

Why Believe In The Impossibility of Apostasy

by Wayne Goff

Last Sunday's lesson on the "**Possibility of Apostasy**" showed the myriad Scriptures which affirm that a child of God can fall away, lose his faith, and be lost eternally. So it leads us to ask **why** people believe that it is *impossible* for the child of God to be lost? Let me suggest several answers.

Sadly, I would say most church goers who believe this doctrine do so because their church teaches it. They are not very knowledgeable in the Scriptures and they blindly accept what they are taught by men in whom they have great confidence. See Matthew 15:14.

Secondly, for those who **are** grounded in their system called **Calvinism**, do so because they are trying to be logically consistent. The first tenet of this system says that man is so totally depraved as to be completely unable to do anything to save himself. Therefore God must *do everything* to make it possible for the person to be saved. The recipient of God's grace is totally passive.

If this is true, then God **must** operate on the heart of the sinner *directly* by the Holy Spirit to convert one. And if God saves someone, then he must remain saved because it's wholly the working of God and not man. Therefore, once a man is saved he will forever be saved. Nothing he may do can keep him from being lost because it is totally out of his hands.

While this kind of thinking is *logical*, it is not *biblical*. Man is **not** born totally depraved, therefore he has free will. He has the *ability* to hear God's invitation and either accept it or reject it. And this is what the Scriptures reflect. Let me give you a couple of examples:

"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28). Does that sound like man has the ability to come?

"And the Spirit and the bride say, 'Come!' And let him who hears say, 'Come!' And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely" (Rev. 22:17). The invitation is to *"whoever desires,"* thus the choice is up to each person.

We could multiply examples throughout the New Testament, but you see the point. But you also now understand that the logic of Calvinism is unnecessary. Man can *choose* to be saved. He can *choose* to be saved and then at a later time *choose* not to be saved. The great battle for the person's mind is going on between God and Satan, between Good and Evil, between Right and Wrong, and each responsible human being is the object.

Where Is The Security?

Our friends who have been influenced by Calvinism will often ask us, "If you don't believe in the security of the believer, then where is your confidence?"

My confidence is in God and His Word. The apostle John wrote, *"These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may **know** that you have eternal life, and that you may **continue to believe** in the name of the Son of God"* (1 Jn. 5:13). So the true believer may know if he has eternal life by reading what God has written on the subject and comparing that with his own life. He must continue to believe in these things in order to be saved eternally. But it is within the grasp of every accountable person to do just that!

John had already written, *"For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome"* (1 Jn. 5:3). If we love God, then we will keep His commandments. If we cease loving God, then we will cease to obey Him (see Rev. 2:5). It's that simple. Besides, many who have subscribed to the Calvinistic system **have themselves fallen away** from their faith in spite of their belief! How do the Calvinists account for this? They say that obviously that one that fell away never actually was saved in the first place! Dear reader, do you see any security in that? Here is one who **thought** he was saved, and saved eternally! But then he falls away only to find out that he was **never** saved in the first place! So you see, dear friends, it's better to stick with the Bible than the unreliable doctrines of men (see Matt. 15:9).

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