

Does Hebrews 6:4-6 teach we can lose our Salvation?

Central Idea: *This passage does not threaten the believer's assurance of eternal life. Rather, it motivates us to live by faith in what Jesus Christ has accomplished for us.*

⌘ Erroneous interpretations of this passage rob us of our assurance of eternal life.

- Some interpret this passage to mean believers in Christ can lose their eternal life if they fail to live a certain way. (Arminianism)
- Some interpret this passage to teach that your lack of obedience in the Christian life proves you have never truly believed. (Reformed Lordship Salvation)

⌘ This passage is a warning to believers who are already assured of eternal life that they can lose eternal rewards if they drift away from living by faith.

- The book of Hebrews was written to Jewish believers in Jesus Christ who were being persecuted and pressured to return to the Jewish temple worship and sacrifices.

- The risk warned about in this book is the loss of very valuable future eternal rewards.

- This third warning passage (5:11-6:12) alerts us to the danger of drifting away from living by faith in what Jesus Christ has already accomplished for us.

Questions for Personal Reflection or Group Discussion

1. Are living by faith in what Jesus Christ has already accomplished for you?
2. Are you assured of eternal life based upon the promises of God?
3. Are you spiritually mature enough to resist persecution and the temptation to compromise the truth?
4. Do you understand this passage well enough to explain it to someone else?

Community Bible Church
Dr. Lonnie Hofer, Elder

This outline is provided to assist you in understanding and applying today's message. *Does Hebrews 6:4-6 teach we can lose our Salvation?* is a message in a series entitled **You Asked For It**. This message can be listened to or downloaded at cbcomaha.org.

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Hebrews 6:4–6

- 4 For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit,
- 5 and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come,
- 6 and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt.

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John 3:16

- “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

John 5:24

- Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

John 10:28–29

- **28** I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.
- **29** My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

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Hebrews 10:32

- But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings,

Hebrews 2:9

- But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

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Hebrews 3:12

- **12** Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.

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1 John 1:9

- If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

What does this passage really teach?

- This book was written to Jewish believers in Jesus Christ who were being persecuted and pressured to return to the Jewish temple worship and sacrifices.
- This book warns of the possible loss of future eternal rewards.

The Five Warning Passages

- The Danger of Drifting (2:1-4)
- The Danger of Disobedience (3:7-4:13)
- Progress toward Maturity (5:11-6:20)
- The Danger of Willful Sin (10:26-39)
- Warning against Indifference (12:25-29)

What is at risk?

- The risk is not losing or never receiving eternal life.
- The risk is the possibility of losing eternal rewards.

Hebrews 1:14

- Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?

Aspects of Salvation



Hebrews 1:14

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Hebrews 3:7–9

- 7 Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, “Today, if you hear his voice,
- 8 do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness,
- 9 where your fathers put me to the test and saw my works for forty years.

Hebrews 3:10–11

- **10** Therefore I was provoked with that generation, and said, 'They always go astray in their heart; they have not known my ways.'
- **11** As I swore in my wrath, 'They shall not enter my rest.' "



Numbers 14:1-4

- **1** Then all the congregation raised a loud cry, and the people wept that night.
- **2** And all the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The whole congregation said to them, "Would that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would that we had died in this wilderness!
- **3** Why is the LORD bringing us into this land, to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become a prey. Would it not be better for us to go back to Egypt?"
- **4** And they said to one another, "Let us choose a leader and go back to Egypt."

Numbers 14:11–12

- **11** And the LORD said to Moses, “How long will this people despise me? And how long will they not believe in me, in spite of all the signs that I have done among them?”
- **12** I will strike them with the pestilence and disinherit them, and I will make of you a nation greater and mightier than they.”

Numbers 14:19

- **19** Please pardon the iniquity of this people, according to the greatness of your steadfast love, just as you have forgiven this people, from Egypt until now."

Numbers 14:20-23

- **20** Then the LORD said, "I have pardoned, according to your word.
- **21** But truly, as I live, and as all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD,
- **22** none of the men who have seen my glory and my signs that I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and yet have put me to the test these ten times and have not obeyed my voice,
- **23** shall see the land that I swore to give to their fathers. And none of those who despised me shall see it.

Exodus 15:13

- **13** “You have led in your steadfast love the people whom you have redeemed; you have guided them by your strength to your holy abode.

Hebrews 3:12–14

- 12 Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.
- 13 But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.
- 14 For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.

Hebrews 3:15–17

- **15** As it is said, “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.”
- **16** For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses?
- **17** And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness?

Hebrews 3:18–19

- **18** And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient?
- **19** So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.

Hebrews 11:6

- And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Hebrews 12:1-2

- **1** Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,
- **2** looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

- This third warning passage (5:11-6:12) alerts us to the danger of drifting away from living by faith in what Jesus Christ has already accomplished for us.

Hebrews 5:11–14

- 11 About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.
- 12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food,
- 13 for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child.
- 14 But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.

Hebrews 6:1–3

- 1 Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,
- 2 and of instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.
- 3 And this we will do if God permits.

Hebrews 6:4–6

- 4 For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit,
- 5 and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come,
- 6 and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt.

Hebrews 6:7–8

- 7 For land that has drunk the rain that often falls on it, and produces a crop useful to those for whose sake it is cultivated, receives a blessing from God.
- 8 But if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and near to being cursed, and its end is to be burned.

Hebrews 6:9–10

- **9** Though we speak in this way, yet in your case, beloved, we feel sure of better things—things that belong to salvation.
- **10** For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do.

Hebrews 6:11–12

- **11** And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end,
- **12** so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

- This passage does not threaten the believer's assurance of eternal life. Rather, it motivates us to live by faith in what Jesus Christ has accomplished for us.
- If we do not, we risk losing future eternal rewards to be revealed at the Judgment Seat of Christ.