

Can we fall short of God's grace?

Is our security in Christ conditional or eternal on moment of conversion?

[Heb 4:1 KJV] 1 Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left [us] of entering into his rest, **any of you should seem to come short of it**.

[Gal 5:4 KJV] 4 Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; **ye are fallen from grace**.

We need to take the whole counsel of God.

- There are proof texts on both sides of this discussion.
- Conditional security:
 - [Rom 11:22 KJV] 22 Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in [his] goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.
- Eternal Security:
 - [Rom 8:38 KJV] 38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

What questions do we ask first?

- Context, context, context.
- Romans 8 is explaining how Christians walk in the spirit and not in their flesh. The parallel passage to this is Galatians 5 and 6. (which really parallels, Romans 6-8.)
- Take for example, the warning in Gal 5:19-21. “Those who perform these sins **will not inherit** the Kingdom of God.” Who was Paul talking to? Saved Christians that were being deceived and yoking themselves back to the law. If a believer returns to the flesh, those who believe in eternal security will often proclaim, “They were never saved.” (it would be better if they weren’t) but this is not what I see from the Bible. Someone who is not saved, would not be receiving this message. Look around today, do unbelievers read this warning from Paul and worry? No. “The cross is foolishness to those that are perishing.” Paul finishes this passage off in Galatians on spirit and flesh with this;
- [Gal 6:7-8 KJV] 7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. 8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.
- We must sow from the Holy Spirit, (by abiding in Christ) to produce works of the spirit and must crucify our flesh daily to not sow to our flesh. This is a daily exercise. Does Paul make an exception here for “once saved, always saved”? No. This is the ongoing Christian walk.

How is this not a works based salvation?

- Because we are not saved by *our* works;
- [Tit 3:5 KJV] 5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;
- We will be saved by **His** works coming through us;
- [Tit 2:11-15 KJV] 11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, 12 Teaching us that, **denying ungodliness and worldly lusts**, **we should live soberly, righteously, and godly**, in this present world; 13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; 14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and **purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works**. 15 These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.
- [1Jo 3:3-10 KJV] 3 And every man that hath this hope in him **purifieth himself**, even as he is pure. 4 Whosoever **committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law**. 5 And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. 6 **Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.** 7 Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. 8 **He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.** 9 **Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.** 10 In this the **children of God** are manifest, and the **children of the devil**: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

Better to not be saved.

- [2Pe 2:20-22 KJV] 20 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**. 21 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. 22 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.

This is no different than any other religion than!

- Do other religions offer you atonement for your previously committed sins, based on your faith in Christ alone?
- [Rom 3:25 KJV] 25 Whom God hath set forth [to be] a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of **sins that are past**, through the forbearance of God;
- Do other religions offer you *true freedom* from bondage to sin?
- [Rom 6:7 KJV] 7 For he that is dead is **freed from sin**.
- [1Co 15:34 KJV] 34 Awake to righteousness, **and sin not**; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak [this] to your shame.
- [1Th 4:3-8 KJV] 3 For this is the will of God, [even] your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: 4 That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; 5 Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God: 6 That no [man] go beyond and defraud his brother in [any] matter: because that the Lord [is] the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified. 7 For **God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness**. 8 He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit.

This is Pelagianism (Lordship / Holiness / Sinless Perfection) heresy

- Let's go to Jesus' words on this from the book where many proof texts for eternal security come.
- [Jhn 15:6 KJV] 6 **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**.
- [Jhn 14:15 KJV] 15 If ye love me, **keep my commandments**.
- [Jhn 8:11 KJV] 11 She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: **go, and sin no more**.

