

"Once Saved, Always Saved" - DEBUNKED

The Bible REPEATEDLY warns believers they can fall away—salvation is conditional, not automatic

1. WHAT THEY CLAIM

"Once Saved, Always Saved" (Eternal Security): Once you accept Jesus as Savior, you CANNOT lose salvation, no matter what you do afterward.

Who believes this:

- Calvinists (Reformed theology)
- Southern Baptists (largest Protestant group in U.S.)
- Many Evangelicals/Non-denominational churches

Who REJECTS this:

- Catholics, Methodists, Church of Christ, Pentecostals (some), Eastern Orthodox, LDS

Their "Proof Texts"

John 10:28-29: "I give unto them eternal life; and they shall NEVER PERISH, neither shall any man PLUCK them out of my hand"

→ They claim: Guaranteed eternal security

Romans 8:38-39: "Neither death, nor life...shall be able to SEPARATE US from the love of God"

→ They claim: Can't lose salvation

Ephesians 1:13-14: "Ye were SEALED with that holy Spirit of promise"

→ They claim: Seal guarantees salvation

2. THE PROBLEMS WITH THEIR DOCTRINE

Problem 1: If salvation is guaranteed, why does Bible REPEATEDLY warn BELIEVERS about falling away?

Problem 2: Why command "endure to the end" if you can't lose salvation?

Problem 3: Contradicts NUMEROUS clear scriptures (see below)

3. BIBLICAL EVIDENCE AGAINST IT

A. Believers Can "DEPART FROM THE FAITH"

1 Timothy 4:1: "In latter times SOME SHALL DEPART FROM THE FAITH, giving heed to seducing spirits"

→ Greek *apostēsontai* = APOSTASY
→ Can't depart from something you never had

2 Thessalonians 2:3: "That day shall not come, except there come a FALLING AWAY first"

→ Falling away = apostasy of BELIEVERS

B. Believers Can "MAKE SHIPWRECK"

1 Timothy 1:19: "Which some having put away concerning faith have MADE SHIPWRECK"

→ If shipwrecked, salvation NOT guaranteed

C. Believers Can "FALL FROM GRACE"

Galatians 5:4: "Whosoever of you are justified by the law; YE ARE FALLEN FROM GRACE"

→ Paul writing to CHRISTIANS (believers)
→ They CAN fall from grace

D. Names Can Be "BLOTTED OUT" of Book of Life

Revelation 3:5: "I will NOT BLOT OUT his name out of the book of life"

→ Implies it's POSSIBLE for names to be blotted out (otherwise why mention it?)

Exodus 32:33: "Whosoever hath sinned against me, HIM WILL I BLOT OUT OF MY BOOK"

E. Believers Can "DRAW BACK UNTO PERDITION"

Hebrews 10:26-29, 38-39: "For if WE sin willfully AFTER that we have RECEIVED the knowledge of truth...how much sorer punishment...who hath TRODDEN UNDER FOOT the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, WHEREWITH HE WAS SANCTIFIED, an unholy thing...if ANY MAN DRAW BACK...we are not of them WHO DRAW BACK UNTO PERDITION"

→ Written to BELIEVERS ("we")

→ They "received knowledge" (were saved)

→ They were "SANCTIFIED by Christ's blood"

→ Yet can "sin willfully," "draw back," face "PERDITION"

If "once saved, always saved," how can someone SANCTIFIED by Christ's blood end up in PERDITION?

F. Branches Can Be "CUT OFF" from Vine

John 15:2, 6: "Every branch IN ME that beareth not fruit he taketh away...If a man ABIDE NOT IN ME, he is CAST FORTH as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and CAST THEM INTO THE FIRE, and they are BURNED"

→ Branches "IN ME" (Christ) can be CUT OFF and BURNED

Romans 11:20-22: "Be not highminded, but FEAR: For if God spared not the natural branches, TAKE HEED LEST HE ALSO SPARE NOT THEE...IF THOU CONTINUE in his goodness: OTHERWISE THOU ALSO SHALT BE CUT OFF"

→ Paul warns BELIEVERS: "take heed lest...THOU ALSO SHALT BE CUT OFF"

→ **Condition:** "If thou continue"

G. Must "ENDURE TO THE END" to Be Saved

Matthew 10:22: "He that ENDURETH TO THE END shall be saved"

Matthew 24:13: "He that shall ENDURE UNTO THE END, the same shall be saved"

If salvation guaranteed at moment of belief, why must we "endure to the end"?

Hebrews 3:6, 14: "Whose house are we, IF WE HOLD FAST the confidence...unto the end...For we are made partakers of Christ, IF WE HOLD the beginning of our confidence stedfast UNTO THE END"

→ **Condition:** "If we hold fast...IF we hold...UNTO THE END"

H. The "IF" Passages - Salvation Is CONDITIONAL

Colossians 1:21-23: "Yet now hath he reconciled...to present you holy and unblameable...IF YE CONTINUE in the faith grounded and settled, and BE NOT MOVED AWAY from the hope of the gospel"

→ **Condition:** "If ye continue"

1 Corinthians 15:1-2: "By which also ye are saved, IF YE KEEP in memory what I preached unto you, UNLESS YE HAVE BELIEVED IN VAIN"

→ **Condition:** "If ye keep...UNLESS ye believed IN VAIN"

