

# CAN YOU LOSE YOUR SALVATION?

Abridged by Julie Ferwerda

Is it possible to lose my salvation? The good news is no! Once you put your faith in Jesus you are secure. You can't accidentally or easily LOSE your salvation, but I believe there is evidence that you can REJECT it by continuously ignoring God or refusing to obey Him.

## WHAT IS SALVATION?

And the oft over-complicated answer to that question is...*belief*. That's it, only belief in God changes our hearts, lives, and ultimately our eternity.

## WHAT IS BELIEF?

From the Greek word, *Pisteuo*, belief means "to think to be true, to be persuaded of, to credit, place confidence in." This is the difference between faking it and staking it—that is, staking your life on what you profess. Believing something "in your heart" means that the core of you is wrapped around that belief. Belief is what you feel, think, depend upon, and therefore, what you do, who you are, and what you become.

There are too many "Christians" who *say* they believe in Jesus as their Messiah, but there is little significant evidence from their lives—decisions, attitudes, behaviors, convictions, conversations, morals, values, goals, habits—that would reflect their lip service. If you really believe Jesus died for you and set you free from bondage to sin and spiritual death, and if you really believe that the Creator of the Universe wants to have a personal, daily, intimate, and eternal relationship with you, your life should be radically, beautifully, permanently, tangibly, and consistently changing in every day life.

Those in history who have demonstrated this tangible, outward faith in their daily lives are a shining beacon and example for us to follow: Armed with only a shepherd's staff, Moses led several million people to the banks of a giant sea while enemy chariots bore down from behind. Abraham raised the knife to sacrifice his only son and his only hope for the fulfillment of God's promise of a great nation of offspring from whom the Messiah would come. Gideon, the self-proclaimed weakest person in Israel, headed into a valley filled with giant warriors to destroy them with the help of only thirty men. What does this mean for us? We must understand that the requirements of faith for those people are really no different than the requirements for us.

## CAN YOU LOSE YOUR SALVATION?

I do not believe one can "lose" their salvation per se. It's true that no one can "snatch me out of my Father's hand." I also believe that only grace saves. I no more have power to save myself than I could swim across the Pacific. The forgiveness of my sins bridging the gap to favor with God for eternity is only dependent upon Christ's finished work at Calvary through His blood.

But therein, I have a part—a responsibility to respond, hence the first step of life-saving belief. And beyond that, I have the responsibility of remaining faithful to the end, exerting my free will to love God with all my heart, shown by obedience (John 14:21), and to stay in continuous fellowship with Him. The balance of grace and works appears to be a holy tension that cannot be separated. While He will not leave me or go back on His covenant with me (if we are faithless, he will remain faithful—2 Timothy 2:13), it appears that I can choose to end my agreement with Him. If you have truly put your belief in Christ for the forgiveness of your sins in order to receive the free gift of eternal life, you now have a deliberate responsibility, Biblically speaking.

Like Esau, you can trade in your birthright as a child of God. He won't divorce you, but you can divorce Him. He won't disqualify you, but you will disqualify yourself by faithless rebellion and stiff-necked unbelief, as demonstrated by the way you willfully and consistently live your life. "Remember that those who do good prove that they are God's children, and those who do evil prove that they do not know God (1 John 3:11)."



**LET'S CHAT!**  
with Pastor D



SHARON SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

July 27, 2019

The flight attendant stood in the middle of the aisle and reviewed the emergency rules before takeoff. I fly frequently and didn't realize that I began to tune out the announcement. As she pulled on the elastic part of the oxygen mask, it arrested my attention.

She looked at my son and I sitting next to each other and stressed the importance of helping yourself first. Possibly seeing my nonchalant appearance, she said; "sir, remember you must help yourself first. As I processed the comment it finally dawned on me. She was asking me to forfeit help to my child in an emergency situation. I was to selfishly put on my oxygen mask first.

In objection, I dismissed her statement and rendered it as trash. After the flight, I began to think more about her words. Was there some truth to it? Should we feel guilty for helping or putting ourselves first?

Am I to be a "yellow bellied chicken," a coward, a scared self preserver and save my life while my child gasp for breath? Should we view self care in such a negative way? For the next few weeks, journey with me as we explore the issues and importance of self care.

### People of the Bible

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Draw your favorite summer treat . . .



### URGENT prayer

- Stephanie Goodwin-Larry's family, death of loved one
- Donald Cobbs, surgery recovery
- Kent Ewell, in hospital

FIND: Abraham, Elijah, James, Joseph, Matthew, Paul, Samson, Adam, Eve, Jesus, Joshua, Moses, Peter, Solomon, David, Gabriel, John, Mary, Noah and Ruth