



Be Assured

*“These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God,
in order that you may know that you have eternal life.”*

I John 5:13

Is it possible for a person who has a) heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ (John 3:16), b) responded to it by faith (Romans 10:8-13), c) been saved, therefore, by the grace of God (Ephesians 2:8) and d) sealed by the Holy Spirit - who is, Himself, the pledge and promise of the inheritance to come, i.e., eternal life (Ephesians 1:13, 14) - to at some point and in some way do something so bad, evil or wrong so as to lose or forfeit his/her salvation?

No.

1. To suggest otherwise is to make the hope of salvation dependent on one's own good works/efforts and, therefore, dependent on how well he or she is doing with God at any given moment in time. This clearly violates Ephesians 2:9. If the promise of salvation is truly a gift given by God (which it is; see Romans 6:23b), then it cannot a) be earned or lost through human effort, nor b) taken away by an otherwise capricious God (see Hebrews 13:8; I Peter 1:24, 25).
2. To suggest otherwise is to make man the sole arbiter of his own salvation. This clearly violates I Timothy 2:5 which describes Jesus Christ as the one and only mediator between God and man. In addition, it is Christ who alone has been appointed by God to judge the living and the dead (Acts 10:38-42) and He will judge believers not according to their deeds, but according to their faith in Christ; that is, the sincere faith they exercise in the moment they first believe (John 3:17, 18).
3. To suggest otherwise is to negate the fact that those who choose Christ by faith were first chosen by God for salvation (before the foundation of the world) and predestined for adoption as sons and daughters to Himself through Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:3-6).
4. To suggest otherwise is to confuse the doctrine of justification with the doctrine of sanctification.

It is not salvation that is lost in periods of doubt, disbelief or spiritual degeneration, but, rather, what is lost (or shaken) is our confidence in the fact that God still loves us (that He is still with and for us, etc.) in spite of ourselves. Indeed in such times, we can lose sight of the fact that we are the children of God; and this will always be (John 1:12).

These feelings of doubt concerning the certainty of our salvation are often the result of our own guilt over sin, or caused by spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places (Ephesians 6:12) who whisper lies to us about ourselves and our God; forces who would have us first to doubt and then to deny or walk away from our faith.

In either case, we should remain confident of God's love and certain (assured) of our salvation based on His unchanging Word (John 10:27, 28). In addition and where real guilt from sin exists, we should not spend time questioning our salvation (that is our justification, i.e., an instantaneous work of the Holy Spirit wrought within us in the moment we first believe; Romans 3:23, 24), but pursuing sanctification (the ongoing process of becoming more like Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit; I Thessalonians 4:1-5; I Peter 1:2) by responding to the convicting work of the Holy Spirit who calls the stumbling believer to repentance (John 16:7-11; I John 1:9).