Forever the Few

Good morning Seekers! I hope you all had a blessed week! This morning we are going to finish a mini-series we have been going through for the past 4 messages; and will be looking at a concept that every born-again believer should have a clear understanding of. What you will be learning this morning is Bible Truth that can change your whole perspective on life, when understood, and grasped fully.

**[Q]** Where has our past 4 week journey taken us? We determined, through God’s Word, that there is only one way to be saved, and miss spending an eternity in Hell. We looked at religious individuals worldwide. We examined many who attend over 9900 varied religions worldwide. We began with cults. We then looked at those who attend social Christian churches, and liturgical Christian churches. We then went to those who attend true Gospel-preaching churches, but yet have not been born again. Last week we looked at those who have chosen to enter the ranks of the “Few”, and the blessings that God has in store for them. This week you will find very interesting.

There are some real controversies amongst theologians, and true believers, as to whether a person can lose their salvation, and positional relationship with God, if they sin too much. In other words… **[Q]** Is there a point that someone who has been transformed by God’s power, filled with His Precious Holy Spirit, and has had his/her name written in the Lamb’s Book of Life, get it removed, and be lost again, because of not fully measuring up, and committing too much sin, going over the line?

**John 8**

31To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. [**32**](http://biblehub.com/john/8-32.htm)Then you will know the truth, and **the truth will set you free**.” 33They answered him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?”

[**34**](http://biblehub.com/john/8-34.htm)Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. [**35**](http://biblehub.com/john/8-35.htm)Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, **but a son belongs to it forever**. [**36**](http://biblehub.com/john/8-36.htm)So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. *{Keep your finger here}*

Don’t miss this…**[Q]** How long does it say a son belongs to the family? **Forever** {**aion**} ahee-ohn’…a cycle of time; a series of ages stretching to infinity.

Before we dig into what we just read, let me say this… I know men, and women, who I am fairly sure are true followers of Christ, and have asked Him to become their Lord and Savior. They truly do want to please Him, but are totally cognizant of the fact that they, just as every one of us in this room, continue to fall short of perfection everyday; and it confuses them greatly. If you are one of those, I want to help you with that stumbling block this morning. To be very frank, **WE ALL SIN…every day**!

That is a given, but it goes much deeper than that. Christ’s goal for believers is to cut down the frequency of our sinning, because of our love for Him, and equally as important, as our testimony to others. Listen to what Paul told the Thessalonians…

**1 Thessalonians 1**

2We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers.

[**3**](http://biblehub.com/1_thessalonians/1-3.htm)We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

[**4**](http://biblehub.com/1_thessalonians/1-4.htm)For we know, brothers and sisters***b*** loved by God, that he has chosen you, [**5**](http://biblehub.com/1_thessalonians/1-5.htm)because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. [**6**](http://biblehub.com/1_thessalonians/1-6.htm)You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. [**7**](http://biblehub.com/1_thessalonians/1-7.htm)And so **you became a model** to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. [**8**](http://biblehub.com/1_thessalonians/1-8.htm)**The Lord’s message rang out from you** not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, [**9**](http://biblehub.com/1_thessalonians/1-9.htm)for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, [**10**](http://biblehub.com/1_thessalonians/1-10.htm)and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

Let’s be real with ourselves…even though saved, **WE ARE STILL SINNERS**; but saved sinners; and doing our very best to eliminate as much of it from our lives, as possible. Our goal should be the same as theirs, to be clean, pure, sparkling examples of Faith.

**1 John 1**

**8**If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. [**9**](http://biblehub.com/1_john/1-9.htm)If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. [**10**](http://biblehub.com/1_john/1-10.htm)If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

**[Q]** What should be the true Christian’s normal response to each of these times we sin? (We should feel badly, confess it, personally ask His forgiveness, repent (turn from it), study God’s Word on that particular subject (whatever it may be)…ask God’s help in putting what we learn into action, and put a specific plan in place to stop it) This will be the case for all true believers.

