

## **Escaping Hell**

Many Christians today have adopted a casual, laid-back attitude toward their faith, believing that once they're saved, they're guaranteed heaven. But this dangerous mindset ignores crucial biblical warnings about the ongoing fight required to maintain our relationship with God and secure our eternal destiny.

### **What Does It Mean to Desire God?**

The Bible tells us in 1 Peter 2:2 to "desire the pure milk of the word" so that we may grow. This isn't automatic - spiritual desire must be purposeful. Unlike our natural world where physical needs demand attention, spiritual hunger requires intentional cultivation.

When you taste something good, you naturally want more. The same should be true with God. If you've "tasted and seen that the Lord is good" (Psalm 34:8), that experience should create a craving for more of Him - more wisdom, more understanding, more of His presence in your life.

### **Why Spiritual Growth Requires Purpose**

We live in a natural, carnal world that constantly activates our physical senses. Our bodies automatically signal when we're hungry, thirsty, or uncomfortable. But spiritual things don't work this way in our earthly environment.

In heaven, being spiritual will be as natural as being natural is now. But until then, we must be "spiritual on purpose." We must deliberately stir up desire for God, remind ourselves of His goodness, and actively pursue Him.

### **Is Salvation Really Secure Once You're Saved?**

Many Christians operate under the assumption that salvation is permanently secured the moment they accept Christ. However, Scripture presents a more sobering picture that requires ongoing vigilance.

## **What Did Paul Say About His Own Salvation?**

The Apostle Paul, who wrote much of the New Testament and walked in tremendous revelation, said: "I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself become disqualified" (1 Corinthians 9:27).

If Paul - one of the greatest apostles - wasn't taking his salvation for granted, why should we?

## **The Warning About Straying From Faith**

In 1 Timothy 6:9-12, Paul warns that those who desire to be rich "fall into temptation and a snare" and "have strayed from the faith." He then tells Timothy, a minister and man of God, to "fight the good fight of faith" and "lay hold on eternal life."

Notice that Paul is speaking to someone who has already confessed Jesus as Lord, yet he's telling him to fight and lay hold on eternal life. This suggests that salvation requires ongoing effort and vigilance.

## **What About Those Who Fall Away?**

Hebrews 6:4-8 presents one of the most sobering passages in Scripture about falling away from faith. It describes people who were:

- Once enlightened
- Had tasted the heavenly gift
- Became partakers of the Holy Spirit
- Tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come

Yet the passage warns that if such people fall away, "it is impossible to renew them again to repentance." Their end is described as being "burned."

## **Why Can't They Be Renewed?**

The text suggests two possibilities: either their condemnation becomes so great they can't forgive themselves, or their hearts become so hardened that they refuse to turn back. In either case, they become unable to receive the forgiveness that God offers.

## **How Should We Respond to These Warnings?**

These sobering truths shouldn't drive us to paranoia, but they should eliminate casual Christianity. We need what the Bible calls "the fear of the Lord" - a healthy reverence and awareness that our choices have eternal consequences.

## **The Importance of God's Correction**

The Bible says, "Happy is the man whom God corrects" (Job 5:17). We should welcome God's correction through His Word, through godly counsel, and through the conviction of the Holy Spirit. When someone corrects us, instead of becoming offended, we should examine ourselves before God.

## **Putting on the Armor of God**

We're in a spiritual battle whether we acknowledge it or not. The helmet of salvation, the breastplate of righteousness, and other pieces of spiritual armor aren't just metaphors - they represent real spiritual protection we need daily.

The breastplate of righteousness cost Jesus His life so we could declare, "I'm the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus." We shouldn't trample on that sacrifice by living carelessly in sin.

## **What About God's Goodness and Severity?**

Romans 11:22 tells us to "consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off."

God is incredibly good and merciful, but He's also just and holy. He created hell, and it remains a real destination for those who reject His goodness. We should stay focused on His goodness while maintaining a healthy awareness of His severity.

## **What's Coming in the Last Days?**

Jesus warned that in the last days, "many will be offended, and will betray one another, and will hate one another... And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold" (Matthew 24:10-12).

We may see great ministers and leaders fall into sin, which could cause many to become bitter and fall away themselves. When this happens, we shouldn't lose faith in God or His Word - we should tighten our spiritual armor and become even more vigilant.

## **Life Application**

This week, examine your approach to Christianity. Are you treating your salvation casually, or are you actively fighting the good fight of faith? Stop taking God's goodness for granted and begin purposefully stirring up spiritual hunger in your heart.

Put on the full armor of God daily. Welcome correction from God's Word and godly counsel instead of becoming offended. Remember that it's not over until it's over - stay vigilant, stay hungry for God, and keep pursuing righteousness with all your heart.

## **Ask yourself these questions:**

- Am I treating my salvation as something I've earned or as a precious gift that requires ongoing gratitude and vigilance?
- When was the last time I welcomed correction instead of becoming defensive?
- Do I have a healthy fear of the Lord, or have I become too casual in my Christianity?
- Am I actively stirring up spiritual hunger, or am I coasting on past experiences with God?

The goal isn't to live in fear, but to live with the reverent awareness that our choices matter eternally. Keep tasting and seeing that the Lord is good, but never forget that the fight of faith continues until we reach our heavenly home.

## Quotes

1. “Those who hunger and thirst are the ones who get filled—and when you get filled, you get thrilled.”
2. “Everything in the Spirit must be pursued on purpose.”
3. “If anything spiritual is going to happen, it will be because you chose it.”
4. “You must cultivate a deeper desire for the Lord.”
5. “Too many Christians live like they’re already in heaven—you’re not there yet.”
6. “The lake of fire is not off the table.”
7. “I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest after preaching to others, I myself become disqualified.”
8. “It’s not over until it’s over.”
9. “Fight the good fight of faith—lay a firm hold on eternal life.”
10. “Many in the body of Christ are far too relaxed about their salvation and eternity.”
11. “Too many have a casual, laid-back attitude toward spiritual things and their walk with God.”
12. “We cannot afford to be casual in our Christianity—casual living is costly. It can cost eternity.”
13. “Falling away is a serious and sobering possibility.”
14. “Knowing a person can fall away should produce a holy fear.”
15. “I need His Word to correct me—to say, ‘Stop—that path leads to destruction.’”
16. “The body of Christ is filled with easily offended, spiritually immature believers.”

17. “There is a lack of vigilance—little watchfulness, little guarding of the heart.”
18. “You’re not just a sheep—you’re a soldier. You’re in a battle whether you realize it or not, so put your armor on.”
19. “When the Son of Man returns, will He find faith on the earth?”
20. “Consider both the goodness and the severity of God—severity toward those who fell, but goodness toward you, if you continue. Otherwise, you too will be cut off.”

## **Verses**

1. Mark 11
2. 1 Peter 2:2
3. 1 Timothy 6:9-12
4. Romans 10
5. John 17
6. Hebrews 6:1-8
7. Romans 11:22
8. Revelation 8:10
9. Revelation 1:20

## **Summary**

Many Christians today have adopted a dangerous casual attitude toward their faith, believing salvation is automatically secure once they accept Christ. However, Scripture presents sobering warnings about the ongoing fight required to maintain our relationship with God. The Apostle Paul himself said he disciplined his body lest he become disqualified, and he told Timothy to fight the good fight of faith and lay hold on eternal life. Hebrews warns of those who were once enlightened and partakers of the Holy Spirit yet fell away beyond renewal. These truths should eliminate casual Christianity and cultivate a healthy fear of the Lord, where we actively pursue spiritual growth, welcome God's correction, and put on the full armor of God daily.