

## Can a Christian Lose Salvation?

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**First I'd like to look at some of the Scriptures used to teach the concept of Eternal Security.**

### To Him Who is Able to Keep You From Stumbling

**First, in context, he says there will be scoffers who follow their own ungodly desires**

Jud 1:17-25 NIV But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold. 18 They said to you, "In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires." 19 These are the people who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit.

**Then in contrast to them, he says, "But we are to BUILD OURSELVES UP in our faith, and KEEP OURSELVES IN God's love as we wait for the mercy that will bring eternal life"**

20 But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, 21 keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life. 22 Be merciful to those who doubt; 23 save others by snatching them from the fire; to others show mercy, mixed with fear--hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.

**Then this praise and honor to the LORD**

**24 To him who is able to keep you from stumbling** and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy-- 25 to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.

### STUMBLING (G679)

This is the only place in the NT this word is used. Here is the Strong's definition

- GK From G1 (as a negative particle) and a derivative of G4417; not stumbling, that is, (figuratively) without sin: - from falling.
- Jas 2:10 NIV For whoever keeps the whole law and yet **stumbles (G4417)** at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.

There is nothing in these Scriptures to indicate that a person cannot lose salvation...instead it is instead it is speaking of two KEEPERS

- The One who is ABLE to keep you from stumbling (sinning)...and only HE is able to present you without fault...This is Jesus
- BUT this does not remove the responsibility **we have to to KEEP ourselves** in God's love as we wait ...
- We do this by building up ourselves in the faith and praying in the Holy Spirit

### WITHOUT FAULT (G299)

From G1 (as a negative particle) and G3470; unblemished (literally or figuratively): - without blame (blemish, fault, spot), faultless, unblameable.

## We are unblemished and faultless before the throne...

### **This is a process that takes place as Christ makes us holy**

Eph 5:25-27 NIV Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 **to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself** as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and **blameless. (G299)**

### **Presenting us holy in his sight without blemish is attached to a conditional statement**

Col 1:21-23 NIV **Once** you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. 22 **But now** he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death **to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation--** 23 ***if you continue*** in your faith, established and firm, **and do not move from the hope** held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

- "If you continue" is a CONDITIONAL statement...
- And "Do not move from the hope"

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## No One Will Snatch Them Out of My Hand

Joh 10:26-29 NIV but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. 27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. 28 **I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.** 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.

### **Who is not able to be snatched from His hand?**

- His sheep
- Who listen to His voice
- They follow Him

### **No one can forcefully pluck us from his hand, but is it possible to walk away?**

1Ti 6:9-12 NIV Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and **destruction.** 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. **Some people,** eager for money, **have wandered from the faith** and pierced themselves with many griefs. 11 But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. 12 Fight the good fight of the faith. **Take hold of the eternal life** to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

## **DESTRUCTION**

### **Destruction - is obviously speaking of being lost for eternity**

Mat 7:13 NIV "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to **destruction,** and many enter through it.

### **The same word is used here and translated “destroyed”**

Heb 10:32-39 NIV Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you endured in a great conflict full of suffering. 33 Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated. 34 You suffered along with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions. 35 **So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded.** 36 You need to **persevere** so that **when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.** 37 For, "In just a little while, he who is coming will come and will not delay." 38 And, "But my righteous one will live by faith. And **I take no pleasure in the one who shrinks back.**" 39 But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are **destroyed**, but to those who have faith and are saved.

### **WANDERED**

“Wandered from the faith” is in contrast to “Take hold of eternal life”

**GK Wandered** - From **G575** and **G4105**; to lead astray (figuratively); passively to stray (from truth): - err, seduce

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### The You May Know That You Have Eternal Life

1Jn 5:11-13 NIV And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. 13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

- Having an assurance of salvation is the blessing of being a believer
- However, this scripture does not really say anything about whether or not a person could lose salvation
- If I follow Christ I can have that assurance, if I wander away (as described above) I could just as easily lose that assurance

### ETERNAL LIFE

Jud 1:20-21 NIV But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, 21 keep yourselves in God's love **as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.**

- While we have eternal life, there is still the tension of what we have now and what we will be at his coming...and this goes back to the scriptures in Jude about KEEP yourselves in God's love as you WAIT
- See first section, “To Him Who is Able to Keep You From Stumbling”

### **What if a brother hates his brother?**

1Jn 3:14-15 NIV **We know that we have passed from death to life**, because we love each other. Anyone who does not love remains in death. 15 Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that **no murderer has eternal life residing in him.**

1Jn 2:20-27 NIV But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth. 21 I do not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it and because no lie comes from the truth. 22 Who is the liar? It is whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a person is the antichrist--denying the Father and the Son. 23 No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also. 24 As for you, see that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you. **If it does**, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. 25 **And this is what he promised us--eternal life.** 26 I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray. 27 As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit--just as it has taught you, remain in him.

- Again there is a conditional statement
- He is writing to those who have the anointing
- But they are also in danger of being led astray by false teachers
- If a person denies the son, **the promise of eternal life** does not remain extended to him
- REMAIN in him

### **Make every effort**

2Pe 1:5-11 NIV For this very reason, **make every effort to add to your faith** goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; 6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7 and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. 8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins. 10 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, **make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, 11 and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**

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### If God Be For Us Who Can Be Against Us - Nothing Can Separate Us From the Love of God

Rom 8:31-39 NIV What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all--how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? 33 Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. 34 Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died--more than that, who was raised to life--is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? 36 As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- That a Christian can lose salvation is no way a reflection on God's faithfulness, His love, nor His ability to be FOR us...if there is a fault it is with the believer who departs or walks away, no different than the prodigal son.

