

# Can You Lose Your Salvation?

By Craig Cooper

This is a common question that concerns many people. The short answer to this question is no. If you are interested in why not, let me give you 2 reasons and some analogies for you think about.

## Reason #1 You Can't Lose Your Salvation – It's a Free Gift *From* God

*Ephesians 2:8-9 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--not by works, so that no one can boast.*

This verse states that you were *given* the gift of salvation without any works to do on your part. This is a very important concept. If you did not work for your salvation then you can't lose your salvation by what you do.

Let's summarize the process of salvation:

1<sup>st</sup> - God draws you according to *John 6:44 (NIV)* "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day."

2<sup>nd</sup> - I receive Him and He gives me the right to become a child of God. *John 1:12 (NIV)* Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

3<sup>rd</sup> - God then places you in Jesus as described in *1 Cor. 1:30-31 (NIV)* <sup>30</sup>*It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.* <sup>31</sup>*Therefore, as it is written: "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord."*

4<sup>th</sup> – The Holy Spirit comes inside of you as a seal or as a deposit or as a sign that you are now saved. *2 Cor. 1:21-22 (NIV)* <sup>21</sup>*Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, <sup>22</sup>set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.*

You see that all we do to be saved is to understand what Jesus and His death means and accept His payment for our sins by faith. All we can do is to say, "Yes, He has it and I receive it from him. I am in a wretched horrible shape and without *Him* I am doomed." When we do pray this we are saved. Everything else is done by Him.

It is very important to realize that there is *nothing* we do to get saved. The purpose of the whole OT law was to show that man could never attain to what he needed to do to get saved. When we say there is something *I* can do or not to do to get saved we miss the entire point of the Cross and the NT Covenant.

Salvation is a free gift. You did not receive it because of anything you did. You cannot lose it because of anything you did.

## Reason #2 You Can't Lose Your Salvation – The Blood of Jesus is More Powerful Than Your Sin

Why would Jesus leave us every time we sinned? We were full of sin when He came the first time.

*Eph. 2:4-10 (NIV)* <sup>4</sup>*But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, <sup>5</sup>made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. <sup>6</sup>And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup>not by works, so that no one can boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

When we sin it affects our ability to walk in victory and to hear God clearly but it does not cause us to lose the entire relationship with Him. The blood of Jesus that was shed on the Cross covered any sins I did in the past and in the future! There is no sin that is more powerful than the blood that Jesus shed on the Cross.

One of the benefits of salvation is that the Holy Spirit helps us overcome our sin! He does not run when we sin. Our Christian walk is about learning to let the Holy Spirit influence our souls and bodies. This is a lifetime work! He is going to cause us to do good works because the Holy Spirit is inside of us. But the good works do not save us or keep us saved.

Look what Paul said in *Rom. 6:15-18 (NIV)* <sup>15</sup>*What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means!* <sup>16</sup>*Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?* <sup>17</sup>*But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted.* <sup>18</sup>*You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.*

Paul was very clearly saying here that we don't lose our salvation because of sin. He was saying that the Holy Spirit gives us the power to not have to sin anymore! God saved us to help us with the battle against sin. Again, let's look at Paul

*Rom. 7:21-25 (NIV)* <sup>21</sup>*So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me.* <sup>22</sup>*For in my inner being I delight in God's law;* <sup>23</sup>*but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members.* <sup>24</sup>*What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?* <sup>25</sup>*Thanks be to God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!*

Paul is obviously describing times in his life where he sinned – this battle against his flesh. Did he lose his salvation every time? No. He is simply in these 3 chapters of Romans describing the war between our spirit and our flesh. It has nothing to do with salvation and everything in learning to apply salvation to our entire bodies.

