



The Good News

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How can I teach my friends that once saved is not always saved?

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This question is much different than just asking “is once saved always saved?” One question is seeking the answer, but the other question already understands the answer and seeks to teach others why the answer is correct. The Bible teaches that once saved is not always saved, but how can we go about making it clear and precise to our friends so that they can understand the truth? Just as a side point in this, the concept of “saved” is very subjective in the religious world with so many theories on how to be saved. The bottom line is that it makes no sense to believe in “once saved always saved” if one was never “saved” according to the Bible pattern to begin with.

What will my friends believe? There will be many different concepts we will encounter as we study with people who have “once saved, always saved” beliefs. However, it is noteworthy that very few will ever admit to the “once saved, always saved” label of belief. Rather, it is a culmination of their beliefs that essentially equate to believing in “once saved always saved”

- 1) *“Those who profess faith and fall away were never saved to begin with.”* This is a very convenient belief for many people in the world because it makes salvation, and lack of salvation, very cut and dry. The overriding belief is that if one is truly saved, God will have changed them so that they cannot fall away. If they do fall away, then they were never saved to begin with because God never changed them. It is also noteworthy, considering our next point, that “falling away” is not defined as falling into sin, but rather turning their backs on God and Jesus completely (i.e. becoming an atheist, etc.).
- 2) *“Salvation comes by grace. Sin no longer impacts our spiritual relationship with the Father because we’re under grace.”* This is

also a very convenient belief as this means that there is no way to lose salvation after we have become “saved”. Even if we sin or live lives of sin after we become “saved”, this does not endanger our salvation.

How can I teach my friends that these concepts are not what the Bible teaches?

- 1) An obedient faith brings us into a state of grace with God, but it is not necessarily permanent: **Heb. 12:15, Gal. 5:4**. Nothing is more obvious from these passages than that the writers are warning saved individuals of the dangers to their state of grace with God.
- 2) An obedient faith ensures salvation: **Col. 1:22-23, Rom. 11:22-24**. Again, nothing is more obvious here than that Paul is telling saved individuals that the only way to remain in a state of grace with the Father is by maintaining obedience and purity.
- 3) Sin still impacts my relationship with the Father: **Heb. 10:26-31, I Jn. 1:5-7**. These writers also make it clear that fellowship with the Father (i.e. state of grace, salvation) depends upon my abstaining from sin as sin removes me from fellowship with the Father, even after I become “saved”.

Ultimately, our friends may not want to admit what the Bible teaches on this subject because it would require a fundamental change in their beliefs on salvation itself. However, we must try to reach them with the truth, in the hopes that they will heed the word of God, and become truly “saved” according to the New Testament teaching.