



Can a Christian lose their salvation? Once we are saved are we always saved?

By Bill Subritzky

Many Christians hold the view that once they are born again they cannot lose their salvation even if they continue in sin. They believe that the grace of God will keep them saved. This doctrine is called once saved always saved.

But what does the Bible have to say about this?

Jesus said, "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it." (Matthew 7:13-14.)

Jesus also said, "Many are called, but few are chosen." (Matthew 22:14.)

The following scriptures demonstrate that a Christian can lose their salvation by:

1. FAILING TO FORGIVE.

Jesus warns His disciples against unforgiveness. Forgiveness cannot be taken for granted. It can be withdrawn or cancelled if the mercy is not passed on.

If the born-again believer in Christ does not forgive, God will deliver that person to the torturers (demons).

Matthew 18:34-35.

"And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him."

“So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.”

If the believer in Christ does not forgive, God will not forgive that person.

Matthew 6:14-15.

"For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, **neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.**"

The believer in Christ must forgive when he or she is praying.

Mark 11:25-26.

"And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, **forgive him**, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses.

But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses."

2. BY SINNING

Jesus warned his disciples about the consequences of sin.

Matthew 18:6-9.

“Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea.

Woe to the world because of offenses! For offenses must come, **but woe to that man by whom the offense comes!**

“If your hand or foot causes you to sin, **cut it off** and cast it from you. It is better for you to enter into life lame or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet, to be cast into the everlasting fire.

And if your eye causes you to sin, **pluck it out** and cast it from you. It is better for you to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire.”

Paul the apostle makes the statement that the "saints" were actually storing up wrath for themselves because of their sins.

Romans 2:5.

“But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself **wrath** in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God.”

Romans 6:1-2.

“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? ”

Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? Certainly not!

Romans 6:15.

“What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not!”

Wages of sin.

Romans 6:23.

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

We must put to death the deeds of the body in order to have eternal life.

Romans 8:13.

“For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.”

All of the above scriptures were not written to unbelievers but to believers in Christ.

Losing our salvation.

In 1 Corinthians 5:1-5, Paul is saying that if this man's sinning is not put to an end he will lose his salvation.

“It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles—that a man has his father’s wife!

“And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you.

For I indeed, as absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged (as though I were present) him who has so done this deed.

“In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, deliver such a one to Satan for the **destruction of the flesh**, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.” (1 Corinthians 5:1-5.)

How the believer in Christ can lose their inheritance in the kingdom of God.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11.

"Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God?

Do not be deceived.

Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God."

It is clear from this Scripture that involvement in the above sins, unless repented from, will cause a person to lose their inheritance in the kingdom of God.

This is addressed to believers because he says that at one time they were washed, sanctified and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Obviously they have been backsliding.

Sexual immorality.

1 Corinthians 10:6-11.

"Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted.

And do not become idolaters as were some of them. As it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play."

Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell; nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents; nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer.

Now all these things **happened to them as examples**, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come."

Further warnings to believers in Christ about results of sin.

2 Corinthians 12:21.

"...lest, when I come again, my God will humble me among you and I shall mourn for many who have sinned before and have not repented of the uncleanness, fornication, and lewdness which they have practised."

More warnings how the practice of sin can disqualify believers in Christ from inheriting the kingdom of God.

Galatians 5:19-21.

"Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders,

drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, **that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.**”

Warnings to believers in Christ about not inheriting the kingdom of God because of sin.

Ephesians 5:5.

“For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.”

Paul is warning about the result of sinful conduct on the part of believers.

Philippians 3:17-19.

“Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.

For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame— who set their mind on earthly things.”

Sin on the part of the believer will incur the anger and judgment of God.

Colossians 3:5-8.

“Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.”

Every transgression and disobedience receives a just reward.

Hebrews 2:1-3.

“Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, **lest we drift away.**

For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him,”

A clear exposition to Christian believers that they can lose salvation.

Hebrews 6:1-12.

“Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this we will do if God permits.

For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.

For the earth which drinks in the rain that often comes upon it, and bears herbs useful for those by whom it is cultivated, receives blessing from God; but if it bears thorns and briers, it is rejected and near to being cursed, whose end is to be burned.

But, beloved, we are confident of better things concerning you, yes, things that accompany salvation, though we speak in this manner.

For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.”

