

## Always Saved? (Yes and No)

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The book of 1 John assures Christians of their salvation in Christ. However, some have taught that a Christian is always saved and can never lose their salvation. Turning to the book of 1 John, let's answer this important question: Is a Christian *always* saved?

### **Absolutely Yes!**

John wrote his first letter to Christians who apparently lacked confidence in their salvation. He offered convincing truths to build their confidence. Consider the following statements in John's letter: 1:7, 2:1, 2:25, 2:28, 3:18-21, 4:17, 5:13.

There appears to have been individuals who were trying to deceive Christians about their salvation (2:26). John wanted to bolster the confidence by insuring them that they would not lose their salvation. It is encouraging that God has not and will not abandon his children. Those who are children of God can have confidence that God never changes his mind or makes new requirements for salvation. He *will* honor his promises regarding salvation.

In that respect we can confidently say, "Absolutely Yes!" Once a person has been saved then they can have confidence in God's promises knowing they are always saved.

### **Absolutely Not!**

Some claim that a Christian cannot fall from God's grace. John also answers this claim in his brief letter. Remember, John addressed those who were already saved (2:12-14). In the first chapter He reminded them of their fellowship with God through Christ. Then in the very next chapter he boldly stated:

**I am writing these things to you that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father....(2:1)**

Clearly, John's intent is that Christians should not sin. Yet in the same verse he acknowledges that a Christian might sin, but that there is a remedy for sin *for the Christian*: confession of one's sins. However, if anyone refuses to confess his sins, or if he returns to a life of sin, then he walks in darkness and has no fellowship with God.

Taking it a step further, John states clearly that anyone who hates (rejects) his brother is *currently* walking in darkness. Again, remember that these brothers are Christian brothers. The one who hates his brother is "of the evil one" (3:7-10). So, the Christian who hates his brother has returned to a path of darkness. He no longer walks in the light and forfeits his fellowship with God.

In that respect we can say, "Absolutely Not!" Salvation is conditional. A Christian cannot adopt a casual attitude about sin and return to his former way of life in darkness. In doing so, he will no longer have fellowship with God and will forfeit his salvation. In this case, it is important to see that God has not abandoned his child; rather the child has abandoned the Father.

### **Conclusion**

John's letter was written to bolster the confidence of Christians. Our confidence is founded in our salvation through Jesus. However, confidence in one's salvation is not a license to sin.

Because of our changed nature sin is not our *way of life*. For that reason, the blood of Jesus continues to cleanse us from sin. However, the blood of Jesus does not cleanse those who are opposed to God. So, the real question is whether a Christian will continue to hold to Christ and His promises.