

## Can A Believer Lose Their Salvation?

There is no topic more controversial or heatedly debated in the Christian church than the topic of weather it is possible for an individual to lose their salvation. Before I stated doing my research for this paper I must admit that I didn't really know where I stood on this topic. After extensive research for this paper and studying the topic, I now believe that it is indeed impossible to lose your salvation. **It is impossible to lose your salvation because if you believe you can lose your salvation, you are saying that you keep salvation through your works. Redemption, however, comes through a possession of faith, not profession of faith.** If you fall away from your faith so easily, the question could be asked if you were saved in the beginning.

**What does it take to be saved?** The Bible states that if you "believe" in him you will be saved. John 3:18 says "He who believes in him is not judged, he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." But what does it mean to truly believe in him? When you believe in God, you understand that the Bible is God's word. John 1:1 "In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was God." You must believe that the Bible is God's word and therefore obey his words and commands. **If we fail to obey the commands of the word of God that we believe in, are we truly saved?**

**The idea that you can lose your salvation also takes away the importance of salvation.** It is a free gift from God. Salvation isn't something we deserve or can acquire through being a good person. For it is by grace that we are saved, and grace alone. Daily we fall short of the glory of God, but does that mean we need to become resaved? No, I don't believe it does. In Galatians 3:4 the early Christians are criticized by the apostle Paul for being so foolish. "After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?" Just because you may not be able to lose your salvation does not mean you should go and live any way you would like. The Bible warns against this in Romans 6:1-2. "What shall we say then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?" {This is a nice refutation to potential opposition.}

**Many Christians do not understand that redemption does not come through a profession of faith but through a possession of faith.** Just professing your faith does not guarantee you are saved. God knows the condition of your heart, and he requires genuine repentance. Many people can profess to be Christians, but in reality, their heart is not truly in the right place.

**As Christians, we are not just to confess our sins, but forsake sin in our life all together.** 2 Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" Those who are truly saved will strive to live a life that is holy and pure before God. Just as in Matthew 7:16 says, "by their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? Like wise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus by their

fruit you will recognize them.” **Christians who are saved will bear good fruit, and strive to become better day to day.**

**Many people also may have the impression that they are saved by just repeating the sinner’s prayer with little thought of what true repentance means.** There are some that claim to have been saved early in life and then continue on to live a life full of sin. They may have never really been saved to begin with. Consider the parable of the sower found in Mark 4. The author writes about people who are impulsive and immediately receive the gospel, not counting the costs, and the seed does not take root. They believe for awhile but soon lose the faith because of persecution. These people reject the gospel just as quick as they receive it. **They professed something they did not possess.**

**John describes people who were never really saved in 1 John 2:19 when he says “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.” This verse shows that if there is someone who had salvation and then lost it, they never had salvation in the first place. If you are saved, you will never lose your faith because the Holy Spirit stays with you and continues to convict you throughout your life.

**One verse many people who believe that you can lose your salvation cite is Hebrews 6:4-6 which states “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 , and have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, 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.”** The people being addressed in this verse were the Hebrews who

still had not given themselves fully to Christ. The book of Hebrews is all about abandoning the old covenant of the law and accepting the new covenant of grace. The author of the book of Hebrews was warning the Jews to accept this new covenant and embrace the full gospel of Jesus Christ. The Hebrews had never made the decision to accept the gift of salvation.

A lot of people often confuse 2 Peter 2:20-22 “If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning. It would have been better for them not to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them.” This chapter refers to people who were not following the teachings of Jesus Christ; they were false teachers and prophets. [The argument is starting to fall through a little here—what/who states that Peter was referring to “false teachers and prophets”—any documentation?]

**A verse often quoted is Philippians 2: 12-13, “Therefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence. Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good pleasure.”** This verse isn’t saying you need to work in order to get salvation. The Greek phrase “work out” actually means an actualization of something that is already in process. [Nice refutation—stating the actual “Greek phrase” would have been nice]

**Although I do not think it is possible to lose your salvation, I do think that it is possible to lose rewards.** Refer to 1 Corinthians 3:15, “If any man’s work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved; yet so by fire.” Also in 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 “Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strife training. They do it to get a

crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.” I believe in heaven we will be rewarded for the things we have done for Christ here on Earth. **Anything not done for the cause of Christ will burn away, and only what is done for Christ will count in eternity.**

**By saying that I do not believe that you can lose your salvation, I’m not saying that you should just live anyway you want.** As a Christian you should desire to strive to become better and closer to God every day. Though I don’t believe it’s possible for a Christian to lose their salvation, I still think it is very important for Christians to reflect upon their relationship with God and the condition of their heart daily. Salvation is a precious and free gift that shouldn’t be taken lightly. If you love God with all your heart you won’t take advantage of his grace.

