

## WordBytes

---

### Can We Lose Our Salvation – What Does the Bible Say?

This has been a controversial topic for centuries, and still is today. The teachings of the various church groups generally fall into two basic categories: those who believe that genuine salvation can never be lost (once saved always saved) and those who believe that genuine salvation can be lost through falling into unbelief or wilful sin and abandoning the faith. Let's shed the light of the scriptures on this vital issue.

#### Some Scriptures Supporting the Security of Salvation

##### No One Can Take Away Our Salvation

*"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand." (John 10:27-29)*

##### Nothing Can Separate Us from the Love of God

*"For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:38-39)*

##### We Do Not Come into Judgement

*"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life." (John 5:24)*

##### Jesus Is Able to Save Us Forever

*"Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them." (Hebrews 7:25)*

##### He Is Able to Keep Us from Stumbling

*"Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy." (Jude 1:24)*

#### Some Scriptures Supporting that Salvation Can Be Lost

##### We Can Fall Away to Where it is Impossible to Be Renewed to Repentance

*"For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, 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." (Hebrews 6:4-6)*

##### We Can Be Cut Off from God by Falling into Unbelief

*"You will say then, 'Branches were broken off that I might be grafted in.' Well said. Because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith. Do not be haughty, but fear. For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either. Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off." (Romans 11:19-22)*

## WordBytes

---

### We Can Depart from God Due to Being Hardened through Sin

*"Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called 'Today,' lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end." (Hebrews 3:12-14)*

### If We Deny Jesus, He also Will Deny Us

*If we endure, we shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us. If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself. (2 Timothy 2:12-13)*

### Our Salvation Depends on Us Continuing in the Faith

*"And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight— if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard. (Colossians 1:21-23)*

### What Do these Scriptures Tell Us?

**No one** can rob us of our salvation or separate us from God, and Jesus is fully committed to us and constantly working on our behalf.

However, the scriptures clearly tell us that we can lose our salvation by **our own** willful decisions and actions including:

- abandoning our faith in Jesus as our savior through falling into unbelief
- continuing in willful sin to a point where our heart is too hard for the Holy Spirit to bring us back to repentance.

### What is the Unpardonable Sin?

Jesus said that if anyone witnesses numerous undisputable miracles such as casting out of demons and says they are the work of Satan, it is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit and will not be forgiven.

*"Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come." (Matthew 12:31-32)*

Even though we are not guilty of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit in this manner, we sometimes fear that our sins are too great to be forgiven. However, the Scriptures tell us that this only happens if we deliberately turn back to lead a life of sin and unbelief which can cause our heart to become so hard that we are unable to respond to the Holy Spirit (Hebrews 3:12-14). However, if we have a sincere desire to repent and be reunited with Jesus, it proves that the Holy Spirit is still at work in us. God is always ready to abundantly forgive His "prodigal sons" who sincerely return to Him. Remember that Jesus received Peter back even after he cursed and swore and publicly denied he even knew Him.

### What Is the Sin Leading to Death?

The Apostle John said that:

*"There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should pray about that. All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin not leading to death." (1 John 5:16-17)*

## WordBytes

---

There are many interpretations of this verse, but the most common is that it refers to someone who is deliberately leading a life of sin and refuses to repent, and is no longer able to respond to the Holy Spirit. Jude refers to this condition as “twice dead”:

*They are clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots; raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever. (Jude 1:12-13)*

meaning they had passed from death to life when they were born again, but their new life has died and cannot be revived.

### **Looking unto Jesus**

Hebrews 12:1-2 compares the believer’s life to an endurance race with snares and hindrances to overcome, and urges us to follow the example of the champions of faith who have gone before us:

*Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:1-2)*

If we keep looking Jesus, the Greatest Champion of all, we can be **confident** that we will have the faith to overcome every obstacle, finish the race, and joyfully cross the finish line.

### **Alan Taylor**

Managing Director

JO-AL Bible Teachings & Publications

[www.jo-al.com](http://www.jo-al.com)

*WordBytes are Bible teachings to inspire faith and spiritual growth.*

JO-AL Bible Teaching & Publications is based in Melbourne, Australia, and was founded by Alan and Joan Taylor in 2009. Alan and Joan have experience in pastoring and pioneering churches, and in travelling teaching, worship, and music ministry. At the same time they have established a successful secular technical consulting company.