

# Salvation

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Can a Christian lose their salvation? It's an important question. How you answer it determines how you view God's salvation. Is salvation a work or a gift? Does it come from God or from us? If salvation is performance based then it would be possible to lose it. If we play a role in our salvation (having to do or not do certain things in order to be saved) it's not only possible for us to lose salvation, it's easy. If God's law is the standard we must follow to be saved then there is some invisible line somewhere that if we don't stay past we don't get saved. In this view salvation is a reward for our hard work. It may be offered in grace but it is obtained through effort. Which means salvation is based on works, at least in part.

Ephesians 2 tells us that we are saved by the grace of God not by our effort. Salvation doesn't come from us reaching to God it comes from God reaching down to us. 1 Timothy 2 tells us that God desires everyone would be saved. If God saves and His desire is for everyone to be saved then there would be only two ways in which a Christian, a saved person, could lose their salvation.

1. God changes His mind. God called you to be His but you did something, sinned in some way and God doesn't want to save you anymore. Romans 8 tells us that God foreknew us. He called us based on His foreknowledge of us. God knew every sin you would ever commit. He called you anyway. He knew every failure, every mistake, every shortcoming of your life and He chose you to be His. When you sin God is not surprised. God knew you before you were born. He called you to be His. He is not going to change His mind.

What if I struggle with sin after surrendering my life to Jesus? Then you are human. Surrender doesn't make us perfect. We will always struggle with sin. That doesn't change what Jesus has done for us. Jesus died once for ALL sin. Not all sin until you get baptized. Not all sin until you decide to surrender your life to Him. He died for all sin; past, present, and future. No sin is greater than the cross. No person alive has the ability to out sin the grace of God. God is not going to change His mind.

2. If God's desire to save us doesn't change the only other thing that could cause us to lose our salvation would be some external force that prevents God from doing what

God wants to do. If God's power were in some way limited that could be possible. God is all-powerful. No one and nothing can keep Him from doing what He wants to do. By His nature as God He does what He wants, when He wants, how He wants and nothing can stop Him. No force and prevent God from doing what God desires to do. Romans 8 says: ***“For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*** So if God wants to save you and His mind doesn't change just because you struggle with sin, then the answer to this question would be no.

That doesn't mean everyone who calls themselves a Christian has truly surrendered their life to Jesus. Some people will look like Christians but never really give their lives to Jesus. If you genuinely love Jesus then you are His and you are Christian. As a Christian, you cannot lose your salvation. It's not a set of car keys. If God gives it to you, He is not going to take it away.

### Verses

1 Timothy 2:4-6

2 Timothy 1:9

Titus 3:5

Matthew 19:23-26

2 Corinthians 5:17

1 Peter 1:18-19

Ephesians 2:1-10

Romans 5:1

Romans 8:29-30

Romans 8:38-39