



BIBLE TALK

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Question: Is it possible for a child of God to be lost or fall away?

Answer: The Bible is filled with warnings regarding the danger of “falling away.” Whether one is neglectful or yields to the evils of unbelief, the consequences are still damning to the soul (1 Cor. 10:12; Heb. 3:12). These warnings make no sense at all unless it is possible to fall. Furthermore, we have examples where some did fall: “*fallen away from grace*” (Gal. 5:4); “*better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after knowing it, to turn back from the holy commandment delivered unto them*” (2 Pet. 2:20-22). Man is made free from sin through a knowledge of, and obedience to the will of Christ, wherein all spiritual blessings lie (Jn. 8:32; 2 Pet. 1:3-4). But if one turns back into sin, his “last state is worse than the first” (2 Pet. 2:20).

The purpose of God’s grace is to give us eternal life (Jn. 3:16), allowing us to “*have access by faith into His grace wherein we stand*” (Rom. 5:2). Notice that we have this life “in His Son” (1 Jn. 5:11). Eternal life is “*in Christ*.” This salvation privilege remains as long as we remain in Christ or “*walk in the light*” (Heb. 3:12; 1 Jn. 1:7-9), otherwise we depart or fall away from this saved status or relationship. Salvation requires maintenance provided for by God’s grace and man’s faith (Eph. 2:8).

Becoming or being a Christian does not remove any person’s own power of choice. A sinner can **choose** to believe and obey Christ and be saved (Mt. 7:21; Mk. 16:16; Gal. 3:26-27). When one is a Christian, he can choose to disbelieve and disobey (Heb. 3:12, 18-19); when he does, he will be lost (2 Pet. 2:20-22), in either case, it is **his own choice**. Satan tempts us to evil, God with love persuades us to righteousness; but each of us makes his own choice. Therefore, “*Let him that thinks he stands, take heed lest he fall*” (1 Cor. 10:12).

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