

Sermon notes

Once Saved Always Saved...??

Once our spirits have been born again, they are eternally redeemed (John 6:37,44;10:28). Our spirits have been sanctified, perfected forever, and cannot sin. Therefore, a sin does not send someone to hell.

Sin does not violate or invalidate our salvation. We do not fall from grace in the sense that we commit what religion calls an unpardonable sin, lose our salvation, and have to “pray back through” and be born again once more.

The Bible doesn’t teach being born again, again. It teaches being born again once! There is only one new birth. A person can’t be born multiple times (Hebrews 10:10-14, Romans 6:10, 1 Peter 3:18, Hebrews 7:27, 9:12, 9:26-28).

If a sin made us lose our salvation, any sin --- even overeating, or gossip – would cost us our salvation, and it would be impossible to ever regain it. Sin does not make us lose our salvation.

The scripture makes it clear that we have eternal security and it’s impossible to **lose** our salvation.

Once saved always saved?

On the other hand, once we are saved the Bible doesn’t teach that we are **always saved** without any other possibility. scripture shows us that it is possible to be saved and then lost – but not saved, lost and saved again.

Hebrews 6:4-6

- *⁴ For it is **impossible** for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,*
- *⁵ And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,*
- *⁶ If they shall **fall away**, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.*

These verses are saying that **if** someone does reject salvation, it’s impossible to renew it again. There is no such thing as being born again, becoming lost, and being born again once more.

Free will of man

The answer that harmonizes both sides is the **man’s free will**.

- You were not forced to get saved. You got saved on your own free will.
- And God doesn’t force you to stay saved.
- Even though you can’t sin your salvation away, you can reject your salvation by an act of your own free will. You can **willfully** reject salvation and become reprobate.

Hebrews 10:26-29

²⁶ *For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,* ²⁷ *But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.* ²⁸ *He that despised Moses’ law died without mercy under two or three*

witnesses: ²⁹ *Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath **trodden underfoot the Son of God**, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an **unholy thing**, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?*

- This is addressing people who **sin** consciously and deliberately after they have received the knowledge of the truth.,
- but also have '**trodden underfoot the Son of God**',
 - counting the blood of the covenant an "**unholy thing**".

These are people who have **completely turn against Jesus and salvation**.

- These are not Christians who have **simply** fallen into sin.

Scripture calls this person an **apostate**:

Having **turned his back on the truth**, and with full knowledge choosing to willfully and continually sin, the apostate is then beyond salvation because he has rejected the one true sacrifice for sins; the Lord Jesus Christ. If Christ's sacrifice is rejected, then all hope of salvation is gone. To turn away willfully from this sacrifice leaves no other sacrifice; it leaves only sin, the penalty for which is **eternal death**.

HOW SIN CAN LEAD TO HELL

- Our justification for getting into heaven is **only** by our dependence on the blood of Jesus Christ.
- But we still need to live holy lives,
 - **because we don't want to give Satan any power over us.**
 - We don't want to give him any **legal rights** to us.

The most devastating results from **habitual sin** is the **spiritual hardening of our hearts**.

- If we go out and openly live in sin, our hearts will become hardened to the Holy Spirit and to God's Word.

Hebrews 3:12-14

- ¹² *Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an **evil heart of unbelief**, in **departing** from the living God.*
- ¹³ *But exhort one another daily, while it is called Today; lest any of you **be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin**.*
- ¹⁴ *For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end;*

"**falling away**" does not merely mean one who is struggling with sin in their Christian life.

- It refers to one who is in **unbelief**. It refers to someone who was a Christian, but who now is demonstrating, by their rebellion, indifference, and rejection of Christ that they seem to never

have been saved. This is serious; the instruction to “take care” to make sure that none of the professing Christians around them (including themselves) falls away from God; i.e. **goes to hell**.

Sin is deceitful and will harden people’s hearts towards God. According to the Word, **it is possible for people to harden their hearts through sin to the point that they no longer care about Jesus and salvation**.

Just as God does not make people to get saved, He does not make people stay saved. It is not possible to “lose” our salvation, **but we could give it up if we become deceived and hardened enough**.

