

Supplement to: The Best News Ever

Is it possible to lose your salvation after you have been saved? Are we once saved always saved?

Saul, the first king of Israel is a biblical example of someone who was turned into "another man" and received the Spirit of God and then grieved Him away. Notice the following texts about King Saul's experience.

1Samuel 10:6 "Then the Spirit of the LORD will come upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man."

1Samuel 10:9-10 (9) "...God gave him another heart..." (10) "...then the Spirit of God came upon him."

The record of King Saul began well; he was humble and obedient to God, but unfortunately the story doesn't end that way. King Saul made several major mistakes.

In 1Samuel 10:8 Samuel instructed King Saul to go to Gilgal and wait seven days and then he would join him and make sacrifices to the LORD. Sadly, he did not listen. He sacrificed to the LORD himself, and did something only a priest could do (see 1Samuel 13:8-14). Strike one!

In 1Samuel 15:3 God told King Saul to attack the Amalekites and destroy them and their livestock. Saul did not obey. 1Samuel 15:8-9 tells us that he took King Agag and his livestock alive and brought them back to the Israelite camp. This incident led to God's rejection of Saul as King of Israel. Strike two! It get's worse yet.

1Samuel 16:14 "But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul..." Then God moved to plan B, which was David (see 1Samuel 16:13). Finally, Saul's last mistake was when he went to the witch of Endor to inquire about battle plans. This led to his eternal destruction.

1Chronicles 10:13 "So Saul died for his unfaithfulness which he had committed against the LORD, because he did not keep the word of the LORD, and also because he consulted a medium for guidance."

Strike three! So there you have it, a biblical example of a saved man who backslid into rebellion.

Ezekiel 18:24 "But when a righteous man turns away from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and does according to all the abominations that the wicked man does, shall he live? All the righteousness which he has done shall not be remembered; because of the

unfaithfulness of which he is guilty and the sin which he has committed, because of them he shall die."

2Peter 2:20-21 "For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. (21) For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them."

What about John 10:28-29?

John 10:28 "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand." (29) 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."

God's grace is so powerful that no temptation can overpower you if you want to be delivered (see 1Corinthians 10:13), but if you choose to sin God will not stop you. You can take yourself outside of his will. So the type of protection in this verse is from without not from within. Satan cannot pull you out from God's hand unless you listen to his deceptions or are led away by your own carnal desires (see James 1:14).

The main thought of the people who teach "eternal security" goes like this: once a person is born again you can't be un-born. That is true; however, a baby can die and that is why there are pediatricians, to teach parents how to keep their children alive and healthy.

So if we are not once saved always saved how is it possible to have the assurance of salvation?

1John 5:13 "These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God."

No one can say that they are saved forever until Jesus comes again and gives His people immortality (see 1Corinthians 15:51-55). However, one can say that for today, I am living in God's will and therefore, I believe that if I should die or Jesus would come, I would be saved. That is the biblical position on this subject.

*Biblical statements on backsliding: Jere 2:19; 3:22; 5:6; 14:7
Other texts dealing with eternal security: Jude 1:6; 1Cor 9:27;
2Pet 3:17-18; Eze 33:13-19; Rom 11:19-22; Rev 3:11; Mar 13:13.*