Further clarification

- Jesus is clear in those passages, and within context He is telling us what He expects from us. To “carry our cross daily, and die for Him.” This is not sinless perfection, that is heresy. You will likely stumble, but you *do not have to*, if you are truly abiding in Christ. This is not pelagianism, as it is not our will, it is His will we must desire be done *through us*. It is also not Lordship Salvation, as that requires the individual to perform good works for Him, instead of understanding that His works must come through us. This is the great mystery, Paul reveals in Gal 2:20
- [Gal 2:20 KJV] 20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; **yet not I, but Christ liveth in me**: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Abiding in Him

- This is the only way to make sense of the *numerous* warnings in the New Testament, including from Jesus against self deception. If you are eternally secure, those passages are worthless to you. Even if you were deceived, God will not *cast you off* as is warned to believers.
- [1Co 3:16-17 KJV] 16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and [that] the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? 17 If any man defile the temple of God, **him shall God destroy**; for the temple of God is holy, which [temple] ye are.

Let no man deceive you - Matt

- [Mat 7:15 KJV] 15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.
- [Mat 7:21 KJV] 21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.
- [Mat 7:26 KJV] 26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:
- [Mat 24:4 KJV] 4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.

Let no man deceive you – Mark & Luke

- [Mar 13:5-6 KJV] 5 And Jesus answering them began to say, Take heed lest any [man] deceive you: 6 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am [Christ]; and shall deceive many.
- [Luk 21:8 KJV] 8 And he said, Take heed that ye be not deceived: for many shall come in my name, saying, I am [Christ]; and the time draweth near: go ye not therefore after them.

Let no man deceive you – Romans & Corinthians

- [Rom 16:18 KJV] 18 For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches **deceive the hearts of the simple.**
- [1Co 3:18 KJV] 18 **Let no man deceive himself.** If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise.
- [1Co 6:9 KJV] 9 Know ye not that **the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived:** neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,
- [1Co 15:33 KJV] 33 **Be not deceived:** evil communications corrupt good manners.

Let no man deceive you – Galatians & Ephesians

- [Gal 6:3, 7 KJV] 3 For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, **he deceiveth himself**. ... 7 **Be not deceived**; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.
- [Eph 4:14 KJV] 14 That we [henceforth] be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, [and] cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;
- [Eph 5:6 KJV] 6 **Let no man deceive you** with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.

Let no man deceive you – Thess and Tim

- [2Th 2:3, 10 KJV] 3 **Let no man deceive you by *any* means:** for [that day shall not come], except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; ... 10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.
- [1Ti 2:14 KJV] 14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.
- [2Ti 3:13 KJV] 13 But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, **deceiving, and being deceived.**

Let no man deceive you – Thess and Tim

- [Tit 1:10 KJV] 10 For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision:
- [Tit 3:3 KJV] 3 For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, [and] hating one another.
- [Jas 1:22, 26 KJV] 22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, **deceiving your own selves**. ... 26 If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, **but deceiveth his own heart**, this man's religion [is] vain.

Let no man deceive you – Peter and John

- [2Pe 2:13 KJV] 13 And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, [as] they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots [they are] and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you;
- [1Jo 1:8 KJV] 8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. (this is not a defense of go sin and repent. He's dealing with those stating they are covered by the blood even though they are still enslaved to sin. Heb 10:26-31, Gal 2:17-18)
- [1Jo 3:7 KJV] 7 Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.
- [2Jo 1:7 KJV] 7 For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

Seven pages of warnings

- The last seven pages were filled with warnings of *self* deception leading to hell. I didn't even go into Revelations, as adding all the passages in there warning of self-deception would have doubled that count. It's also important to note, that this is not every warning against self deception. John's first epistle is filled with them. If we say we walk in the light, but still walk in darkness we are liars. If we say we love Him and don't obey His commandments, we are liars. If we are still in bondage to sin, we are liars.
- Yes, as John says at the end of Chapter 1, God is merciful and just to forgive sinners that repent with Godly sorrow. (2 Co 7:9-11, James 4:6-10) But it is not meant to be the Christian walk to sin and "repent". When Paul repented of murdering Christians, did He continue in it?

Paul's conditional security

- [1Co 9:24-27 KJV] 24 Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye *may* obtain. 25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they [do it] to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. 26 I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: 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***.
- Castaway is **adokimos** – it's the same word used in Hebrews for the believer that becomes reprobate and is cast into the fire. Heb 6:8.
- [Heb 6:8 KJV] 8 But that which beareth thorns and briers [is] ***rejected***, [G96] and [is] nigh unto cursing; ***whose end [is] to be burned***.