When our hearts, through the deceitfulness of sin, become harden, we **become dull and insensitive to the leading of God**.

- We start straying **further and further away** from Him and His protection.
- Obeying His Word and the leading of the Holy Spirit **would no longer be important**.

Amy particular kind of sin or combination of sins can harden our hearts.

- If people continue to practice sin, they will be lured deeper and deeper into that sin, and their desire to seek and know God will become less and less.
- Also, the **pleasure** that sin offers will get a stronger grip on them, making it harder to give up.

IN EXTREME CASES, people could be so deceived by sin that they **finally reject** all conviction of the Holy Spirit and tell Jesus to get out of their lives. That is a very serious, but possible result for believers who **willfully** live in sin.

ULTIMATELY, it is possible for believers to harden themselves to such a degree that their **consciences are seared**.

- They no longer perceive what they are doing in the proper light.
- They can even think sin is all right.
- They’re entrapped in sin, and Satan begins to tempt them to **renounce** their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Their sin won’t send them to hell, **BUT** their sin will put them in a place where they are so far removed from fellowship with God that they will be more responsive to Satan than they are to God.

- When this occurs, it’s possible that they could say, **“I renounce all this salvation stuff**. “Jesus get out of my life”. “Stop bothering me”.

Because they reject the salvation through Jesus Christ, they **go to hell**.

- The sin didn’t make God send them to hell; they threw their salvation away and rejected it of their own free will.
- If they do that, the Bible clearly states it is impossible to renew them again to repentance.

WE ARE ETERNALLY REDEEMED. We are secure as long as we want to be secure, but we can’t go to sleep spiritually.

- We can't afford to flirt with sin and live in sin, because I guarantee that Satan will put us in compromising situations.

CONDITIONS FOR MISSING HEAVEN (Hebrews 6:4-5)

Not every person can reject Jesus and become a reprobate. Certain criteria must be met. These scriptures say that:

- ... *"for those who were once enlightened"* this describes those who have had God reveal Himself to them
- ... *"have tasted of the heavenly gift"*, is talking about the gift of salvation.
- ... *"made partakers of the Holy Ghost"*, refers to people who have received the baptism of the Holy Ghost and spoken in tongues
- ... *"have tasted the good word of God"*, means people who have started growing and maturing in the Word, who had revelation knowledge of the Word of God.
- ... *"tasting the powers of the world to come"*, refers to the supernatural manifestations of the gifts of the Holy Ghost.

This passage is talking about **mature Christians**. Only mature Christians who understand what they are doing can fall away or choose to renounce Jesus Christ and His gift of salvation.

Some people **never mature** much in the Lord, and because of that, they got frustrated, quit living for God, maybe went back into sin, and did all kinds of things.

- But they have not reached the place where they were knowledgeable enough in the things of God for Him to hold them fully responsible.
- Therefore, they are able to turn, **repent, and come back to the Lord**.

Romans 1:28: *"And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient"*

This scripture talks about being **reprobate**, a Biblical term for a person who has **refused or renounced his or her salvation** and **now has no desire to get back**.

- According to scripture, these people **didn't want to retain God in their minds**, so God gave them over to a reprobate mind. They no longer have any conviction or conscience.

People who are truly reprobate have no conviction or conscience.

- They know they are going to hell, and they don't care.
- They are no longer convicted.
- There is no longer any repentance in them.
- There is longer any remorse in them.

- They are miserable and have become hardened and they no longer retain God in their knowledge at all.

People who have become reprobate (degenerate, sinner) or enemies of the truth

So, people who have committed what **Hebrews 6** is talking about are not concerned about their reprobate status. They no longer care about God, Jesus or salvation.

CONCLUSION

These scriptures address renouncing one's salvation, but **it is never** something that could happen by **mistake or accident**. And it **is never** something that happen because of a **particular sin**. Again, if sin could cause us to lose our salvation, **which sin would it be?**

You weren't forced to get saved, and you are not forced to stay saved. You have to maintain and hold fast your profession of faith without wavering. And as a mature believer, if you ever renounce your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, you can throw salvation away. Remember, you cannot LOSE or be ROBBED of your salvation, but you can WILLFULLY give it away.