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DON'T FOOL YOURSELF
Real faith is a heart for God

Once you are born of God and become His child, you can not then become 'un-born' - you are always a part of His family, no matter what!

But how is it we see people who have been in the church for ages, who have been Bible teachers, preachers, prayed beautiful prayers, leading people to Christ - then reject the whole Christian scene and become atheists or start to follow some worldly religion?

The issue is not losing your salvation, but NEVER having had it in the first place.

We are very good at deceiving ourselves, thinking we are doing something for the right reason, but then later discovering it was never really in our heart, just our head, and only emotions driving us. If a person's belief and commitment to Jesus is not from the heart, and does not involve true repentance of their sin, then using all the right words and acting the part of a true believer will not give them eternal salvation at all. We are just fooling ourselves. And, sadly, we do it very well at times. Time to get real!

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!' Matt.7:21-23

Eternal salvation is SEALED from day one:

- 1. Adopted by God** - "...the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ... having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will." Eph.1:3-5
- 2. Guaranteed with the Holy Spirit** - "In Him you also trusted... having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption." Eph.1:13-14
- 3. Born again** - "...since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit... having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever." 1 Peter 1:22-23
- 4. God knows our heart** - "...the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: **"The Lord knows those who are His."** 2 Tim. 2:19



You did not earn salvation, it is God's gift to you. God did the work, not you. There were no 'works' you could have done to earn it. Therefore, once you accept that gift through belief, trust & repentance, there is nothing you can do to stop God from completing your salvation in taking you to glory with Him. If you say there are things we might do to cause us to lose our salvation, then you are saying that it is by 'works' that we have it, which goes against the whole New Testament teachings of MERCY & GRACE.

When people come to know Christ as their Saviour, they are brought into a relationship with God that guarantees their eternal security. Jude 24 declares, "To Him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy." God's power is able to keep the believer from falling. It is up to Him, God, not us, to present us before His glorious presence. Our eternal security is a result of God keeping us, not us maintaining our own salvation.

The Lord Jesus Christ proclaimed, "I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand" (John 10:28-29b). Both Jesus and the Father have us firmly grasped in their hand. Who could possibly separate us from the grip of both the Father and the Son?

Ephesians 4:30 tells us that believers are "sealed for the day of redemption." If believers did not have eternal security, the sealing could not truly be unto the day of redemption, but only to the day of sinning, apostasy, or disbelief. John 3:15-16 tells us that whoever believes in Jesus Christ will "have eternal life." If a person were to be promised eternal life, but then have it taken away, it was never "eternal" to begin with. If eternal security is not true, the promises of eternal life in the Bible would be in error.

The most powerful argument for eternal security is Romans 8:38-39, "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, **nor anything else in all creation**, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Our eternal security is based on God's love for those whom He has redeemed. Our eternal security is purchased by Christ, promised by the Father, and sealed by the Holy Spirit.

(Text based on www.gotquestions.org/eternal-security.html)