

Can a Christian forfeit His Salvation?



Concerning First Principles?

Is it possible to forfeit salvation?

Jesus taught it is

- **Luke 9:62** – no one looking back is fit for the kingdom
- **Matthew 24:45-51** – faithful and unfaithful servants
- **John 15:1-6** – branches can be cut off



Is it possible to forfeit salvation?

Paul taught this

- **Romans 11:16-22** – “cut off”, goodness and severity
- **1 Corinthians 9:26-27** – Paul could be disqualified
- **1 Corinthians 10:12** – take heed lest he fall
- **Galatians 5:4** – fallen from grace



Is it possible to forfeit salvation?

Paul taught this

- Faithfulness
- **Colossians 1:21-23** – “IF” you continue in the faith
- **1 Corinthians 15:58** – be steadfast, immovable... labor not in vain
- **Galatians 6:9** – “IF” we do not lose heart



Is it possible to forfeit salvation?

The book of Hebrews

- **Hebrews 2:1-3** – drift away... How shall we escape
- **Hebrews 3:12-14** – beware – departing from the living God
- **Hebrews 6:4-6** – “IF” they fall away, impossible to renew...
- **Hebrews 10:26-27** – “IF” we sin willfully, there no longer remains a sacrifice... worse punishment

Is it possible to forfeit salvation?

More passages

- **James 5:19-20** – one wanders from the truth, if turned back...
- **2 Peter 1:5-11** – make your call and election sure, “IF” these things are yours and abound...
- **2 Peter 2:20-22** – “IF”, later end is worse than the beginning
- **Revelation 2:10** – be faithful unto death
- **Revelation 22:18-19** – name removed from the book of life

Some OSAS arguments:

- **John 3:18**, “He who believes is not condemned,…” – emphasis is you can never be condemned
- **Answer:** Too general of a statement. The term “believes” is present tense – ongoing action, hence not exclusively becoming a believer (Christian)
What if one stops believing?
 - **See also 3:36**, “Not believe” (NKJV) means, “not obey”. Also present tense.



Some OSAS arguments:

- **John 10:28-29**, “eternal life”, “none shall snatch them out of My hand”
- **Answer:** Note **vs. 27**, “My sheep hear My voice” and “follow Me” (also present tense)
Also, Satan (or man) will NOT defeat His purpose. We can have confidence that our Lord will win!



Some OSAS arguments:

- **1 John 2:19**, If one falls away, they were never saved in the first place
- **Answer:** You do not know that! It is presumptive.
 - Does not address all the verses we previously mentioned
 - I will acknowledge that SOME were never saved originally, but we know of individuals who were faithful for years and then walked away.
 - **1 Timothy 4:1** – some will depart
 - **Galatians 5:4** – you have “fallen from grace”



Some OSAS arguments:

- Those truly saved have been changed by God (miraculously regenerated, sanctified, new heart, etc.) so that they will not sin to the point of forfeiting their salvation.
- **Answer:** Such theological terms need further development.
 - Such removes free will when one is “saved”
 - Such makes God a respecter of persons (**cf. Acts 10:34-35, Romans 2:11**), because not everyone remains faithful.
1 Timothy 1:18-20 shipwrecked faith,
2 Timothy 4:10 – Demas has forsaken...



Can I know I am saved?

- The Bible says I can!
- **1 John 5:13**, that you may know
2 Peter 1:10-11, make your call and election sure
2 Timothy 1:12, “I KNOW whom I have believed...”



Can I know I am saved?

- The Bible says I can!
 - But our confidence hinges on our obedience and devotion:
 - 1 John 1:7**, we are walking in the light
 - 1 John 2:3-4**, We know Him because we keep His commandments
 - 1 John 3:7-9**, we cannot (persist in) sin
 - 1 John 5:2-3**, love Him, keep His commandments
- WE KNOW when we are sinning!



Can I know I am saved?

- We must be careful to not misjudge God
- It is by grace that we are saved –
Ephesians 2:4-8. His grace is greater than our sins – **Romans 5:20-21**, but NOTE that it is NOT license to sin (**Romans 6:1-2ff**)
2 Peter 3:9 – He is not willing that any should perish
BUT He expects us to remain faithful to Him



Can I know I am saved?

- As Christians, we have a way to take care of our sins
- **1 John 1:9**, we must confess our sins

Acts 8:22, we repent and pray

1 John 1:7, we keep walking in the light



Becoming a Christian is a
commitment!

What are you doing to
“make your call and
election sure”?



Let us pray!

