

Hebrews 6.4-6

Who Can Fall?

We come to the crux of the argument in this passage. The writer of Hebrews makes an assertion that must be dealt with. If someone were to fall away, they could NEVER be restored. There is simply NO possibility that someone could be found in Christ, be washed in the blood of the Lamb, be adopted as a child of God, subsequently fall away and then come back and be saved again. Salvation is a one-time thing. Period. No do overs, no mulligans, no take backs.

Before we can correctly interpret this statement we must understand the position of the rest of scripture. There is no doubt that this passage has caused much consternation in the church over the centuries. When it does it is because people have forgotten one simple thing, scripture NEVER contradicts itself. It NEVER changes its mind because God never changes His. When there is an apparent contradiction, the problem is with our understanding, NOT with scripture. Therefore it is important to remember the second simple rule of good hermeneutics... Scripture is its own best interpreter. We use the many simple and plain

passages to correctly understand and interpret the few dark and difficult passages. This law must be applied here or we will be far astray.

So, what does the rest of scripture tell us about the security of the believer?

I. CAN TRUE BELIEVERS FALL AWAY?

a. Jesus Holds all who are His –

John 6.35-51

- i. There are those there who do not believe
- ii. They do not come, they are not in His hand
- iii. Every single person that the Father chooses will come
- iv. Every single one that comes will be accepted
- v. Not a single one of them will be lost
- vi. Every single one of them WILL be raised up to life eternal
- vii. No one puts themselves into His hand, it is the sovereign call of God
- viii. Man's effort to obey God will ultimately lead to his death,

ix. Man's works will destroy him, only the grace of God saves.

b. It is God who preserves and protects our salvation –

John 10.27-30

- i. He gives eternal life
- ii. They shall NEVER perish
- iii. NO ONE can snatch us from His hand - (that includes us)
- iv. NO ONE is greater than God. He keeps us

c. The old you is dead and your life is now in Christ –

Colossians 3.3-4

- i. He never dies, He will always watch over and keep His own
 - ii. He Himself is our surety
- d. Your security is the work of God –

1 Peter 1.3-5

- i. Begotten of God
- ii. According to His mercy
- iii. Through the resurrection of Jesus
- iv. Incorruptible inheritance, undefiled and preserved by God
- v. It is the power of God
- vi. The faith HE gives us is the vessel by which HE keeps us
- vii. The salvation of the elect will be finally and fully revealed in the last day

e.The work of preservation

Jude 1 (NKJV)

¹ Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, To those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ:

- i. Called by God
- ii. Sanctified by God
- iii. Preserved IN Jesus Christ

f. Persuaded by truth –

2 Timothy 1:12 (NKJV)

¹² For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.

- i. Those who belong are finally persuaded by the working of the Spirit.
- ii. Many of our doubts are process artifacts
 - 1. They are the results of the ongoing work of sanctification
 - 2. They are momentary doubts
 - 3. They are NOT who the writer of Hebrews is speaking of

II. WHO IS ACTUALLY INTENDED?

a. Those not long converted from Judaism

- i. On the evidence of its truth

- ii. Upon the miraculous signs given
- b. Not the only the recipients of common grace, but those who have been given such privileges and gifts to see the truth in some capacity
- c. Had found some convincing evidence of Christ, enough to mentally acknowledge... man's will
- d. Might even have made a profession of their own belief,
 - i. I decided
 - ii. I will use the natural gifts that have been given to me in this manner
 - iii. I will be on this team so long as this team and I can get along.
 - 1. They see how good I am
 - 2. They honor me as I deserve
 - 3. They give me what I want
 - 4. They treat me with the respect I need to make me feel good
 - 5. They don't cross me

6. They don't impose themselves in the places I reserve for myself...

III. WHAT ARE THEY?

a. Not true converts

- i. All of the things they have are common graces with a kicker.
 1. Had some level of intellectual understanding
 2. Enjoyed the external flavor of some of the good things that the Spirit brings to the church and true believers in it - they like the nice bits.
 3. Have had the general call of the gospel poured out and may even have twitched a little thinking about coming to Christ
 4. They have had exposure to the Word, and to the power of the truth
 5. They have seen much of the working of God in the world around them...

6. All to no real avail...
 - ii. No mention of saving faith
 - iii. Nothing ascribed to them that is particular to being made alive
 1. Not called according to His purpose
 2. Not born again
 3. Not justified
 4. Not sanctified
 5. Not united unto Christ
 - iv. Compared to the ground on which the rain falls and bears only thorns and thistles
- b. The true converts
 - i. Better things such as accompany salvation
 - ii. Work and labor of love
 - iii. Asserts perseverance
 1. On the righteousness and faithfulness of God
 2. Immutability of God's counsel

IV. WHO SAVES?

a. Faith is not a continuum it is a total change of plane

- i. A new creature in Christ
- ii. A new birth –

John 3.5-8

- iii. The work of the spirit
- iv. The will of God –

John 1.10-13

b. "will of the flesh"

- i. Changeable
- ii. Only alters behavior, not affections
- iii. Can be changed again if the affections are stirred
- iv. Emotion based
- v. Fragile
- vi. Man's power

c. Grace, of God

- i. Unchangeable
- ii. Makes a new creature with new affections, new desires, new heart –

2 Corinthians 5:17

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

- iii. Ultimately resists the old affections because the new ones are deeper and truer

Romans 8.12-17

- iv. Feels emotions, not controlled by them, rather controlled by the spirit of God
- v. Strong, resilient, grows under pressure rather than being crushed

Romans 8.31-39

2 Corinthians 4.7-12

- vi. God's power, this is the thing that keeps us always. Remember nothing is greater than God and in the end we trust ourselves to HIM rather than to our decisions...

V. WHO KEEPS?

a. "will of the flesh"

- i. Keeps so long as convenient
- ii. Stays until the next thing
- iii. Cannot be trusted

b. God's Grace

- i. Keeps us because of God's promise -

Titus 1.1-3

Hebrews 6.17-18

- ii. Stays even when slighted –

2 Timothy 2:10–13 (NKJV)

10 Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. 11 This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, We shall also live with Him. 12 If we endure, We shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us. 13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.

iii. Trustworthy beyond life itself

2 Timothy 1:12 (NKJV)

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