



Can a Person Lose Their Salvation? Once Saved Always Saved?

Passages to study on the topic of eternal security.

For millennia people have debated whether it's possible for a person to lose their salvation after they have been born again. Many leaders have differing views on this topic.

Please open your Bible or Bible app when you read these verses so that you can read them in context and in other versions.

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| 1. John 16:1 | 14. Matthew 24:10 | 27. Hebrew 8:9 |
| 2. 1 Corinthians 15:2 | 15. 1 Timothy 5:15 | 28. 1 John 2:24 |
| 3. Hebrew 6:4-6 | 16. 2 Timothy 4:4 | 29. 2 Timothy 2:12 |
| 4. Psalm 69:28 | 17. Hebrews 3:12 | 30. Proverbs 30:9 |
| 5. Matthew 13:21 | 18. Hebrews 10:26-29 | 31. Colossians 2:6 |
| 6. Galatians 5:4 | 19. Hebrews 12:25 | 32. Ephesians 4:30 |
| 7. 2 Peter 3:17 | 20. 2 Peter 2:20 | 33. John 10:27-28 |
| 8. Romans 11:22 | 21. Revelation 2:5 | 34. John 6:39-40 |
| 9. John 15:4-10 | 22. Revelation 2:26 | 35. John 3:16 |
| 10. Romans 11:17-21 | 23. Revelation 3:5 | 36. Hebrews 13:5 |
| 11. Mark 13:13 | 24. 1 Corinthians 9:27 | 37. 1 John 2:19 |
| 12. 1 Corinthians 10:12 | 25. Acts 11:23 | 38. Romans 8:38-39 |
| 13. Matthew 24:45-51 | 26. Acts 14:22 | |

The following list contains a passage with my thoughts in parentheses after each one.

I've included them so that you can read them all in one place but please don't let your study end there. It is our hope that reading them will motivate you to study them and memorize them.

You will benefit greatly if you study them in the DBS format and to memorize them, simply copy each one down on paper several times. Or repeat it to yourself over and over each day until it is cemented in your memory.

1. "All this I have told you so that you will not fall away" John 16:1
 - a. (Why would Jesus tell them He doesn't want them to fall away if it isn't possible for them to fall away?)
2. 1 Corinthians 15:2 It is this Good News that saves you if you continue to believe the message I told you—unless, of course, you believed something that was never true in the first place.



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- a. (Why would Paul tell the Corinthians that the Good news saves them IF they CONTINUE to believe the message? Doesn't that imply that the good news does NOT save those who do NOT continue to believe it? Which means that it's possible to stop believing)
 3. Hebrews 6:4-6 It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age 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.
 - a. (Some people say that this verse is actually talking about people who "almost" got saved. To me that doesn't make any sense because then what is there to fall away from? Plus it seems illogical to say that a person can't crucify the Son of God twice, "all over again" if they haven't even participated in His crucifixion once.)
 4. Psalm 69:28 May they be blotted out of the book of life and not be listed with the righteous.
 - a. (David was wise enough to only pray for things that were actually possible, therefore, doesn't it seem odd for him to pray that a person's name be erased from the book of life if it isn't even possible?)
 5. Matthew 13:21 But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away.
 - a. (Here, Jesus Himself seems to be explaining how some people get saved but don't stay saved because they aren't rooted well, so difficulties cause them to "fall away.")
 6. Galatians 5:4 You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace.
 - a. (Since it's by grace that we are saved, (Ephesians 2:8) is it possible that to "fall away from grace" means the same thing as falling away from being saved?)
 7. 2 Peter 3:17 Therefore, dear friends, since you have been forewarned, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of the lawless and fall from your secure position.
 - a. (Why would Peter "warn" us to "be on guard" so we don't "fall from our secure position" if it isn't even possible to "fall from our secure position?")
 8. Romans 11:22 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.



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- a. (Here the apostle Paul is encouraging people to continue in the kindness of God. That only makes sense if it is also possible to NOT continue in God's kindness. Paul says that those who do not continue in God's kindness will be "cut off." How does that make any sense if it isn't even possible to be "cut off?")
9. John 15:4-10 Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me 5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. 9 "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10 If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love.
- a. (We've all heard this passage many times but many of us don't grasp what is really being said here. Why would Jesus command his disciples (He's speaking to disciples not just Christian church members) to remain "in Him" and warn of the consequences of not remaining in Him if, as some say, it's not possible to not remain in Him? To me, this whole passage doesn't make any sense if, once a person is "in Christ", they do not have the option to leave. It is obvious that those who are "in Christ" are by no means deprived of the option of leaving Him and severing the relationship if they so choose.)
10. Romans 11:17-21 If some of the branches have been broken off, and you, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root, 18 do not consider yourself to be superior to those other branches. If you do, consider this: You do not support the root, but the root supports you. 19 You will say then, "Branches were broken off so that I could be grafted in." 20 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.
- a. (If branches were broken off because of unbelief and the branches that are grafted in, maintain a good graft (connection to God) by faith, what happens if that faith becomes unbelief? Paul says that we should tremble with fear that we could be "broken off" as well. If it isn't possible to be broken off, why did Paul go to the trouble of writing this?")
11. Mark 13:13 Everyone will hate you because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.



