

Sermon Note Guide: True Salvation: Secure in Faith, or Lost by Doubt?

Date: February 11, 2024

This guide is designed to accompany Pastor Matt's sermon, which begins with the pivotal question, "Can you lose your salvation?" Followed by his insightful exploration into faith, salvation, and grace, enriched by personal experiences and the touching story of Dell. Engage with this guide to deepen your understanding and apply the sermon's lessons in your life.

Opening Question: Can You Lose Your Salvation?

Pastor Matt opens with the critical question that touches the heart of many believers' concerns: Can you lose your salvation? His answer, grounded in scripture and personal reflection, is yes—but it's not sin in itself that causes this loss, but rather a departure from faith. This premise sets the stage for a deeper dive into what it means to live a life secured in faith versus one overshadowed by doubt.

Scripture Readings:

Romans 11:17-24 (NKJV):

17 And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree, 18 do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast, remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you. 19 You will say then, "Branches were broken off that I might be grafted in." 20 Well said. Because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith. Do not be haughty, but fear. 21 For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either. 22 Therefore 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. 23 And they also, if they do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. 24 For if you were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, who are natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?

Matthew 5:17-20 (NKJV):

17 "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. 18 For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. 19 Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

Pastor Matt's Personal Journey:

Growing up in a strict religious environment, Pastor Matt shares how his early teachings on salvation were tied closely to sin and confession, leading to a constant fear of losing salvation. His journey to understanding the assurance of salvation through faith marks a significant transformation in his spiritual life.

Dell's Story:

Dell's story is a poignant reminder of the importance of understanding salvation's essence. Facing terminal illness, Dell's conversation with Pastor Matt reveals a common misunderstanding about salvation and Heaven, emphasizing the need for clarity on salvation being a gift of grace through faith in Christ.

Sermon Insights:

- Delve into the nuances of faith and doubt as explored by Pastor Matt, considering how a solid foundation in faith can offer assurance of salvation.
- Reflect on the transformative insights gained from Pastor Matt's personal journey and Dell's story, emphasizing the role of understanding and faith in securing salvation.

Action Steps:

- Identify ways you can reinforce your faith to withstand doubts and fears about salvation.
- Share the message of salvation as a gift of grace through faith with someone who may be struggling with assurance or understanding.

Reflective Questions:**1. Considering the Possibility of Losing Salvation:**

- How does the acknowledgment that salvation can be lost through a departure from faith impact your understanding of your spiritual journey?
- Reflect on how this perspective influences your daily walk with God and your relationship with Him.

2. Pastor Matt's Journey and Dell's Story:

- Reflect on how Pastor Matt's upbringing and Dell's story influence your understanding of faith, grace, and salvation.
- How do these stories encourage you to seek a deeper assurance of your salvation?

Notes Section: *(A place for personal notes, insights, and reflections based on the sermon, including the opening question, Pastor Matt's commentary, and scripture readings.)*

Closing Reflections:

Pastor Matt's sermon, starting with the question of whether salvation can be lost, invites us into a profound reflection on the nature of our faith and the assurance it offers. Let this guide help you explore these themes in your life, seeking a deeper relationship with God that is secure in faith and free from doubt.