If we sin wilfully and continue to sin we can come under the anger of God and it is a fearful thing to fall into His hands.

Hebrews 10:26-31.

“For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, **there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins**, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.

Anyone who has rejected Moses’ law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.

Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?

For we know Him who said, **“Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,”** says the Lord. **And again, “The Lord will judge His people.”** It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”

If we are drawn away from God and enticed by our own lusts.

James 1:12-16.

“Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.

But each one is tempted when **he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed**. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.’

If we wander from the truth.

James 5:19-20.

“Brethren, if anyone among you **wanders from the truth**, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

Reminder to the believers of the dangers of sin and losing one’s salvation.

Jude 3-5.

“Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, **having saved** the people out of the land of Egypt, **afterward destroyed those who did not believe.**”

Those believers who commit these sins will have their part in the lake of fire.

Revelation 21:7-8.

“He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars **shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone**, which is the second death.”

3. BY NOT BECOMING SANCTIFIED (SET APART MADE HOLY TO GOD).

Guests need to be in the appropriate clothes. Therefore an acceptance of the Gospel invitation must be followed by a changed lifestyle for final admission to the marriage feast.

When we are born-again there must be a total change in our way of life if we are going to inherit the kingdom of God. We cannot continue to live in our old lifestyle following the ways of the world.

Matthew 22:1-3.

“And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: “The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come.”

Matthew 22:11-14.

“But when the king came in to see the guests, **he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment.**

So he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless.

Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

“For many are called, but few are chosen.”

4. BY NOT BEING ALWAYS READY AND FAITHFULLY ENDURING UNTIL THE END.

Jesus warns about the coming signs and says that those who endure to the end will be saved.

The following scriptures represent the disciples of Jesus. In each case the master/bridegroom is delayed.

(1). The servant who abused those under him was cut in pieces and put in a place with hypocrites where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

(2). The five bridesmaids who were unprepared for a long wait were shut out in the midnight darkness.

(3). The lazy, wicked man who buried his talent was thrown into darkness (hell) with weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Therefore the disciples of Jesus who are found to be unfaithful and have not endured when Jesus returns will end up in hell. Judas Iscariot was one of those people.

Matthew 24:13.

"But he who **endures** to the end shall be saved."

The faithful and wise servant is compared to the evil servant who will be appointed to damnation.

Matthew 24:45-51.

"Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season?"

Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing.

Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods.

But if that evil servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,' and begins to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards, the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of, and **will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites.** There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

The five wise virgins and the five foolish ones.

Matthew 25:1-13.

"Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.

Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish.

Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept.

"And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!'

Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps.

And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.'

But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.'

And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut.

"Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' But he answered and said, '**Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.**'"

"Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming."

Parable of the talents.

Matthew 25:14-30.

In the parable of the talents Jesus speaks of a man travelling to a far country who gave to one of his servants five talents, another two and another one, each according to their ability.

The one with five talents traded and gained another five, the one with two another two but the one who only had one talent did nothing and hid his talent.

The two servants who had multiplied their talents were commended by the master on his return.

Matthew 25:26-30.

“However, the master said to one who did nothing, "You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed.

So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest.

So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents.

‘For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away.

And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

5. BY NOT HAVING GOOD FRUIT IN OUR LIVES.

The four types of ground. Only one type will bear good fruit.

Luke 8:4-8.

And when a great multitude had gathered, and they had come to Him (Jesus) from every city, He spoke by a parable:

“A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air **devoured it.**

Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture.

And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and **choked it.**

But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and **yielded a crop** a hundredfold.”

When He had said these things He cried, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

Luke 8:12.

“Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and **takes away the word** out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.”

(a) **Only one type of ground** bore good fruit which lasted. This refers to the fact that anybody coming to Christ must have good ground in their heart otherwise they can lose their salvation.

(b) The seed by the wayside refers to those who hear and the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, "Lest they should believe and be saved."

(c) The ones on the rock are those who when they hear, receive the word with joy but fall away in times of temptation.

(d) The ones that fell among the thorns are those when they have heard are choked with the cares and riches and pleasures of the world and lose their salvation.

(e) The ones on good ground are those who keep the Word and bear fruit with patience.

6. BY LOOKING BACK.

If we look back to our old lifestyle and unsaved friends, we can lose our salvation because we will be tempted to follow them.

