

Immune From Sin?

by Wayne Goff

In an effort to protect the false doctrine of “Once Saved, Always Saved” some religious scholars affirm that Simon the Sorcerer (Acts 8) was not a Christian at the time when he sinned by offering money to buy the power of the Holy Spirit (vv. 18-24)! The same men also then say that Peter’s instructions to “*repent and pray God...*” are instructions on how to become a Christian! I never cease to be amazed at how men will pervert the truth to protect their own theories!

The New Testament is **full** of warnings to Christians and churches *not* to depart from the Faith. Let’s note a few of them:

Hebrews 3:12-14

“Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called ‘Today,’ lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end.”

Notice that this passage is written to “**brethren**” warning them not to develop an “*evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God.*” Sin can harden the most ardent saint through its deceit. How often do we not realize that we are doing something sinful, and are endangering our souls? Christians must hold fast their confidence to the end.

Galatians 5:1-4

“Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage. Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing. And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law. You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.”

“*Stand fast in the liberty*” is only possible for the Christian. The alien sinner is not standing in any liberty as it pertains to God. Furthermore, Paul said that if one tries to return to the Old Law for justification, then he has “*fallen from grace*”! He did not say that he might, but that he “**has**” fallen from grace! Therefore, not only is it possible for the Christian to so sin as to be eternally lost, Paul affirms that some had done just that!

2 Peter 1:5-10

“But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble.”

Now the apostle Peter instructs us to “*give all diligence*” to make “*your call and election sure*”! How could it be **unsure** if we are eternally saved at the point of salvation? It is obvious that Peter knows that a child of God can fall away from the Faith and be lost. He therefore instructs us to add to our faith — virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness and love. In adding these things to our faith, we will “*never stumble.*” The King James Version translates this phrase “*you will never fall.*” However you translate it, the Greek scholar Joseph Henry Thayer says that it means “to fall into misery, become wretched; ... of the loss of salvation, 2 Pet. 1:10.” Let us all realize that becoming a Christian is a blessed gift and privilege, and that with it comes the personal responsibility to remain faithful to the Lord, knowing that we can sin and be lost.

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