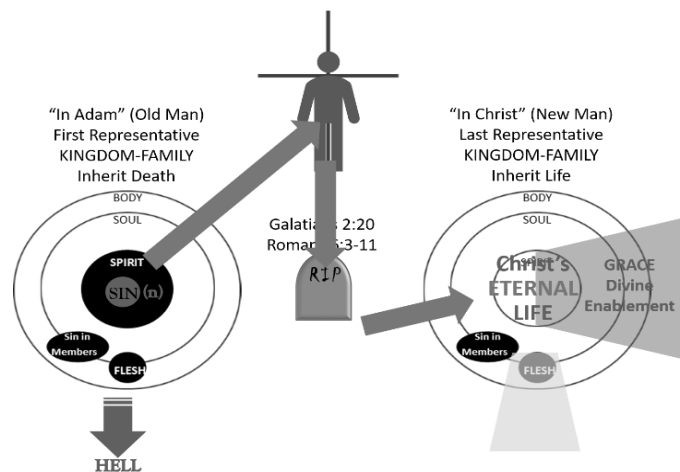
Security is the absolute belief that you cannot lose your salvation because of the faithfulness of God. Christ can no more lose the Christian than any head can lose its body. **Security is anchored in your union with Christ and new birth, not merit or works.** Security is not a cushion for sin but a plea to rest in Christ’s completed work. Security gives us access to His overcoming power to say “no” to temptation. When we doubt God’s unconditional love and acceptance, a core need and prerequisite to confidently approach God, we shrink back from God in debilitating fear, shame, and doubt.

- Lack of assurance may come from doubtful thoughts or teaching about salvation.
- Lack of assurance may come from not feeling saved. (Salvation is not a feeling but a fact.)
- Lack of assurance may come from no breakthrough. (Behavior is not an indicator of new birth.)
- Lack of assurance may come from lies that seemed to make sense of trauma.
- Lack of assurance may be because you are not born again.

Christ is the Guarantee of Salvation

Doubts will arise when either of two errors are accepted. First, the legalist believes salvation must be maintained. Second, believers who genuinely recognize they cannot perform perfectly fear they are not saved.

It is a vain imagination that raises itself against the knowledge of Christ to think that God draws near to bless us when we are good and abandons us when we sin. God does not abandon us to sinful behaviors because He does not want us to sin.

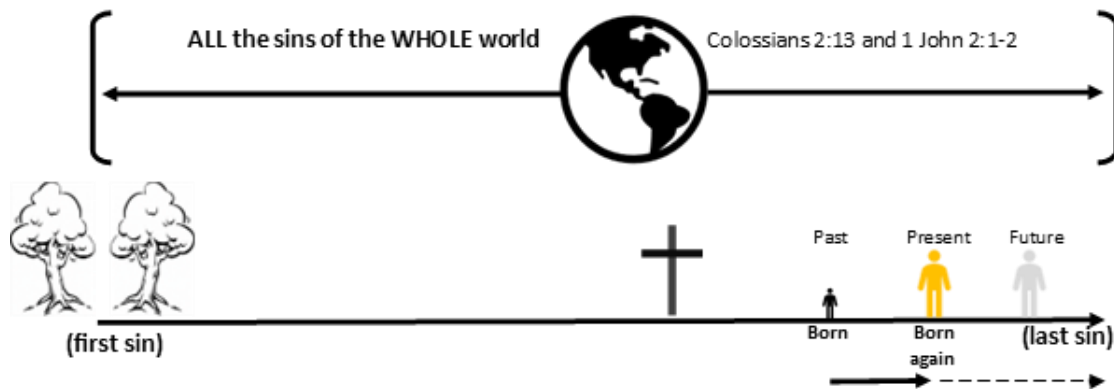


Likely, we have all had law-based doubts regarding security. Until the Law has finished proving our inability to save or sanctify ourselves, some may have difficulty understanding the extravagant grace of God. Remember, the law veils grace. (See 2 Corinthians 3:1-18.)

Hebrews 10:14 says, “For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.” You, meaning your regenerated spirit, are perfected and saved forever! Our behavior is never perfect but grows in maturity—being perfected, manifesting more and more obedience to God.

Truth to Live By

1. When you fear losing your salvation, you must try to maintain and finish your salvation through perfect behavior or guilt offerings, which are impossible and unnecessary.
 - a. Salvation is received by grace (gift) through faith, not the works of the Law. (Romans 3:28)
 - b. Jesus is the author and perfecter of your faith, not you. (Hebrews 12:2)
 - c. Jesus is our daily sin offering. (Hebrews 7:25)
2. You are born again in Christ by God's doing. You cannot lose the eternal life God has given you. Eternal is eternal.
 - a. You are born "of God," meaning your new spiritual life is His spiritual life. You cannot die spiritually because God's life in you cannot die. (John 1:12-13)
 - b. God put you in Christ as Christ's new spiritual body. The body of Christ is as saved and secure as Christ, the Head of the church. (1 Corinthians 1:30)
3. You can't lose your salvation when you sin. However, sin harms your emotional and relational well-being, robbing you of joy and peace. (Romans 14:17)
 - a. No one can snatch the believer, not even you, out of God's hand. (John 10:26)
 - b. The enemy cannot steal your salvation through sin, nor can you lose it. Your salvation is sealed and safeguarded by the Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 1:13-14)
 - c. On the cross, how many of your sins were in the future? (*All of them!*) Which sins were too big for Christ and, therefore, left unforgiven? (*None of them!*) None of your sins survived the cross!



4. Your old man was crucified with Christ. You cannot return to the old man in Adam—he is dead!
 - a. You cannot die back "into Adam" nor be reborn back into Adam. There is not one Scripture that supports dying back into Adam. Nor is there a third Adam. You are in Adam or in Christ.
 - b. Do you know any "born-again, again" verses in the Bible? Why would Jesus leave that out?

If we must live perfectly to maintain our salvation, we are finishing our salvation. Salvation is a gift received by grace through faith, not earned through good works. **Eternal life is God's quality of spiritual life—I AM. Eternal life is the life of God in us.** God's life in you cannot die.

When you know that you are a child of God because of a new birth and not good behavior, you can relax and grow in Christ through the ups and downs. Good behavior will not lead to pride or self-righteousness, nor will bad behavior lead to fear of losing eternal life. Knowing we have complete victory because we are in Christ, we can confidently approach God in our struggles to find mercy and help (Hebrews 4:16)