 **1 John 3**

9No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God’s seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God.

**[Q]** How will a professing Christian, who did not truly get saved and transformed, normally feel about their sin? (It doesn’t bother them. They aren’t necessarily that disappointed over it. If called out, they will normally attempt to justify it, or make it someone else’s fault…or just flippantly say, “Oh well, God understands”).

Now, back to **John 8:32**, where we started…Then you will know the truth, and **the truth will set you free.**

**[Q]** Free from what? (Bondage to sin) **[Q]** Is it possible for a true believer to get confused on Bible Truth, and Bible doctrine, listen to the wrong voices, and make themselves miserable, when it is not necessary? (Absolutely…I know many who are constantly “under the circumstances of life”, over and over again; and they stay there. They will let you know every time you meet with them.)

**[Q]** How does Satan hold a true believer in bondage? (Lies and deception) Listen to what Jesus told those highly religious, but very lost, Pharisees of His day about the devil…

**John 8**

44You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for **he is a liar and the father of lies**.

Satan’s ultimate goal, through using his lies, and deception, is to cause doubt, fear, depression, and ultimately a sidelining of true believers from accomplishing what God has called them to do.

I have watched professing believers, for years, go back to the altar multiple times, to be saved over, and over again. **[Q]** Is that Biblical? **[Q]** Can a believer be saved twice?

No, it is not, and it may fall on the shoulders of Pastors who are not teaching them Truth.

These type folks are the ones who never reach their potential for Christ, due to listening to Satan’s lies. They feel unworthy, and incapable, are spiritually disabled; and do not search out the Truths of God’s Word to combat, and conquer their feelings.

Let’s examine God’s Word quickly, to see if it is possible to go back and be saved a second time. The writer of the Book of Hebrews *(Paul?)* speaks to this, point blank. He isn’t happy with those who he is confronting…

**Hebrews 5**

7During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. [**8**](http://biblehub.com/hebrews/5-8.htm)Son though he was, **he learned obedience** from what he suffered [**9**](http://biblehub.com/hebrews/5-9.htm)and, once made perfect, **he became the source of eternal salvation** for all who obey him *(Sidepoint: there is only one type of salvation…eternal. There is no temporary salvation)* [**10**](http://biblehub.com/hebrews/5-10.htm)and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek.

[**11**](http://biblehub.com/hebrews/5-11.htm)We have much to say about this, but it is hard to make it clear to you because you no longer try to understand. [**12**](http://biblehub.com/hebrews/5-12.htm)In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God’s word all over again. You need milk, not solid food!

[**13**](http://biblehub.com/hebrews/5-13.htm)Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. [**14**](http://biblehub.com/hebrews/5-14.htm)But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have **trained themselves** to distinguish good from evil.

I am fairly confident that the writer was speaking to a situation where people were continually making professions of faith, going out and sinning, feeling badly, and returning to be saved again; thus…returning back to the starting line, and starting all over again. He is not pleased!!!

**Hebrews 6**

1Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, **not laying again the foundation of repentance** from acts that lead to death,***a*** and of faith in God, [**2**](http://biblehub.com/hebrews/6-2.htm)instruction about cleansing rites,***b*** the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. [**3**](http://biblehub.com/hebrews/6-3.htm)And God permitting, we will do so.

[**4**](http://biblehub.com/hebrews/6-4.htm)**It is impossible** for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, [**5**](http://biblehub.com/hebrews/6-5.htm)who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age [**6**](http://biblehub.com/hebrews/6-6.htm)and who have fallen***c*** away, to be brought back to repentance. To their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace.

He was saying…GROW UP, move on toward Christ, mature! STOP coming back to the starting line…move onward, and upward for Christ.

**Verse 4** If somehow you could be lost again, after you were truly saved, you are in big trouble. It states that it would be impossible for you to get re-saved. **[Q]** Why? (Because He would have to leave His throne, come back down here, and go through the whole process of being crucified once again).

