

Is the believer secure?

Yes; without question. But a more important question that needs to be asked is, What is a believer? From Strong's concordance, the word "believe" means to have faith in, to entrust to, to commit to, to put in trust with. The Amplified Bible adds the words "cleave to," and "adhere to" which means to stick like glue. None of these imply a momentary belief.

John 15:1-10 contains the word "abide" ten times! Abide means to live, dwell, remain, and take up residence. Verse 6 says, "**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."

I John 2:24, "Therefore, let that **abide** in you which you heard from the beginning. **If** what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father."

What is a believer?

A believer then, is someone who **continues** to trust, abide and adhere to, and in that state, he is secure. A sin cannot make one lose his salvation as long as he is trying to quit. Repent quickly and go on. My brochure on Holiness will help you on this subject.

... to the end

Ten verses specifically tell us to endure or hold firm to the end, and we will be saved. Matt.10:22, 24:13, Mark 13:13, I Tim. 6:14, Heb. 3:6, 14, 6:11, Rev. 2:10, 25-26. If something is in the Bible even once, it is important; but if it is in there numerous times, it's vital. We should take it very seriously!

Seventy verses!

Yes, there are seventy (70) verses in the Bible that warn us to be steadfast, stand firm, be faithful, continue, abide, and hold fast. Some of these express warnings and real fear. Here are a few of them:

I Cor.16:13, "Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith."

II Cor, 11:3, "I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ."

Gal.1:6-9, "I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ, and are turning to a different gospel."

I Thes.3:1-8, (Paul worried) verse 5, "lest by some means the tempter have tempted you, and our labor be in vain." (8), "... if you stand fast in the Lord."

II Pet. 1:10, "My brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure, for **if you do these things**, you will never fall."

II Pet. 3:17, "...be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position, but grow..."

Luke 21:8, "Take heed that you are not deceived, for many will come in my name..."

John 8:51, "If a man **KEEP** my sayings he shall not see death."

Rom. 11:20-22, "If you **CONTINUE** in His goodness, otherwise, you also will be cut off."

Calvin's position

John Calvin is the man who began the doctrines known as total depravity, predestination, and eternal security. The foundation doctrine to all these is the absolute sovereignty of God. I have written brochures called *The Sovereignty of God* and *Predestination* to go with this one.

The following information is from a book called *Life in the Son*, by Robert Shank. Calvin's response to those warning verses was that these numerous passages do not prove that falling away is possible. On the contrary, they insure that we won't fall away. But he also said that for these warnings to accomplish this, they must be regarded with heed and real fear of apostasy. But Calvinists' teachings and preaching are designed to quiet any fears that may arise, and smooth over these solemn warnings, even to the extent that they lose any value whatsoever.

And those who preach these warnings with real conviction are accused of being confused and doctrinally unsound, and of not believing in salvation by grace! One has to ask, “If there’s no ditch at the side of the road, why have a sign?”

Can a backslider be lost?

There are two verses that need examination. They are Heb. 6: 4-8 and James 5: 19-20. The first one says, “It is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good Word of God, and the powers of the age to come, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.”

I have heard some Calvinists point out the word *tasted* and claim that it proves these people weren’t actually saved. Let me refer you to Heb.2:9 which says that Jesus *tasted* death for every man.

Now, please notice that these (in Heb.) were not only saved, but filled with the Spirit, and effective for God with the power of the Holy Spirit! So now let us look at the Amplified Bible for the words *fall away*. “If they then deviate from the faith and turn away from their allegiance ...” This seems to be saying that if a person has been filled with the Spirit, and

then decides he doesn’t want to follow Jesus anymore, he can never be brought back. This is serious! Can you see that?

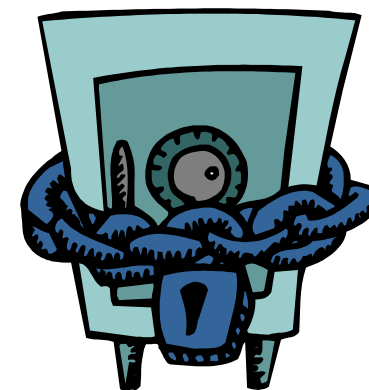
The second of those two verses, James 5:19-20, says, “Brothers, if any **among you** (believers) wander from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner (believer) from the error of his way will save a soul from *death* and overcome a multitude of sins.” This is plain, isn’t it, that we should try to bring back wandering and erring ones?

What is death?

Notice the word “death” in the above verse. Let’s examine what that word means. Eph.2:1, “And you He made alive, who were **dead** in trespasses and sins ...” and verse 5, “even when we were **dead** in trespasses ...” Col.2:13, “And you, being **dead** in your trespasses ...” I John 3:14, “We know that we have passed from **death** to life...” Each of these use the word *dead* to mean our condition without God before we were saved. Now Rom.6:23 says, “The wages of (persistent and continual) sin is **death**...” That agrees with the James verse above, which leads us to conclude that if **one persists in a life of sin, he can again become unsaved.**

What does the Bible say
about

Eternal Security?



A Mini Bible Study
By Cheryl Boone