

Fall From Grace - cont.

Fourth, there are conditional “if” statements in the Bible that show that one’s eternal salvation is conditioned upon faithful obedience to God all the way to the end. Conditional statements like:

“And let us not be weary in well-doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not (Galatians 6:9).

“for we are become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our confidence firm unto the end” (Hebrews 3:14).

“If that which ye heard from the beginning abide in you, ye also shall abide in the Son, and in the Father” (1 John 2:24).

Other conditional statements are found in these passages: John 8:31; Colossians 1:22-23; 2 Peter 1:10-11; and 1 John 1:7.

The doctrine of “once saved always saved” is a most comforting and consoling doctrine of man, but wishing it to be will not make it so. Telling someone they cannot fall from grace is like the Devil telling Eve she would not die (Genesis 3:4).

Yes, you can fall from grace! But, the good news is that you don’t have to. God tells you in his word how to keep from falling (2 Peter 1:5-11) and God tells you what to do when you fall (1 John 1:7-9). If you fall, you can get up again and live faithfully all the way to the end. - *Chris Reeves*

Sentence Sermons

- No man’s character is better than his word.
- The heart of education is the education of the heart.
- Popularity comes from pleasing people, but greatness comes from pleasing God.
- The best thing parents can spend on their children is time, not money.
- Some people read just enough of the Bible to stay misinformed.

Warfield Blvd. church of Christ
290 Warfield Blvd.
Clarksville, TN 37043

Website
WBCOC.org

Assembly Times
Sunday: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 6 pm
Wednesday: 7 pm

Everyone Is Welcome!
For More Information Call
(931) 647-1324

Published and Edited By
Chris Reeves
(615) 389-3250
chrisreevesmail@gmail.com
TheGoodTeacher.com

THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

January 27, 2019



For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Yes, You Can Fall From Grace

Does the Bible teach “once saved always saved”? Does the Bible teach the “impossibility of apostasy”? Many religious people today would answer, “Yes”! But, what does the Bible itself teach?

The “once saved always saved” (impossibility of apostasy) doctrine of man is taken from the fifth point of the Five Points of John Calvin known today as TULIP (first published in 1536):

Total depravity
Unconditional election
Limited atonement
Irresistible grace
Perseverance of the saints

Calvin taught that God’s power is so strong that he will not allow any of his saved ones to fall away and be lost. However, God’s power to save is not the issue. Man’s power to remain faithful is the issue. God’s power to save does not override man’s free-will power to remain faithful to God (John 10:27-29; 1 Peter 1:5).

The Bible is very clear that a saved person can fall from grace. There are four ways that the Bible teaches this: 1) plain statements of apostasy, 2) clear examples of apostasy, 3) severe warnings against apostasy, and 4) conditional “if” statements. Let us now examine these four areas of biblical teaching.

First, there are plain statements in the

Bible that teach a saved person can fall from grace. Statements like:

“Ye are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you are fallen away from grace” (Galatians 5:4).

“But the Spirit says expressly, that in later times some shall fall away from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons” (1 Timothy 4:1).

Other plain statements about apostasy would include Bible passages about temptation (Luke 8:13), the branches that do not bear fruit (John 15:1-5), and willful sin (Hebrews 10:26-31).

Second, there are clear examples of apostasy in the Bible. Examples like:

“For as touching those who were once enlightened and tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the age to come, and then fell away, it is impossible to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame” (Hebrews 6:4-6).

“But I have this against thee, that thou didst leave thy first love. Remember therefore whence thou art fallen, and repent and do the first works; or else I come to thee, and will move thy candlestick out of its place, except thou repent” (Revelation 2:4-5).

Other clear examples of apostasy would include Judas (Acts 1:25), Simon (Acts 8:18-24), Hymenaeus (1 Timothy 1:19-20; 2 Timothy 2:17-18), erring brethren (James 5:19-20), those who escaped the world (2 Peter 2:20-22), and the OT Israelites (Jude 5; see also Romans 11:11-24).

Third, the Bible contains severe warnings against the possibility of falling away. Warnings like:

“Now these things happened unto them by way of example; and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages are come. Wherefore let him that thinks he stands take heed lest he fall (1 Corinthians 10:11-12).

“Take heed, brethren, lest haply there shall be in any one of you an evil heart of unbelief, in falling away from the living God” (Hebrews 3:12).

“looking carefully lest there be any man that falls short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby the many be defiled” (Hebrews 12:15).

Other warnings against apostasy would include the statements about buffeting Paul’s body (1 Corinthians 9:27), sinning willfully (Hebrews 10:26), shrinking back (Heb. 10:38-39), and one’s name being blotted out (Revelation 3:5). - *continued*