

San Juan church of Christ

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What Does God's Word Say About... Can A Christian Fall From Grace?

There are those who believe when a person "is saved" they will not fall from grace. The scripture they use out of context to justify this reads "and I give eternal life to them and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand," (John 10:28). To understand this verse we need to recognize that Jesus is speaking to the Jews who did not believe in "the works" that Jesus did in the "Father's name," which testified "of Jesus," (John 10:24-25). Jesus told these Jews "you do not believe because you are not of My sheep. My sheep hear my voice and I know them, and they follow Me," (John 10:26-27). Those who "hear My voice" are those who will "hear His words," (John 5:24, 12:48). Those who "hear" the words of Christ and are obedient to them (Heb. 5:9) will be in fellowship with Christ and Satan will not snatch them out of His hand.

Paul wrote that there is "no condemnation for those who are IN Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life IN Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death," (Rom. 8:1-2). This scripture teaches us that we need to be "in Christ" to receive the grace of God. Paul tells us "that all of us who have been baptized [water] INTO Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death," (Rom. 6:3). Paul then asks the question, "Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be! Do you not know that when you present yourself to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves to the one who you obey, either in sin resulting in death or OBEEDIENCE resulting in righteousness?" (Rom. 6:15-16). Paul then tells these Roman Christians, "But thanks be to God that though you WERE slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching [doctrine] to which you were committed, and having been freed from sin you became slaves of righteousness," (Rom. 6:17-18).

Christians [in Christ] come in contact with the blood of Jesus and His saving grace if they continue to "walk in the light" [keep His commandments] which places them in fellowship with God. They can lose grace if they walk in "darkness" [practice unrighteousness] (1 John 1:6-7). It is amazing that people would believe that it is impossible for a Christian to fall from grace when so many scriptures teach otherwise: "Some have rejected and suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith," (1 Tim: 19-20). The Hebrew writer claims those who have been enlightened [believed], tasted of the heavenly gift [salvation], been partakers of the Holy Spirit [through water baptism], and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them to repentance...who else could possibly save them? (Heb. 6:4-6) The apostle Peter also spoke of falling from grace in 2 Peter 2:20.

Please send any comments, questions, or requests for a Bible study to:

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