

NORTHEAST HOUSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sermon: Can Our Salvation Be Lost? Part 4

Topic: Nothing Is Impossible with God

Scripture Text: Hebrews 6:4–6 (NKJV)

10/06/2019

“My job is to take care of the possible and trust God with the impossible.”

Hebrews 6:4–6 (NKJV) 4 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, 5 and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, 6 if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.

We are coming to the end of our series relating to the question, “Can our salvation be lost?” I know I have withheld my answer for a few weeks now and I appreciate your patience.

Let me say that if I were to immediately answer the question you may have taken my answer at face value without and good foundation as to why I believe as I do. I hope I have laid a good foundation.

My answer to the question is, “yes, salvation can be lost but it can never be taken by an outside force.

(John 10:28 (NKJV) 28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

Romans 8:38–39 Romans 8:38 (NKJV) 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come,)

I do not believe that a Christian that has sinned is in jeopardy of losing their salvation for that is why Jesus died. But as we will learn, to willfully, continue and to live in sin different.

So, the question remains “How can one lose their salvation?”

One viewpoint is that our focus passage is one of the Bible’s most difficult passages to interpret, but one thing is clear—it does not teach that we can lose our salvation. There are two valid ways of looking at these verses: So, says: <https://www.gotquestions.org/Hebrews-6.html>

Another has said, “The problem is that no view, including the one that I hold, is without problems. So, you have to decide which set of problems you want to live with.” If you wish to advocate a view that is different than mine, I wish you well! I consulted over 35 different commentaries or sermons, and in my judgment, no one is able to answer *all* of the difficulties that confront us in this text. So, we cannot be dogmatic here, but must continue to ask God for understanding in a spirit of submission and obedience to what we do understand.” So says: <https://bible.org/seriespage/lesson-17-when-repentance-becomes-impossible-hebrews-64-8>

There was so much material for this message and I know I cannot cover it all. Let me hit a few points in our focus passage. I think the passage is referring to a believer who was save. Many other theologians, bible student and teachers fall back to say that the person in the passage was not really saved. For me, too much evidence points otherwise,

Let’s look at some key words in the passage.

1. **Impossible** – Refers to Human impossibility.

It is hard to convince again, a person that was once a Christian to become one again. Normally anything you can say they have already heard it or feel that they know it. Some have developed a deep distrust. The impossibility lies with man not with God.

Matthew 19:24–26 (NKJV) 24 And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” 25 When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, “Who then can be saved?” 26 But Jesus looked at them and said to them, “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

Luke 1:37 (NKJV) 37 For with God nothing will be impossible.”

2. **Enlightened** – Def: freed from ignorance and misinformation – They had received instruction in biblical truth which was accompanied by intellectual perception. 1
enlightenment is not equivalent to salvation nor is it evidence of salvation. There are many “enlightened,” bible scholars who use their enlightenment in an attempt to discredit the faith or to deceive or promote their own doctrine and followers. The more enlightened some are the greater their deception.
3. **Tasted the heavenly gift** – Experienced heavenly gifts. What these gifts actually were I do not know but I have to assume they were the same as other believers “tasted.”
4. **Partakers of the Holy Spirit** – Shared/received the Holy Spirit. Enlightenment and tasting the heavenly gift are pointed out by some that they do not prove salvation. If we add to it “partakers (Partner, companion, fellow worker) of the Holy Spirit” I believe the argument against these people being saved begins to weaken.

Let’s look at another translation.

*Hebrews 6:4 (ESV) 4 For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, **and have shared in the Holy Spirit,** (NIV, NLT)*

I don’t see the nonbeliever and believer “sharing together the Holy Spirit.

5. **Tasted the good word of God** – Had knowledge and understand of the word of God. Again, the positive points associated with “tasting the good word of God is discounted by some saying that the word never dwelt “richly” in them.
6. **Powers of the age to come** – looking forward to heaven and the blessings therein, believing in heaven and hell. This indicates to me that they at one time believed in heaven and Hell. They may have had hopes of eternal life. These are thought of a believer.

I am disappointed to read how some commentators in order to make the “Doctrine of Eternal Security” fit they discount what under most circumstances would be evidence of salvation. I have read where some said that these people were not truly save or completely saved. One example of the kind of person they are talking about is Simon Magus, the sorcerer (Acts 8:9-24). But look at what the scriptures say about him.

¹ MacArthur, J., Jr. (Ed.). (1997). [*The MacArthur Study Bible*](#) (electronic ed., p. 1905). Nashville, TN: Word Pub.

*Acts 8:13 (NKJV) 13 Then Simon himself **also believed**; and when he was baptized he continued with Philip, and was amazed, seeing the miracles and signs which were done.*

7. **Falling Away** – refers to those who “fall away” from the faith and becomes an apostate, (a person who renounces a religious or political belief or principle.) He has rejected the faith that he once professed.

While it is the church’s duty to punish those who are in sin, and even to excommunicate them from the body of believers, it is impossible for man to read the heart. When a professing believer falls into sin, he might be someone who has made a false profession or he might be a backslider who may be restored later. <https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/those-who-fall-away-2/>

Here again the inference is that the person was not saved in the first place which allows people to believe in the “Eternal Security Doctrine.”

Freewill – def: voluntary choice or decision

The term “freewill” is generally accepted that God has given man this gift, even to those that have been predestined to be saved. Even they have to choose to believe. *Romans 10:9*

We have the freewill to accept God’s grace of salvation through Christ or to reject it. When we become saved God does not take away our free will to choose to stay in the faith or to fall away.

