

3. A Very Important Statement:

The eternal security of all true believers is the work of God alone who guarantees that His gift of salvation, once received, is forever and cannot be lost.

4. How can a true believer be confident that their salvation is forever?

A. Direct Statement from the Word of God:

The Securing work of God, the Father

Ephesians 1:4, NASB95 - ⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. ⁵ He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will ...

The Securing work of God, the Son—Jesus Christ

Romans 3:25, NLT - ²⁵ For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past...

John 10:27-28, NASB95 - ²⁷ "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; ²⁸ and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand."

The Securing work of God, the Holy Spirit

Ephesians 1:13-14, NIV - ¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit **guaranteeing** our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

B. The Witness of the Holy Spirit in our Hearts:

Hebrews 10:15, GNT - ¹⁵ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God."

Realize that our relationship with God will never changes once He is made the Lord of our lives.

What does change is our fellowship with God.

A

Acts 16:31, NASB95 - "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved..." [The command: "Believe..."; the Promise: "You will be saved."]

C. The Outward Evidence of an Inward Change:

2 Corinthians 5:17, NASB95 - ¹⁷ Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

Matthew 7:20, NASB95 - ²⁰ "So then, you will know them by their fruits.

Ephesians 5:25–27, NASB95 - ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, ²⁶ so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.

Matthew 5:16, NASB95 - ¹⁶ "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

THIS STATEMENT IS OF THE GREATEST IMPORTANCE:

Nothing is more important than settling—*once and for all*—whether a person is genuinely saved. Eternity is certainly at stake. Heaven and Hell are *in the balance*.

If you have serious doubt about your salvation, please see your pastor or a trusted Christian friend immediately to bring needed resolution to this important matter.

D. How can you know if you are saved?

1. **There will be an upward path.** (In other words, there will be evident progress in the Christ walk.)
2. **There will be an inward peace.** (God's Holy Spirit will settle the believer's heart regarding this question.)
3. **There will be an outward witness.** (True believers have to tell others what God has done for them—they can't keep quiet.)



theism is a strange thing. Even the devils never fell into that vice. "The Devils also tremble and believe (James 2:19)."

- C. H. Spurgeon

From “He Still Moves Stones”, by Max Lucado

Insights from the Story of Nicodemus, cf., John 3:1-12

Nicodemus is drawn to the carpenter, but he can't be seen with him. Nicodemus is on the high court. He can't approach Jesus in the day. So, Nicodemus goes to meet him at night. He goes in the darkness.

Appropriate. For legalism offers no light. Nicodemus begins with courtesies, “Teacher, we know you are a teacher sent from God, because no one can do the miracles you do unless God is with him” (v. 2).

Jesus disregards the compliment. “I tell you the truth, unless one is born again, he cannot be in God's kingdom” (v. 3). No chitchat here. No idle talk. Straight to the point. Straight to the heart. Straight to the problem. Jesus knows the heart of the legalist is hard. You can't crack it with feathery accolades. You need a chisel. So, Jesus hammers away:

You can't help the blind by turning up the light, Nicodemus.
You can't help the deaf by turning up the music, Nicodemus.
You can't change the inside by decorating the outside, Nicodemus.
You can't grow fruit without seed, Nicodemus.
You must be born again.
Whack! ... Whack! ... Whack! ...

The meeting between Jesus and Nicodemus was more than an encounter between two religious figures. It was a collision between two philosophies. Two opposing views on salvation. Nicodemus thought the person did the work; Jesus says God does the work. Nicodemus thought it was a tradeoff. Jesus says it is a gift. Nicodemus thought man's job was to earn it. Jesus says man's job is to accept it.

These two views encompass all views. All the world religions can be placed in one of two camps: legalism or grace. Humankind does it or God does it. Salvation as a wage based on deeds done—or salvation as a gift based on Christ's death.¹

- Pastor Max Lucado



Here at SRBC, we will always preach both the sovereignty of God and the responsibility of man in the salvation process.

- Pastor Joe

TOUGH QUESTIONS

and Straight Answers by Pastor Joe K. Taylor

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All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • Pastor Joe's email is Joe@southreno.com.

Here's the **TOUGH QUESTION:**

Can a Christian Lose His/Her Salvation?

(And, how can we know we are saved anyway?)

Here's the **STRAIGHT ANSWER:**

1. The Short Answer:

NO!

We will get to “How can a person know if they are saved anyway?”

2. Introduction to the issue:

- A. Baptists have a phrase, “Once Saved—Always Saved.” I think to be theologically accurate, we might word it this way: “Once saved—Always Changed.”
- B. We must understand the basics of Biblical Salvation: we are saved by grace, through faith in Jesus Christ—not by works.
- C. Definition: Salvation is the conviction that, though you were previously lost and separated from God, you are now redeemed by Christ's sacrificial death on the cross and saved for all eternity. You may or may not have had a dramatic experience upon conversion, and you may or may not feel any different, but you have the settled confidence that Christ has entered your life, has saved you, and recreated you and will never leave you or forsake you.

¹ Lucado, Max: He Still Moves Stones. Nashville : Word Pub., 1999. Chapter 13.