Look what Paul says in Romans at the end of his long description about his battle with sin. *Rom. 8:31 -34 (NIV)* <sup>31</sup>*What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?* <sup>32</sup>*He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?* <sup>33</sup>*Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. [you cannot come to me and charge me with sin!]* <sup>34</sup>*Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.*

*Phil. 2:12-13 (NIV)* <sup>12</sup>*Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling,* <sup>13</sup>*for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.*

The Hebrews were obviously in sin in chapter 13 but look what God said to them. *Heb. 13:5 (NIV)* <sup>5</sup>*Keep your lives free from the love of money [why would He write this if it wasn't a problem] and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."*

*1 Pet. 1:3-5 (NLT)* <sup>3</sup>*All honor to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for it is by his boundless mercy that God has given us the privilege of being born again. Now we live with a wonderful expectation because Jesus Christ rose again from the dead.* <sup>4</sup>*For God has reserved a priceless inheritance for his children. It is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay.* <sup>5</sup>*And God, in his mighty power, will protect you until you receive this salvation, because you are trusting him. It will be revealed on the last day for all to see.*

We need to *work out* not *work for* our salvation. Work out means to make evident what is on the inside of us. But we did nothing to get it or keep it in the first place.

*1 John 5:11 (NIV) <sup>11</sup>And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.*

Note what this verse says – *eternal life is in His Son* - not us – Praise the Lord!

## Verses Used against Eternal Security

Let's look at some verses that people often use to say you can lose your salvation.

*1 Cor. 6:9-11 (KJV) <sup>9</sup>Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, <sup>10</sup>Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>11</sup>And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.*

This has nothing to do with salvation. Notice it says *“that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God?”* The question is how do you become righteous? There is only one way. It is found in verse 11, *“but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus”*. This verse simply lists the actions that happen by people who walk in the flesh. Do you think that if you stop being a fornicator, idolater, adultery, effeminate, abuser, thief, covetous, drunkards, etc. that you will now be saved? Even if you did none of these things listed you would still go to hell. We have to realize we are righteous spiritually because of the work of Jesus.

*Gal. 5:18-26 (KJV) <sup>18</sup>But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. <sup>19</sup>Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, <sup>20</sup>Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, <sup>21</sup>Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>22</sup>But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, <sup>23</sup>Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. <sup>24</sup>And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. <sup>25</sup>If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. <sup>26</sup>Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.*

This is simply listing things that are a sign that you are in the flesh.

*Gal. 2:15-16 (NIV) <sup>15</sup>“We who are Jews by birth and not ‘Gentile sinners’ <sup>16</sup>know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified.*

## Marriage Analogy

Think about it from another angle. It says that we are the Bride of Jesus. We are engaged. In Ephesians 5:25ff, God asks us to love our spouses as Jesus has loved the church. He loved her thru the point of death! That means He will continue to walk with us even if we sin. He does not at the first sign of sin in our lives break off the marriage. Then when we get *ourselves* right He is engaged with us again.

## Parent Analogy

God calls us His sons and daughters that were adopted into His family because of the Cross. I have personally adopted two children. What kind of parent would I be when every time they did something wrong I kicked them out of the house. They were only 2 days old and 2.5 years old when I got them. They were not perfect and are still not perfect. But they are still my children. My grace is sufficient for them! Am I a better father than the Father God?

Where does immaturity fit in? Are you saying we have to be perfect from the beginning to keep God's grace?

That *is* what you are saying when you say you can lose your salvation. We don't have to be perfect to be saved so we don't have to be perfect to stay saved.

If I took this approach in my natural father roles my children would *never* understanding the love of a father. It is the same way in the Spirit. The only way to understand the love of Father God is to understand that it is *unconditional without merit – always!* This causes us to fall on our knees with humility and gratefulness.

*Heb. 12:7-11 (NIV) <sup>7</sup>Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? <sup>8</sup>If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. <sup>9</sup>Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! <sup>10</sup>Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. <sup>11</sup>No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.*

But if we are no longer His children because we lost our salvation why would He discipline us? It very clearly says that we are being disciplined because we are His sons! When we fail He shows off His grace towards us ever more!

*Rom. 11:28-29 (NLT) <sup>28</sup>Many of the Jews are now enemies of the Good News. But this has been to your benefit, for God has given his gifts to you Gentiles. Yet the Jews are still his chosen people because of his promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. <sup>29</sup>For God's gifts and his call can never be withdrawn.*