Go is able to keep us from falling if we let Him.

I find it difficult to believe that Jesus will force anyone to stay with Him that do not want to do so.

John 6:66–67 (NKJV) 66 From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. 67 Then Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you also want to go away?”

Matthew 19:22 (NKJV) 22 But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

Look at the use of the term “falling away”

The seed of the sower

*Luke 8:13 (NKJV) 13 But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, **who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away.***

Read and reread the explanation Jesus gave about this verse.

*Luke 8:13 (NKJV) 13 But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, **who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away.***

I am not aware of a time frame or length of time a believer must believe in order to be called “saved.” What about death bed conversions?

*Hebrews 3:12 (ESV) 12 Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to **fall away from** the living God.*

*Hebrews 3:12 (NKJV) 12 Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in **departing from** the living God;*

Scripture questioning the Eternal Security Doctrine

Many of the following scriptures require a message or even a series to fully explain. I just want to point out the section that relate to our subject.

The following two passages are relating to the time during the tribulation when the faith of many will be tested. Jesus telling believers to “endure to the end to be saved.” The implication is that those that due not endure will not be saved or lose their salvation.

*Matthew 10:21–22 (NKJV) 21 “Now brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. 22 And you will be hated by all for My name’s sake. **But he who endures to the end will be saved.***

<https://bible.org/question/does-matthew-1022-mean-believer-can-lose-his-salvation>

Luke 12:41- 46 (NKJV) 46 the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the unbelievers.

Quick points:

1. The steward is servant to the master (saved)
2. He is called blessed. (*Luke 12:43–44*)
3. The same servant has a change of heart (*Luke 12:45–46*)
4. Instead of being a ruler with the master that servant will be destroyed and counted among unbelievers. (*Luke 12:46*)

*1 Corinthians 15:1–2 (NKJV) 1 Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, **if you hold fast that word** which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.*

1. Paul refers to the readers as “brethren” leading me to believe that they are believers (*1 Corinthians 15:1*)
2. He refers to them as being saved with the caveat “if you hold fast.” (*1 Corinthians 15:2*)
3. He refers to them believing unless their belief was in vain. (believing in something that was not true in the first place NTL) (*1 Corinthians 15:2*)

The implication here is that if they hold fast the preached Gospel, they shall remain saved. It would be an exercise of their freewill to disbelieve.

Hebrews 3:6 (NKJV) 6 but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.

Believers are member of the household of God IF we hold fast...

Like the doctrine of the trinity, the doctrine of eternal security is not mentioned in the scriptures except in the context that once we are saved into the hands of Jesus and God, nothing can remove us. God and Jesus will do their part to keep us saved into eternal life, but we will still have access to our free will to stay or to “fall away.”

At different times a Christian may be required to “hold fast”, to “overcome” or to “endure to the end.”

If for a falling away a Christian loses his/her salvation, man may not be able to restore them again to salvation but nothing is impossible with God.

END

Message Scriptures: **Hebrews 6:4–6**, *John 10:28, Romans 8:38–39, Matthew 19:24–26, Luke 1:37, Acts 8:9–24, Romans 10:9, John 6:66–67, Matthew 19:22, Luke 8:13, Hebrews 3:12, Matthew 10:21–22, Luke 12:41–46, Luke 12:43–44, Luke 12:45–46, Luke 12:46, 1 Corinthians 15:1–2, Hebrews 3:6*

RESOURCES AND REFERENCES

In support of Eternal Security Doctrine

<https://jdgrear.com/blog/2-ways-to-know-you-are-saved/>

Eternal security - is it biblical

<https://www.gotquestions.org/eternal-security.html>

<https://billygraham.org/decision-magazine/april-2008/secure-forever/>

Five Truths About Eternal Security

<https://www.desiringgod.org/labs/five-truths-about-eternal-security>

Piper: "No one will be finally saved who does not continue in the faith."

<https://www.allaboutgod.com/once-saved-always-saved.htm>

<https://www.crosswalk.com/blogs/joe-mckeever/7-questions-about-once-saved-always-saved.html>

<https://www.compellingtruth.org/once-saved-always-saved.html>

<https://www.ligonier.org/blog/can-christian-lose-their-salvation/>

"Whoever comes to me I will never cast out."

<https://str.typepad.com/weblog/2010/07/whoever-comes-to-me-i-will-never-cast-out.html>

Jesus Promised, "Him That Cometh to Me I Will In No Wise Cast Out" (even continuing sinners!)

By David J. Stewart | December 2013

http://www.jesusisprecious.org/articles/in_no_wise_cast_out.htm

In support of losing Salvation

<https://activechristianity.org/can-a-christian-lose-salvation>

<https://www.bible-knowledge.com/lose-your-salvation/>

<http://www.comereason.org/bible-verses-on-salvation.asp>

Who were Hymenaeus and Alexander

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Hymenaeus-and-Alexander.html>

Does Matthew 10:22 mean a believer can lose his salvation?

<https://bible.org/question/does-matthew-1022-mean-believer-can-lose-his-salvation>

Does Hebrews 6:4-6 mean we can lose our salvation?

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Hebrews-6.html>

When Repentance Becomes Impossible (Hebrews 6:4-8)

<https://bible.org/seriespage/lesson-17-when-repentance-becomes-impossible-hebrews-64-8>

What About Hebrews 6?

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/what-about-hebrews/>