This is where weak, and unknowledgeable believers, get confused. They are constantly in the “I just don’t know whether I am still saved, or not” mode. They are scared, and Satan has convinced them that they might as well give up, because they are not good enough to be a Christian, and never will be… thus, the crazy cycle starts all over again.

**[Q]** What is the real Truth?

**Hebrews 7**

23Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; [**24**](http://biblehub.com/hebrews/7-24.htm)but because Jesus lives forever, he has a **permanent priesthood**. [**25**](http://biblehub.com/hebrews/7-25.htm)Therefore **he is able to save completely*c*** those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

[**26**](http://biblehub.com/hebrews/7-26.htm)Such a high priest truly meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. [**27**](http://biblehub.com/hebrews/7-27.htm)Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. **He sacrificed for their sins once** for all when he offered himself. [**28**](http://biblehub.com/hebrews/7-28.htm)For the law appoints as high priests men in all their weakness; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been **made perfect forever**.

I believe we are bordering on blasphemy, when we say that our Lord’s ONE sacrifice was not sufficient to save us. His ONE sacrifice was sufficient…for ALL…for ALL TIME. To even suggest that He would need to come back, and do it all over again, is ludicrous! That is what we are implying when we don’t feel He is capable of saving, and keeping us.

**Hebrews 9**

11But when Christ came as high priest of the good things that are now already here,***a*** he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not made with human hands, that is to say, is not a part of this creation. [**12**](http://biblehub.com/hebrews/9-12.htm)He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but **he entered the Most Holy Place once for all** by his own blood, thus obtaining***b*** eternal redemption.

[**13**](http://biblehub.com/hebrews/9-13.htm)The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. [**14**](http://biblehub.com/hebrews/9-14.htm)How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death,***c*** so that we may serve the living God!

[**15**](http://biblehub.com/hebrews/9-15.htm)For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.

**[Q]** Can you see why there is no need for Christ to come back again? (He cannot, and WILL NOT. He only needed to do it “once for all”)

This is why, when you truly get saved, it is finished. It does not depend upon your perfection, but His. That is a basic Bible Truth, and is a given. You MUST understand this, to move on to maturity in the Faith.

**Hebrews 4**

14Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven,***f*** Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. [**15**](http://biblehub.com/hebrews/4-15.htm)For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. [**16**](http://biblehub.com/hebrews/4-16.htm)Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Listen to me…EVERYTHING in God’s Word tells us exactly what we just read. His grace is sufficient…not yours. His sacrifice is perfect…yours will never be, until we go to be with Him. His love is perfect, and never-ending for us. Unfortunately, at times, ours is lacking.

Listen to this statement of Truth, straight out of Jesus’ mouth…

**John 10**

22Then came the Festival of Dedication***b*** at Jerusalem. It was winter, [**23**](http://biblehub.com/john/10-23.htm)and Jesus was in the temple courts walking in Solomon’s Colonnade. [**24**](http://biblehub.com/john/10-24.htm)The Jews who were there gathered around him, saying, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.”

[**25**](http://biblehub.com/john/10-25.htm)Jesus answered, “I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father’s name testify about me, [**26**](http://biblehub.com/john/10-26.htm)but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. [**27**](http://biblehub.com/john/10-27.htm)My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. [**28**](http://biblehub.com/john/10-28.htm)I give them eternal life, and **they shall never perish**; no one will snatch them out of my hand. [**29**](http://biblehub.com/john/10-29.htm)My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all***c*** ; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand. [**30**](http://biblehub.com/john/10-30.htm)I and the Father are one.”

Listen to the amazing promises, for true believers, that Jesus proclaims to these non-believing religious idiots.

**Verse 28**: I give them… **[Q]** What kind of life? **Eternal** {**aionios**} ahee-o’-nee-os… unending; age-long; outside of, and beyond time as we know it. As I told you earlier, there is no such thing as temporary life. You are either already experiencing ETERNAL life, or you aren’t. There is no in-between.

They shall **NEVER** perish… **Never** {**ou**} oo… no; not; ruling it out as fact.