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- a. (Does this passage make sense if it isn't possible NOT to stand firm to the end? If only those who "stand firm to the end" are saved, what becomes of those who only stand firm part of the way? It seems to me that Jesus is saying "if you don't stand firm until the end then you will NOT be saved.")
 12. 1 Corinthians 10:12 So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!
 - a. (Why does Paul warn us to be careful not to fall if there are no dire consequences to falling? It appears to me that he is warning us of something that can have a detrimental effect on a person's relationship to the Lord.)
 13. Matthew 24:45-51 "Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? 46 It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns. 47 Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. 48 But suppose that servant is wicked and says to himself, 'My master is staying away a long time,' 49 and he then begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards. 50 The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. 51 He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.
 - a. (This is a servant of the Master who, based on his poor conduct, ends up being cut to pieces and assigned a place where people are crying and grinding their teeth in agony and suffering. Does it seem like this was a faithful and wise servant in the beginning but because he didn't like his master's return timetable, he "begins" to mistreat his fellow servants and becomes a glutton and a drunkard? If your Master cuts you to pieces and puts you in a place of suffering, are you still saved?)
 14. Matthew 24:10 At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other,
 - a. (What does it mean to "turn away from the faith?" and if a person does that and then betrays and hates the followers of Jesus, is it possible that they are still maintaining a "saving faith?")
 15. 1 Timothy 5:15 Some have in fact already turned away to follow Satan.
 - a. (How can some who followed Jesus turn away to follow Satan if it isn't possible to turn away at all?)
 16. 2 Timothy 4:4 They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.
 - a. (This is a choice that people make. We decide what we will listen to...truth or myths. These folks began by turning their ears to truth and then decided to listen to myths instead.)
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17. Hebrews 3:12 See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God.
 - a. (Here, brothers and sisters (that's believers) are instructed to check the state of their heart because sin and faithlessness will cause us to "turn away" from our God. And if a person turns away from God will God still require them to go to heaven? A wise old saint once said to me, "it's not how you start that matters, it's how you finish." Nowhere is that more true than in our relationship to our creator and our only hope of salvation.)

 18. Hebrews 10:26-29 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?
 - a. (To me it appears that we are allowed to receive Jesus' sacrifice for our sins ONCE! If anyone has their sins removed by Jesus' sacrifice but then keeps on in deliberate sin, that person can expect judgement and raging fire instead of eternal paradise with God because they used up their one opportunity to have their sins forgiven.)

 19. Hebrews 12:25 See to it that you do not refuse him who speaks. If they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, how much less will we, if we turn away from him who warns us from heaven?
 - a. Thoughts?

 20. 2 Peter 2:20 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.
 - a. (This is so clear. This person knew Jesus and escaped the corrupt world but later was entangled in, and overcome by, the world. Is there any way that they are still saved if their final condition is worse than the condition they were lost and didn't know Christ?

 21. Revelation 2:5 Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.
 - a. (Here it seems like Jesus is saying that it is possible for a church (saved people) to "fall" to a place where they will refuse to repent. Can a person be saved in that condition? If the person or



church IS saved then why would Jesus remove their lampstand? Does Jesus make idle threats? Of course not! That is akin to lying and we know Jesus does not lie.)

22. Revelation 2:26 To the one who is victorious and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations
 - a. (If there are some who are victorious and do His will to the end isn't it logical to assume that there are some who are defeated and do NOT do His will to the end? And if so, do both groups receive the same reward?)
23. Revelation 3:5 The one who is victorious will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life, but will acknowledge that name before my Father and his angels.
 - a. (Ask yourself, "is the opposite true?" If the victorious person doesn't have their name blotted out of the book of life, what happens to the name of the one who isn't victorious? If it's not possible to blot a name from the book of life, why did Jesus say this? Is it an idle threat? In my mind, either the whole verse is true or none of it is true. If I'm willing to accept that the victorious ones will be dressed in white and spoken of before the Father and the Angels, then I must also be willing to accept that the names of those church members who aren't victorious by "doing His will TO THE END" will have their names erased from the book of life by Jesus himself.)
24. 1 Corinthians 9:27 No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.
 - a. (Does it sound like Paul is certain of his salvation because he prayed a "sinners prayer" once or is he concerned that after leading others to salvation, he himself was in danger of missing out on the "prize?" And if the prize isn't eternal life, then what is it?)
25. Acts 11:23 When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts
 - a. (How can anyone encourage someone to remain true to the Lord if it isn't possible no to?)
26. Acts 14:22 strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," they said.
 - a. (How can anyone tell someone to remain true to the faith if they don't have the ability to NOT remain true to the faith?)