### **In the same book of Romans there is another conditional statement and a consequence**

Rom 11:20-23 NIV Granted. But they were broken off because of unbelief, and you stand by faith. Do not be arrogant, but tremble. 21 For if God did not spare the natural branches, he will not spare you either. 22 Consider therefore the kindness and sternness of God: sternness to those who fell, but kindness to you, **provided that you continue in his kindness. Otherwise, you also will be cut off.** 23 And if they do not persist in unbelief, they will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again.

- We must continue, otherwise we will be cut off, no different than the Jews who were broken off because of unbelief

### **Marked with a Seal, the Promised Holy Spirit, Guaranteeing our Inheritance**

Eph 1:13-14 NIV And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession--to the praise of his glory.

- The Holy Spirit has been given as a down payment of our guaranteed inheritance
- But just as Esau despised his inheritance, can we not do the same
  - Heb 12:14-17 NIV Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. 15 See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many. 16 See that no one is sexually immoral, or is godless like Esau, who for a single meal sold his inheritance rights as the oldest son. 17 Afterward, as you know, when he wanted to inherit this blessing, he was rejected. Even though he sought the blessing with tears, he could not change what he had done.

### **It is possible to share in the Holy Spirit, then fall away**

- Heb 6:4-6 NIV It is impossible for those who have **once been enlightened**, who have **tasted the heavenly gift**, who have **shared in the Holy Spirit**, 5 who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age 6 **and who have fallen away**, to be brought back to repentance. To their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace.

### **Take not your Holy Spirit from me**

- Psa 51:10-12 NIV Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. 11 Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

### **We can insult the Spirit of grace - this is speaking to Christians**

- Heb 10:23-29 NIV **Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.** 24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching. 26 If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, 27 but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. 28 Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29 How much more severely do you think someone deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, **who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified them**, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace?

### This is the will of Him who sent me...that I shall lose none of all those he has given me

Joh 6:36-40 NIV But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. 37 All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. 38 For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. 39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. 40 For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day."

### **It is also God's will that none should perish**

- 2Pe 3:9 NIV The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.
  - Yet we know from the scriptures that wide is the road to destruction and many will be on it

### **God has chosen in His sovereignty to give man a free will**

- Man can choose to follow him or not, (though it is God's will that NONE should perish)
- A man who is saved can also choose to walk away from him as we have seen above, (though it is the will of God that NONE that have been given to him should be lost)

### Another conditional statement

Heb 3:10-19 NIV That is why I was angry with that generation; I said, 'Their hearts are always **going astray**, and they have not known my ways.' 11 So I declared on oath in my anger, 'They shall never enter my rest.'" 12 See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has **a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away** from the living God. 13 But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called

"Today," so that none of you may be **hardened by sin's deceitfulness**. 14 We have come to share in Christ, **if indeed we hold our original conviction firmly to the very end**. 15 As has just been said: "Today, if you hear his voice, **do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion**." 16 Who were they who heard and rebelled? Were they not all those Moses led out of Egypt? 17 And with whom was he angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies perished in the wilderness? 18 And to whom did God swear that they would never enter his rest if not to those who disobeyed? **19 So we see that they were not able to enter, because of their unbelief.**

- 14 We have come to share in Christ, **if indeed we hold our original conviction firmly to the very end.**

### **Some have turned away to follow Satan**

1Ti 5:11-15 NIV As for younger widows, do not put them on such a list. For when their sensual desires overcome their dedication to Christ, they want to marry. 12 Thus they bring judgment on themselves, because they have broken their first pledge. 13 Besides, they get into the habit of being idle and going about from house to house. And not only do they become idlers, but also busybodies who talk nonsense, saying things they ought not to. 14 So I counsel younger widows to marry, to have children, to manage their homes and to give the enemy no opportunity for slander. 15 Some have in fact already turned away to follow Satan.

### **Some will abandon the faith**

1Ti 4:1-2 NIV The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. 2 Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.

- Abandon - From G575 and G2476; to remove, that is, (actively) instigate to revolt; usually (reflexively) to desist, desert, etc.:

### **Same word is used here**

- Luk 8:13 NIV Those on the rocky ground are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they **fall away**.

### **There will be a great apostasy before the antichrist is revealed**

2Th 2:1-3 NIV Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers and sisters, 2 not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by the teaching allegedly from us--whether by a prophecy or by word of mouth or by letter--asserting that the day of the Lord has already come. 3 Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come **until the rebellion occurs** and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.

- Rebellion - defection from truth (properly the state), ("apostasy"): - falling away, forsake.- comes from the root word that means divorce

### **Same word is used here - the idea is there is a total departure**

- Act 21:21 NIV They have been informed that you teach all the Jews who live among the **Gentiles to turn away from Moses**, telling them not to circumcise their children or live according to our customs.

**In this chapter, there is a warning that we would not follow in the same steps as the sins of the children of Israel in the wilderness (see verses 1-10)**

1Co 10:11-12 NIV These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come. 12 So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!

**It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness,**

2Pe 2:20-22 NIV If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and are overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning. 21 It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them. 22 Of them the proverbs are true: "A dog returns to its vomit," and, "A sow that is washed returns to her wallowing in the mud."

**Here is another conditional verse**

Mat 24:10-13 NIV At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, 11 and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. 12 Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, 13 **but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.**

Joh 6:66 NIV From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.