**No one** will **snatch** them out of my hand… **Snatch** {**harpazo**} har-pad’-zo… obtain by robbery; seize by force.

No one **CAN** snatch them out of my Father’s hand… Impossible feat for a human. **NO ONE** has the power, or guts, to even attempt to snatch them out of the Father’s hand.

These are all promises. **[Q]** Do you believe Jesus, and take Him at His Word?

**John 3**

**35**The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands. [**36**](http://biblehub.com/john/3-36.htm)Whoever believes in the Son **has** eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on them.

**Verse 36**: **HAS** {**echo**} ekh’-o… now possesses; holds **Eternal** {**aionios**} ahee-o’-nee-os…

Unending; beyond time.

If you are saved here this morning…you NOW possess everlasting, eternal, and unending life. It is yours, and will not be taken away from you.

It depends on Jesus, and His perfect sacrifice…not you, and your imperfect sacrifice.

Let me take this one step further for you…

**Romans 5**

1Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we***a*** have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, [**2**](http://biblehub.com/romans/5-2.htm)through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace **in which we now stand**. And we***b*** boast in the hope of the glory of God.

We **have been** **JUSTIFIED**. First of all… the words mean exactly what they say…it has been accomplished. **[Q]** What has been accomplished? (We were justified)

**Justified** {**dikaioo**} dik-ah-yo’-o… I make righteous; I approve. This is a legal term, which means cleared of all charges; made righteous; acquitted

Let me finish with an amazing story I heard a preacher tell this past week…

Two law students, who were rooming together, went their own ways after graduation. One of them became a judge; the other a prominent attorney. The prominent attorney became greedy, and began not only making big money as an attorney, but buying, and selling drugs, to make even more. He got caught, and ended up going before his old college friend who had became a judge. Everyone was watching to see whether the judge would allow his leniency, or not. After hearing all evidence, and the man being declared guilty by the jury, the judge said…”In light of all of the pain, and misery that you have caused, I am going to prosecute you to the fullest extent of the law; and fine you with the largest fine legally possible”. He slammed down the gavel, and the sentence was pronounced.

The judge then stood up, took off his robe, laid it on his chair, and walked around to the other side of the bench. He put his arm around his great friend, and said to those in attendance…”I will now take all of my friends charges upon myself; serve his sentence, and pay his total fine. You are free my friend”. His friend walked out of the courtroom, scott free!

This is an amazing illustration of what our Lord Jesus Christ did for you and I. He paid our fine. He took all of our sins upon Himself. He hung on the cross, instead of us.

**Ephesians 2**

1As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, [**2**](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/2-2.htm)in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. [**3**](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/2-3.htm)All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh***a*** and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. [**4**](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/2-4.htm)**But because of his great love for us**, God, who is rich in mercy, [**5**](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/2-5.htm)made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. [**6**](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/2-6.htm)And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, [**7**](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/2-7.htm)in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. [**8**](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/2-8.htm)For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is **the gift of God**— [**9**](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/2-9.htm)not by works, so that no one can boast. [**10**](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/2-10.htm)For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Let’s finish by listening to just a few more promises concerning our “eternal security”…

**John 5**

24“Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but **has** crossed over from death to life.

**1 John 5**

**13**I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may **know** that you have eternal life.

**Romans 8**

37No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. [**38**](http://biblehub.com/romans/8-38.htm)For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,***k*** neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, [**39**](http://biblehub.com/romans/8-39.htm)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.

**Philippians 1**

3I thank my God every time I remember you. [**4**](http://biblehub.com/philippians/1-4.htm)In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy [**5**](http://biblehub.com/philippians/1-5.htm)because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, [**6**](http://biblehub.com/philippians/1-6.htm)being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Thankfulness…That is a great idea. You and I should be sincerely thanking Him here this morning. We, above all other human beings, are blessed beyond measure…here and now, and there and then. To Jesus Christ, because of His great love, and sacrifice for you and I, be all the praise and glory….forever…AMEN!