



FALLEN FROM GRACE?

By Bro. June Gentry

“Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.”

-Galatians 5:4

Many times over the years, I have had very interesting discussions with preachers and lay people on the subject of losing one's salvation or the eternal security of the believer. After almost three decades of studying the Bible, hearing debates on the subject, and reading opinions of those who believe one can lose the great gift God has given us, I am more convinced than ever that the true believer is secure in Christ. There are many reasons for this. I will only be able to discuss some of them here, but I will attempt to give you some basic thoughts and Scriptures that the Lord has used to clarify this point for me.

First, let me say that, in many cases, the very opposing arguments I have heard have strengthened my faith. This is because the cases made do not square with Scripture and are not consistent with the rest of the person's theology. One such discussion took place with a preacher of many years who tried to convince me, using the text, Hebrews 6:4-6, that one could lose his salvation. After a more careful study of this passage, my friend was brought to see that this Scripture was given, not to prove one could **lose** the gift of salvation, but instead, to show why it could **not** be lost. The bottom line is, if you could lose your salvation, you could *never* get it back.

I find it amazing to note that some who believe you must be baptized to be saved do not re-baptize those who were “saved,” according to their teaching, lost, then saved again. If baptism saves or is a vital part of salvation and one loses his salvation, why is baptism not required for the second or third saving? Is there more than one way to be saved?

People who believe salvation can be “lost and found” speak of “sins” that can cause one to lose his salvation. However, when I have questioned them about this, I have found them to be very vague and differing in their opinions. Even within the same denomination, they vary in what one must do to cause God to “kick” one out.

I once heard a preacher adamantly state that one could fall from grace. I asked him one day, if, in all his years as a pastor, he had ever met anyone who, in his opinion, had really been saved, then lost it? After some thought, he admitted to me that he personally had not known of anyone who had ever fit that description.

Hear me well: If the doctrines you are teaching do not have any practical application, they are no good. When you interpret the Bible, you must see the whole picture. Do not just look at pieces and build doctrines on them!

The very nature of salvation guarantees security, for it is by grace. It is a gift. It is “new birth.” Jesus died for me because I do not have what it takes to obtain the salvation that I so desperately need (Galatians 2:16). I am saved by grace (Ephesians 2:8). Moreover, I am called, justified, and glorified, **all** by grace (Romans 8:30). God, in His mercy and love, **gives** me what I could never get any other way, and yet, some try to tell me I can fall from grace.

In Galatians 5:4, the reference is not to the saved who lost it, but for those who have tried to gain right standing in the sight of God by keeping the Law. I pray for those who take this stand for I know, deep down in their heart, there is always turmoil; a definite lack of peace. This is sad when they could be resting in the knowledge of Scripture and “confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.” (Philippians 1:6)

I guess that, to some degree, every Christian believes in the security of the believer. Some believe you are secure now, if you stay “good,” but oh, for the day you slip! Others believe you will be secure when you get to Heaven, but watch out! Lucifer and one-third of the angels were thrown out of there!

Thank God, we can know the truth which sets men free. Free from worry and doubt, for we have a God so great that He can “conform us to the image of His dear Son.” (Romans 8:29) Hear the truth. Trust God to do what He says He will do and allow His peace to fill your hearts.

“For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.”

-Hebrew 6:4-6

Salvation Security

Through Scripture, God allows us to fully understand our security of the salvation that He gives us through His Son, Jesus Christ. The following passages will reassure you of your eternal destination:

Galatians 5:4 Hebrews 6:4-6
Galatians 2:16 Ephesians 2:8
Romans 8:30 Philippians 1:6
Romans 8:29

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This tract was adapted from a message which appeared in *GODTEL News*, the monthly newsletter of GODTEL Ministries. To obtain additional copies, order #TR9108P. For more information about other literature, preaching tapes by Bro. Gentry, or the ministry in general, write us at the address below, or give us a call.

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