

Sermon Outline

“CAN A CHRISTIAN FALL AWAY ...?”

Bible Readings: John 15:1-8, Mark 4:1-20 | Geoff Lin

Theological Principle #1: “Once saved, always saved”

John 10:27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; **no one can snatch them out of my hand**. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; **no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand**. 30 I and the Father are one.”

Theological Principle #2: “When God saves you, you want to live like you’ve been saved”

Jn 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. **If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit**; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.

Php 2:12 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—**continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you** to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

2 Pet 1:10 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, **make every effort to confirm your calling and election**. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, 11 and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

- not "you're saved by the way you live" but "because you've been saved, live a particular way"

- how we live is not the **cause** of our salvation but its **consequence**

Q. How much do I have to do?

Php 3:12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but **I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me**.

Q1. Can Christians fall away?

Q2. Can Christians live however they want?

Q3. What about those who once professed faith but now no longer follow Jesus?

Mk 4:14 The farmer sows the word. 15 Some people are like **seed along the path**, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them. 16 Others, like **seed sown on rocky places**, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. 17 But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. 18 Still others, like **seed sown among thorns**, hear the word; 19 but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. 20 Others, like **seed sown on good soil**, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown.”

Mk 4:9 Then Jesus said, “Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”

Q4. What about me? How can I be truly sure that I am saved?

Q. Why are you asking?

Mk 9:23 “If you can?” said Jesus. “Everything is possible for one who believes.” 24 Immediately the boy’s father exclaimed, “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!”

Rom 10:9 If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.