→ You can believe "in vain" = worthless if you don't continue

I. Paul Could Become a "CASTAWAY"

1 Corinthians 9:27: "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I MYSELF SHOULD BE A CASTAWAY"

→ Paul (the APOSTLE!) says HE could become "castaway" (Greek *adokimos* = rejected, disqualified)

→ **If Paul could be disqualified, so can ANYONE**

J. Peter: Can Become "WORSE THAN BEFORE"

2 Peter 2:20-22: "For IF after they have ESCAPED the pollutions of the world THROUGH THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST, they are again ENTANGLED therein, and overcome, THE LATTER END IS WORSE WITH THEM THAN THE BEGINNING. For it had been BETTER for them NOT TO HAVE KNOWN the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, TO TURN FROM the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, THE DOG IS TURNED TO HIS OWN VOMIT AGAIN; and the SOW THAT WAS WASHED to her wallowing in the mire"

→ They "ESCAPED" pollutions THROUGH knowledge of Jesus"

(were SAVED)

→ Can be "entangled again and overcome" (fall back into sin)

→ "Latter end WORSE than beginning" (worse off than BEFORE salvation)

→ Like dog returning to vomit - were CLEANSED but became DIRTY again

If "once saved, always saved," HOW can "latter end be WORSE than beginning"?

4. RESPONDING TO THEIR "PROOF TEXTS"

John 10:28 - "Never Perish"

Full context (v. 27-28): "MY SHEEP HEAR MY VOICE, and I know them, and THEY FOLLOW ME: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish"

→ Key: "My sheep...FOLLOW ME" (present tense, ongoing)

→ If you STOP following, are you still "His sheep"?

"No man can PLUCK them":

→ External forces (Satan, persecution) can't FORCE you out

→ But doesn't say you can't WILLFULLY leave

Hebrews 10:38-39: "If any man DRAW BACK, my soul shall have no pleasure in him...who DRAW BACK unto perdition"

→ Can't be "plucked," but CAN "draw back" (voluntarily leave)

5. LDS POSITION: CONDITIONAL SALVATION

Articles of Faith 1:3: "We believe that through the Atonement of Christ, all mankind MAY BE SAVED, by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel"
→ "MAY BE saved" = CONDITIONAL, not automatic

Salvation Is a PROCESS

Past: "By grace are ye SAVED" (Eph 2:8 - justified)

Present: "Unto us which ARE SAVED" (1 Cor 1:18 - being sanctified)

Future: "He that endureth to the end SHALL BE SAVED" (Matt 10:22 - glorified)

Requirements for Exaltation

- Faith in Jesus Christ
- Repentance
- Baptism by immersion (proper authority)
- Gift of Holy Ghost by laying on of hands
- Temple ordinances (endowment, sealing)
- Endure to the end (2 Nephi 31:20)
- Become "perfect in Christ" (Moroni 10:32)

2 Nephi 31:20: "Ye must press forward with a steadfastness in Christ...and ENDURE TO THE END, behold, thus saith the Father: Ye shall have eternal life"

Scripture	What It Says	What It Proves
1 Tim 4:1	"Some shall DEPART from the faith"	Believers CAN apostatize
Gal 5:4	"Ye are FALLEN FROM GRACE"	Can fall from grace
Heb 10:26-29	"Sin willfully after received knowledge...SANCTIFIED...PERDITION"	Sanctified believers can face perdition
John 15:6	"Branches IN ME...CAST FORTH...BURNED"	Branches in Christ can be cut off
Rom 11:22	"If thou continue...OTHERWISE...CUT OFF"	Conditional on continuing
Matt 10:22	"He that ENDURETH TO THE END shall be saved"	Must endure, not just believe once
Col 1:23	"If ye CONTINUE in the faith"	Salvation conditional
1 Cor 15:2	"Ye are saved, if ye keep...UNLESS ye believed IN VAIN"	Can believe in vain
1 Cor 9:27	"Lest I myself should be a CASTAWAY"	Even Paul could be disqualified
2 Pet 2:20-22	"ESCAPED through knowledge of Jesus...LATTER END WORSE THAN BEGINNING"	Saved people can become worse than before

THE BOTTOM LINE:

If "once saved, always saved" were true, ALL these warnings would be MEANINGLESS.

Why warn believers not to fall away if they CAN'T fall away?

Why command "endure to the end" if salvation is guaranteed at moment of belief?

Answer: Because salvation is CONDITIONAL, not automatic.

Grace saves through faith—but you must CONTINUE in faith, ENDURE to the end, and KEEP covenants.

Three Degrees of Glory (1 Cor 15:40-42, D&C 76):

Kingdom	Who Goes	Biblical Support
Celestial (Highest)	Faithful saints who endured to end, received ordinances, became "perfect in Christ"	1 Cor 15:41 ("glory of sun"), Rev 21:1-4
Terrestrial (Middle)	Honorable people who rejected gospel or were "not valiant" (lukewarm)	1 Cor 15:41 ("glory of moon"), Rev 3:16
Telestial (Lowest)	Wicked who didn't accept Christ (liars, adulterers, etc.)	1 Cor 15:41 ("glory of stars"), Rev 21:8

Kingdom	Who Goes	Biblical Support
Outer Darkness	Sons of Perdition (deny Holy Ghost after receiving it)	Matt 12:31-32, Heb 6:4-6, Heb 10:26-27
Why this matters: "Once saved, always saved" ignores degrees of glory. The Bible teaches varying rewards/punishments, not just "heaven or hell."		