

THE SEAL OF SALVATION

John 10:27-28 ... "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of my hand."

I accept Christ's words in today's verses as literal truth, which means that once you are a born-again follower of Christ, neither satan, nor man, nor another religion can rob you of your salvation. We call this being "sealed" or "secure" in your salvation. If you are a genuine follower of Christ you cannot be deprived of your eternal promise of heaven by someone else; you are "secure" in your relationship with Christ. With that said, there are other factors that could cause you to end up in hell.

First, we must consider the genuineness of people who claim to be Christians. An authentic relationship with Christ cannot help but change a person. You do not have to change to become a Christian, but you WILL change under the influence of the Holy Spirit after you make that decision. Galatians 5:22-23 tells us that "...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control..." The Holy Spirit residing in you upon becoming born-again, will influence you to produce these traits and behaviors. The results may not be immediate, but signs of change should start to appear soon after making that decision. A person who cannot exercise self-control and stop the sins he or she did before professing Christ, may not be a true believer. A person who cannot love, who lacks joy and kindness, who is not good to others and faithful to God, may not be a genuine believer.

Second, you can voluntarily separate yourself from God in exchange for a relationship with satan. Hebrews 6:4-6 tells us that born-again believers who have enjoyed the presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives may later decide to denounce God and turn away from the faith. If that happens, they do not have a second chance at salvation because they have essentially cursed Christ's blood that was shed for them. This is very serious and I believe that very few people actually do it.

Are you saved? Only you and God can answer that question. If you are not sure, ask Jesus right now to come into your life as your Lord and Savior. If you are saved, will you always be saved? That's up to you. If your decision to follow Jesus was authentic and you allow the Holy Spirit to change you and conform you to the image of Christ, you are safe. However, you have the freedom to someday denounce God and exchange your relationship with Christ, for a relationship with satan. The Bible tells us that, if you do that, you will not have a second chance. You will not be able to escape the awful fate of living apart from God in hell for eternity.

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