**The best example of Gods love for us would be that of a father.** When we are saved we become children of God. Although children may misbehave, the father still continues to love them no matter what and never turns his back on them. We may need discipline from time to time, but that doesn’t take away the fact that we are still Gods children. When we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us. The Bible says He separates us from our sins as far from the east is from the west. The life God gives us through salvation is eternal. **His unconditional love for us would make it impossible for Him to take away our gift of salvation.**

EXPECTATIONS AND GRADING FOR GENERAL WRITING ASSIGNMENTS (Adopted from Deborah A. Stewart's Effective Teaching: A Guide for Community College Instructors)				
WRITER: Kaitlynn Gordon		PROJECT = Salvation)		
	EXCELLENT (A-B)	GOOD (B-C)	FAIR (C-D)	WEAK (D-F)
Focus MAX=20	Clear, central thesis & purpose; addresses all aspects of thesis. <b>(19-20 points)</b>	Clear, central thesis & purpose; addresses most aspects of the thesis <b>(17-18 points)</b>	Clear thesis & purpose, but too broad or unfocused <b>(15-16 points)</b>	Thesis is unclear, unsupportable, vague or confusing; purpose is unclear. <b>(14 or less points)</b>
Content MAX=10	Good background info; comprehensive approach; excellent insight into topic; evidence of strong reflective analysis and keen awareness of audience <b>(10 points)</b>	Satisfactory background info; comprehensive approach; good insight into topic; evidence of good reflective analysis and general awareness of audience. <b>(8-9 points)</b>	Some background info, but offers only routine or general insight into topic; evidence of some reflective analysis; may have a few inconsistencies in addressing audience and purpose <b>(6-7 points)</b>	Too much or too little info; may be too specialized or personal for general audience; evidence of weak reflective analysis; inconsistencies detract from text's overall development <b>(5 or less points)</b>
Support MAX=10	Excellent support drawn from student's experience and knowledge; examples work to enhance and deepen the focus of the thesis <b>(10 points)</b>	Good support drawn from student's experience and knowledge; examples work to illustrate the focus of the thesis <b>(8-9 points)</b>	Support comes primarily from either student's experience or knowledge; examples work only minimally to support the focus of the thesis <b>(6-7 points)</b>	Support may be irrelevant or unsubstantiated; examples may contradict or offer little support for the focus of the thesis <b>(5 or less points)</b>
Organization & Structure MAX=20	Clear, logical progression of ideas; argument builds in strength; paper contains clear, engaging introduction that previews the paper's main argument; paper has coherent, well-developed paragraphs and uses transitional phrases effectively; paper also contains strong conclusion, which draws together and summarizes main points <b>(19-20 points)</b>	Clear, logical progression of ideas, although some parts of argument may be stronger and more developed than others; good use of paragraphs to develop and organize main points; uses a number of transitional phrases to signal shifts and connections; paper contains clearly defined introduction and conclusion <b>(17-18 points)</b>	Halting progression of ideas; some parts of argument may be weak or out of balance with others; a few undeveloped paragraphs and phrases; paper contains an introduction and conclusion, but they may be weak or generalized <b>(15-16 points)</b>	Paragraphs seem out of order; argument is undeveloped and paragraphs may be lacking clear transitions <b>(14 or less points)</b>
Written Quality MAX=20	Uses college-level vocabulary; varies sentences and wording; uses vivid examples; has strong, consistent	Uses college-level vocabulary; varies sentences and wording; uses good examples but may	Uneven quality of writing; relies heavily on two or three types of sentences; redundant in places; choppy or halting voice	Unclear, unvaried sentences; suffers from wordiness, slang or underdeveloped thoughts; distracting gestures; lists examples,, rather than combining for complex

	voice and appears fluent in nature <b>(19-20 points)</b>	fluctuate in tone or voice or fluency <b>(17-18 points)</b>	<b>(15-16 points)</b>	sentences <b>(14 or less points)</b>	
Mechanics <b>MAX=20</b>	Excellent grammar, spelling, usage, and punctuation; paper flows effortlessly and reads well <b>(19-20 points)</b>	Good use of grammar and mechanics; not more than 5-7 errors per page; paper flows well <b>(17-18 points)</b>	Fair use of grammar and mechanics; errors are mostly minor in nature; paper is readable despite some distractions <b>(15-16 points)</b>	Frequent or consistent errors in grammar and mechanics; interferes substantially with readability of paper <b>(14 or less points)</b>	
<b>FOCUS = 20</b>	<b>CONTENT = 10</b>	<b>SUPPORT = 10</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION &amp; STRUCTURE = 18</b>	<b>WRITTEN QUALITY = 18</b>	<b>MECHANICS = 19</b>

**TOTAL = 95 COMMENTS: You do a very thorough study of the Bible and use many supporting examples—great job! I only wish we had had more time for you to state your arguments before the class—in a respectful manner, of course. ( ; I just hope that when I look again for your final, I will find it there. I don't want your grade to suffer for it.**