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27. Hebrews 8:9 It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they did not remain faithful to my covenant, and I turned away from them, declares the Lord.
- (If God turned away from His chosen people, the Israelites, who didn't REMAIN full of faith do we think He will NOT turn away from those of us in the church who do not remain faithful to Him?)
28. 1 John 2:24 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.
- (If it is necessary for a person to make sure that what they heard from the beginning remains in them then it must be possible for what they heard to leave them. It seems to be saying that if what you heard does NOT remain in you then you will NOT remain in God. Can a person who does not remain in God remain saved?)
29. 2 Timothy 2:12 if we endure, we will also reign with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us
- (If I can disown Jesus and in return, Jesus disowns me, what is the likelihood that I'm still saved and going to Heaven? That would literally be like a person saying, "Jesus is not mine, not my Lord, master, savior, ruler, or King" and Jesus simply responding in kind by saying, "that one is no longer my child, or servant." If that transaction were to take place, (and we see here that it IS a possibility) I can't imagine any scenario where that person would still be saved.)
30. Proverbs 30:9 Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, 'Who is the Lord?' Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God.
- Thoughts?
31. Colossians 2:6 So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him,
- (We received Him by His Grace cooperating with our faith so Paul feels it necessary to encourage us to CONTINUE in the faith which implies that it must be possible to NOT continue in your faith.)

Please ask the Holy Spirit to guide you into the truth of all of these passages and then decide for yourself what you believe. The following verses are often cited to indicate that it is NOT possible to lose salvation once it's been received.

32. Ephesians 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.



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- a. (If a person is sealed for the day of redemption, does that mean that the seal can't be broken? What of a person who denies and disowns God and no longer wants to participate in the day of redemption?)
33. John 10:27-28 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.
- a. (While it is true that His sheep listen to Him and follow Him; is it also true that if a person stops listening and following, that they are no longer His sheep and He is no longer their shepherd? So, even though true sheep will never perish and can't be taken from Him, what if they no longer want to be a sheep? Are they required to remain a sheep against their will or do they still possess free will?)
34. John 6:39-40 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."
- a. (Of course it's God's will that Jesus wouldn't lose any of the people that the Father has given Him but the very fact that He is stating this seems to suggest the possibility of losing those that he's been given. Otherwise, why is He even talking about it? It is also God's will that none would perish but no one thinks that's going to happen. Notice that it does not say that He WILL NOT lose any but only that The Father doesn't WANT him to lose any.)
35. John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.
- a. (Yes, if a person is believing in Him when they die or when He returns, they will receive eternal life. This passage does NOT say that a person cannot stop believing if they choose to.)
36. Hebrews 13:5 Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."
- a. (It is so encouraging to know that God will never leave or forsake us but that does NOT mean that we can't leave or forsake Him.)
37. 1 John 2:19 They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us.
- a. (At first glance, this passage appears to say that those who are truly part of the body of Christ would remain in the body but read it IN CONTEXT and decide for yourself. It's actually part of a section called "Warnings against denying the Son.")



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38. Romans 8:38-39 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,[a] 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.
- a. (It is absolutely true that nothing can separate a person from the LOVE of God but God loves everyone. That doesn't mean that He saves everyone. We know He doesn't. But this passage isn't even talking about salvation, it's talking about God's love and that is extended to all creation whether saved or not. Remember John 3:16..." for God so loved the WORLD")

Based on these verses, I believe that a saved person is totally safe and secure and that nothing outside of themselves can snatch them away from The Lord. That said, I do not believe that when a person becomes saved and born again they lose their free will, therefore, after beginning to follow Christ, it is my opinion that a person is not required to stay with Him. In other words, if a person wants to leave Christ, Christ will not force them to stay.

In Conclusion, feel free to agree with me or don't agree with me, but I encourage you to simply read these passages in context and prayerfully decide for yourself. 1 John 2:27 says that you don't NEED any human teachers because you have the Holy Spirit anointing that will teach you all things. That seems to be saying that we must not be dependent upon human teachers because we have a better teacher in our anointing who never misunderstands the scriptures nor leads people astray. Your Holy Spirit anointing is always available, and He is never asleep or too busy for you.

Lastly, I just want to encourage you to READ THE BIBLE. It is a collection of 66 different books. Read each book as books were meant to be read...beginning to end. That is the only way to make sure you get the author's point. Don't just read verses of the Bible. Read the Books of the Bible. Then you will fully grasp the meaning of the book.

Years ago I was sitting in a restaurant with a leader in Disciple Making Movements and I asked him if he believed in "once saved always saved" theology. Without missing a beat he looked at me and said, "people who believe that don't read their bibles." So, READ YOUR BIBLE and the Holy Spirit WILL guide you into ALL truth.

Amen!