Luke 9:62.

"But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

7. BY NOT CONTINUING TO BELIEVE.

John 3:16.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever **believes** in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

The correct translation of the word "believes" is "goes on believing".

John 11:26.

"And whoever lives and **believes** in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

The correct translation should be, "Whoever lives and believes and goes on believing as long as they go on living will never die."

It is only if we abide in the Word of God that we are His disciples.

John 8:31.

“Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, **“If** you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.”

Jesus said, **“If** you abide in My word you are My disciples indeed.” **Note the “If”.**

Believers in Christ must go on believing.

Romans 1:16.

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who **believes**, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.”

The correct translation is, “Everyone who is believing now, everyone who goes on believing.”

8. BY NOT ABIDING IN THE VINE (JESUS).

Believers in Christ must abide in the vine (Jesus). Otherwise they will become fruitless, wither and die.

John 15:1-6.

Jesus said, “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.

Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

“I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

If anyone does not abide in Me, **he is cast out as a branch and is withered**; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.”

9. BY NOT BEING PREPARED TO SUFFER FOR JESUS.

Romans 8:16-17.

“The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and **if** children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, **if** indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.” (Romans 8:16-17.)

Note the word “if” is used twice.

To qualify for our inheritance in Christ, we must be both children of God and be prepared to share in the sufferings of Christ.

If and only if this is the case we will inherit the kingdom of God.

10. BY NOT CONTINUING IN THE GOODNESS OF GOD.

We will only have the goodness of God if we continue in His goodness otherwise we will be cut off.

Romans 11:22.

“Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off.”

11. BY LACK OF DISCIPLINE IN OUR LIVES.

Paul says how he himself could lose his salvation.

1 Corinthians 9:27.

“But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.”

Paul is referring to the possibility, that if he didn't discipline his body, its habits and appetites, he himself could be disqualified from salvation.

12. BY NOT STANDING FIRM IN THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST.

1 Corinthians 10:12.

“Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.”

13. BY NOT HOLDING FAST TO THE WORD OF GOD.

1 Corinthians 15:1-2.

“Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, **if you hold fast that word which I preached to you**—unless you believed in vain.”

The correct translation of verse 2 is, "By which also you are saved, being saved, go on being saved, if you hold firmly, are holding firmly, go on holding firmly, to the word I preach to you otherwise you believed in vain."

14. BY NOT EXAMINING OURSELVES.

The following Scripture is addressed to believers in Christ in the church at Corinth and warns how they could be become disqualified from the kingdom of God.

2 Corinthians 13:5.

“Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.”

15. BY BEING DECEIVED.

“Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.” (Ephesians 5:6.)

16. BY NOT WORKING OUT YOUR OWN SALVATION WITH FEAR AND TREMBLING.

Here is a further warning to believers in Christ of the need to walk carefully before God. Obviously Paul did not take his salvation for granted.

Philippians 2:12.

“Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;”

Philippians 3:10-15.

“...that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, **if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.**

Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.

Brethren, **I do not count myself to have apprehended;** but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, **I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.**

Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you.”

17. BY NOT CONTINUING GROUNDED AND STEADFAST IN THE FAITH

Colossians 1:21-23.

“And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight— **if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast**, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.”

Colossians 2:6-8.

“As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.

Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.”

18. BY ALLOWING OURSELVES TO BE CHEATED OUT OF OUR SALVATION.

Colossians 2:18.

“Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,”

19. BY TEMPTATION.

Paul expresses his fear that the believers in Christ may have lost their salvation.

1 Thessalonians 3:5.

“For this reason, when I could no longer endure it, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter had tempted you, and our labor might be in vain.”

20. BY REJECTING THE FAITH.

Some believers in Christ had already rejected their faith.

1 Timothy 1:18-20.

“This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, having faith and a good conscience, which **some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck**, of whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.”

21. BY NOT CONTINUING IN THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST.

Paul is teaching Timothy that as he keeps in the doctrine that he will both save himself and those who hear him. Note the importance Paul puts on the matter of doctrine to ensure salvation.

1 Timothy 4:16.

“Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.”

22. BY LIVING IN WORLDLY PLEASURES SO THAT WE DIE SPIRITUALLY.

A Christian widow who lives in pleasure but already dies spiritually.

