



Fundamentals of the Christian Faith

Assurance of Salvation

How Do I Know That I am Saved?

If you were to stand before the Lord at this very moment, would you be saved? You should be able to answer YES! without hesitation. Many however, answer with words such as “I hope,” or “maybe,” or “I don’t know.”



The good news is that we can know about our salvation and be assured of it.

Once Saved Always Saved

There are many who teach that once a person has been saved, they can never be lost. There is nothing that can be done, they say, to cause a person to lose salvation once they have it. This teaching is sometimes called, “once saved, always saved,” or “once in grace, always in grace,” or “eternal security,” or “perseverance” But is this a true teaching?

The Bible teaches that staying saved is **conditional**. What do the following passages say about salvation?

John 8:31 —

John 15:1-6 —

Romans 11:17-22 —

1 Corinthians 15:1-2 —

Colossians 1:21-23 —

Hebrews 6:4-8 —

Jude 12 —

How Does One “Fall from Grace?”

Men and women are justified by faith and they remain justified by faith in the atoning death of Jesus Christ (Romans 3:28).

There are three ways that we might lose our faith.

1. A sudden rejection of our faith as we deliberately choose to stop believing in Christ.
2. A slow starvation of our faith. Here we neglect to grow and do not follow the spiritual disciplines such as are found in Acts 2:42. See also Matthew 13:5-21.
3. Faith can also be lost through an association with sin (Romans 8:13; 2 Peter 2:20; Romans 6:1-14).

Restoring the Fallen

What happens if someone who was a strong Christian falls from the faith? This is one who has obeyed the gospel, who was a follower of Christ, but who has fallen away.

Answer: They can be forgiven and restored. See Romans 11:23; Acts 8:9-24.



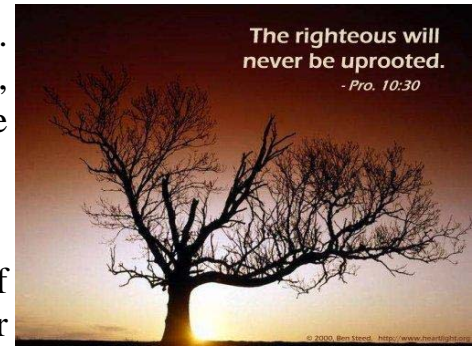
Luke 15:11-32 records the story of the Prodigal Son. What are some of the lessons that this story teaches us?



- What does the parable say about the younger son?
- What does the parable teach us about the Father?
- What does this parable teach us about forgiveness?

We Can Be Sure of our Salvation

Some people live in fear of being lost their entire lives. These people may try as hard as they can to live for Christ, but wonder if it will be enough. They do not experience the joy, peace, and assurance that is available to them.



The Bible teaches that we are “protected by the power of God through faith” (1 Peter 1:5). Protected by the power of God stresses God’s **faithfulness**. He will never forsake us or cast us aside according to Hebrews 10:23. We can rely upon his **unfailing love** (Romans 5:1-11).

The Power of Hope

Biblical hope has three characteristics. First, there it is an attitude of **confident expectation**. Second, our hope is a confident expectation of **something good**. Third, our hope is a confident expectation of something good **in the future** (Romans 8:24-25).

Jack Cottrell writes, that even though “we do not yet possess the fullness of salvation, we have assurance it will be ours on the day of judgment.”

The interlocking “eight steps to glory in Romans 5:1-11 are thus:

The eternal, infinite love of God, which provides —

The saving work of Jesus Christ, which is the object of —

Our faith, through which we have access to —

The grace of God, which includes —

Justification (forgiveness), which gives us —

Peace with God (reconciliation), which results in —

Hope (assurance of salvation), which results in —

Joy, in anticipation of the glory of God!

When we were baptized into Christ, we were baptized not just for the forgiveness of our sins past, but for all our sins — past, present, and future. We retain our salvation so long as we continue to trust in blood of Christ to cleanse us. The question for us is not, “How good am I?” but rather “How forgiven am I?”