Do you fear God yet?

- [Exo 20:20 KJV] 20 And Moses said unto the people, Fear not: for God is come to prove you, and that **his fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not.**
- [Heb 10:26-27 KJV] 26 For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth **no more sacrifice for sins**, 27 But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

We have softened God – The God of the New Testament is the same wrath filled God as the Old.

- [2Pe 2:4-5 KJV] 4 For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but **cast [them] down to hell**, and delivered [them] into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; 5 And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth [person], a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;
- What makes you believe God will spare you if you don't turn from your sin? Do you believe this?
- [Phl 4:13 KJV] 13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.
- We can do all things but become free from the bondage of sin?

The natural branch not spared

- [Rom 11:17-25 KJV] 17 And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree; 18 Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee. 19 Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in. 20 Well; because of **unbelief they were broken off**, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear: 21 **For if God spared not the natural branches**, [take heed] **lest he also spare not thee**. 22 Behold therefore the **goodness and severity of God**: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in [his] goodness: otherwise **thou also shalt be cut off**. 23 And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graff them in again. 24 For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural [branches], be grafted into their own olive tree? 25 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.
- You know who else warned of this?

Jesus and the branch

- [Mat 7:15-19 KJV] 15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. 16 Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? 17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither [can] a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. 19 **Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.**
- A “tree” is a believer as Paul tells us. In order to be grafted in, you have to accept Jesus Christ as Lord. But if you do not abide in Him, you cannot bring forth His fruit and you will be *hewn down* and **cast into the fire**.
- [Jhn 15:4-6 KJV] 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. 5 I am the vine, ye [are] the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. 6 **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.**

The cost of discipleship is everything we think we own.

- [Luk 13:24 KJV] 24 **Strive** to enter in at the strait gate: for **many**, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall *not* be able.
- [Luk 14:25-35 KJV] 25 And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them, 26 If any [man] come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. 27 And **whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple**. 28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and **counteth the cost**, whether he have [sufficient] to finish [it]? 29 Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish [it], all that behold [it] begin to mock him, 30 Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. 31 Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? 32 Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace. 33 **So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple**. 34 Salt [is] good: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be seasoned? 35 It is neither fit for the land, nor yet for the dunghill; [but] men cast it out. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Dealing with other arguments

- One of the other arguments I've heard is that we can't be "born again, again". You're right, conditional security is permanent. Once you are cut off, you are like Saul and Judas. That is why the warning is so *severe, about God's wrath*.
- [Eph 5:3-7 KJV] 3 But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; 4 Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. 5 For this ye know, that **no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.** 6 **Let no man deceive you with vain words**: for because of these things cometh **the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.** 7 **Be not ye therefore partakers with them.**

Jesus took the wrath of God for us!

- There is not a single passage in the Bible that can be expositied to this. He was the atonement for our prior sins (Ro 3:25) and will appear with us on Judgment day, and that's why through His power we must appear blameless before God.
- [Col 3:1-7 KJV] 1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. 2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 **For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.** 4 When Christ, [who is] our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. 5 ***Mortify*** therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: 6 **For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:** 7 In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. (PAST TENSE)

Closing

- I pray this edifies you, I am not here to destroy your assurance of Salvation – but to help you secure it in the fear of the Lord. That security is conditional, on our faithfulness to Him. If he didn't spare the Jews in the desert who worshipped the golden calf, why would He spare us if we do not repent? The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and eternal security and antinomians destroy this fear, destroying wisdom. They are in bondage to sin, and may be worse off as Peter warns. I write this that you may find the fear of the Lord. That you strive to perfect your holiness in the fear of God, to mortify your flesh daily so that the spirit can strive through you in the works God predestined for Christ.
- [2Co 7:1 KJV] 1 Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, **perfecting holiness in the fear of God.**