

Warning Against Falling 2021-01-10

Heb 6:4-8

4 For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, 5 and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, 6 and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt.

7 For land that has drunk the rain that often falls on it, and produces a crop useful to those for whose sake it is cultivated, receives a blessing from God. 8 But if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and near to being cursed, and its end is to be burned.

9 Though we speak in this way, yet in your case, beloved, we feel sure of better things—things that belong to salvation. 10 For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do. 11 And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, 12 so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Explicitly or implicitly, “I do not need Jesus for fellowship with God and eternal salvation.”

- contemplating return Judaism and abandoning Christian confession of faith.
 - Apostasy= fall away/desert original profession of Jesus Christ. Judas, John 6:66
 - Not mean losing salvation. but abandoning profession of faith in Jesus Christ.
- Warning calls us to self-examination as part of effort to grow spiritually.

3 views of text:

1. Truly saved, lose salvation, later saved again. He loves me, he loves me not.
2. Once profess faith, regenerated and can never lose salvation, no matter how live.
 - a. Can be saved without sanctification....fruit.
3. Perseverance of saints...all true Christians eternally saved, sanctified by Holy Spirit and persevere in faith by His grace. Persevere/sanctification tied together.

What say regarding...Truly saved, lose salvation., later saved again. Hebrew 6:4-6, Matthew 7:21-23

- Heard Word saw prayer answer, signs/miracles of kingdom age.
 - Experienced life in church, not as spectators but participants yet lost.
 - Focus here is gifts not fruit of Holy Spirit
- In text no words ever used in New Testament in connection with salvation.
 - enlightened not saved. tasted not eaten. shared not possess Holy Spirit.
 - Holy Spirit pre-salvation: enable lost certain sense about blessedness of salvation.

- Like Judas, near enough to taste/see yet turn away and openly reject Jesus Christ.

What could shame Jesus more than taste his goodness, wisdom, power and say NO!

- like agreeing with and joining those who crucified Jesus. Hebrew 6:4a, 6b, 18, 10:4, 11:6
 - “are crucifying” = ongoing reality. It’s their character, pattern of life.
 - Commend loved ones to Lord. He not reject genuine repentance
- Not true Christians who fall away but ones who came close to truth then reject it.
 - Text says....Impossible to be saved, lost, saved again.
 - Incapable of repentance because heart so hard will not repent.

Proof apostasy/never Christian: no sanctification/fruit in lives. Hebrews 6:7-8, Matthew 13:20-23

- Both soils received rain 1 produced crop, other ONLY thorns/thistles.
 - not had life/vegetation then lost it but 2 different kinds of fields.

Fruitfulness and persevering faith always accompany true salvation. Hebrews 6:9-11, 1 Corinthians 13:13

- After stern warning, quickly encourages wavering about assurance of salvation.
 - He wants comfort them but not want them to be sluggish.
 - As grow spiritually assurance will grow as well. 2 Timothy 1:12

Self-examination part of diligent *effort* to grow spiritually.....Lloyd Jones

- “things that belong salvation” Literally are possessed by salvation. They belong to salvation.
 - LOOK for fruit of Holy Spirit not gifts: faith vs 12, hope vs 11, love vs 10.

Like sanctification Holy Spirit causes God chosen to persevere. Jude 24, Hebrews 12:1-2, Philippians 1:6

- Salvation secure because based on God’s choice/love and Jesus’ perfect sacrifice.
 - Beloved, exam self then look to Jesus for grace and strength to persevere.

Martyn Lloyd Jones in Spiritual Depression: all Christians called to self-examination, but no Christian called to introspection.

- Introspect= constantly fixate on inward state without looking to Jesus Christ and His grace.
- Self-exam not forever: opens heart, Holy Spirit convicts, then looks to Jesus for grace/forgive.