1 Timothy 5:6.

“But she who lives in pleasure **is dead while she lives.**”

23. BY NOT LOOKING AFTER OUR OWN HOUSEHOLD.

1 Timothy 5:8.

“But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, **he has denied the faith** and is worse than an unbeliever.”

24. BY TURNING TO SATAN AND RICHES.

Paul says in his letter to Timothy that some Christians had already turned to Satan. Others had strayed from the faith because of their greediness.

1 Timothy 5:15.

“For some have already turned aside after Satan.”

1 Timothy 6:9.

“But those who desire to be rich **fall into temptation and a snare**, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.”

25. BY DENYING JESUS.

If we deny Jesus, He will deny us.

2 Timothy 2:12-13.

“If we endure, we shall also reign with Him.

If we deny Him, **He also will deny us**. If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.”

26. BY FAILING TO ACCEPT CORRECTION FROM ELDERS AND TEACHERS.

People who would not accept correction from elders and teachers are warned that they can be taken captive by the devil thus losing their salvation.

2 Timothy 2:25-26.

“in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, **having been taken captive by him to do his will.**”

27. BY NOT HOLDING FAST TO OUR CONFIDENCE AND HOPE FIRMLY UNTIL THE END.

Hebrews 3:6.

“but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are **if we hold fast** the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.”

Hebrews 3:14.

“For we have become partakers of Christ **if we hold** the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end.”

28. BY UNBELIEF AND DEPARTING FROM THE LIVING GOD.

Hebrews 3:12.

“Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God;”

29. BY UNBELIEF.

Hebrews 3:18-19 refers to the people of Israel who failed to enter the Promised Land because of their unbelief.

“And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey? So we see that **they could not enter in because of unbelief.**”

This is a warning to believers in Christ.

Hebrews 4:11.

“Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, **lest anyone fall** according to the same example of disobedience.”

30. BY NOT PURSUING PEACE AND HOLINESS.

Hebrews 12:14.

“Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, **without which no one will see the Lord:**”

31. BY DISOBEDIENCE.

1 Peter 4:17-18.

“For the time has come for **judgment to begin at the house of God**; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?

Now, **“If the righteous one is scarcely saved,**
Where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?”

As believers we need to ensure that we have the following attributes to ensure our entrance into the everlasting kingdom.

2 Peter 1:5-11.

“But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.

For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.

Therefore, brethren, **be even more diligent to make your call and election sure**, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

32. BY BECOMING ENTANGLED IN THE POLLUTIONS OF THE WORLD.

2 Peter 2:20-21.

“For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the **latter end is worse for them than the beginning**.

For it would have been **better for them not to have known the way of righteousness**, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them.”

33. BY NOT REMAINING STEADFAST.

2 Peter 3:17.

“You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also **fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked;**”

34. BY NOT ABIDING IN THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST.

We will only abide in the Son and the Father if what we have heard abides in us.

1 John 2:24.

“Therefore let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. **If** what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.”

35. BY NOT CONTINUING TO BELIEVE.

Only he who believes and continues to believe that Jesus is the Son of God will overcome the world.

1 John 5:5.

“Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?”

36. BY NOT BEING AN OVERCOMER.

A born-again believer in Christ needs to be an overcomer.

The following statements by Jesus make it absolutely clear that only overcomers and those whose name remains in the Book of Life will inherit the kingdom of God.

Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 26.

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. **To him who overcomes** I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.” (Revelation 2:7.)

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. **He who overcomes** shall not be hurt by the second death” (Revelation 2:11.)

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. **To him who overcomes** I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it” (Revelation 2:17.)

“**And he who overcomes**, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations” (Revelation 2:26.)

Revelation 3:5, 12, 21.

“**He who overcomes** shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.” (Revelation 3:5.)

“**He who overcomes**, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.” (Revelation 3:12.)

“**To him who overcomes** I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.” (Revelation 3:21.)

37. BY NOT HAVING OUR NAME WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF LIFE.

Those not written in the Book of Life will be cast into the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:15.

“And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was **cast into the lake of fire.**”

38. BY TAKING AWAY THE WORDS OF THE PROPHECY OF GOD.

Revelation 22:19.

“and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, **God shall take away** his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.”

CONCLUSION

It is perfectly clear from the many warnings in the above scriptures that unless we walk carefully before God and in obedience to Him **we can, as born-again believers, lose our salvation.**

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