

This is the text from my YouTube Salvation videos – Parts 1-4

Salvation Part 1

What Does It Mean To Be Saved From Sin?

In this video I'm going to look at what it means to be saved from sin and I'd like to start with Matt. 1:21. Speaking about Mary, this verse says, *"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."* The first thing to note is that the verse does not say that Jesus will save people in their sin or with their sin but from their sin. When this verse is examined closely we see that the word 'save' means to deliver or protect or rescue from danger or destruction and the word 'from' means to separate from or depart from or it's a cessation of something, so the term 'saved from sin' means to be rescued from sin and separated from it.

Now, the fact that Christians are meant to live a holy life and to be separated from sin is not popular with a lot of churchgoers. Many people say that Christians are just human after all and will sin just like anyone else and they often use what Paul said in parts of Romans 7 to support their belief. For example Rom. 7:15 says, *"I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do"*, and in verse 19 he said, *"For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing."* Paul is describing a great, inner battle between good and evil and it is only after a person receives the Holy Spirit that this battle begins within them; the battle is between their sinful nature and the Spirit of God. Gal. 5:17 sums it up where it says, *"the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want."* This conflict, between the sinful nature and the Spirit puts believers in a seemingly impossible situation as though they are fighting a battle that cannot be won. Rom. 8:7 adds to this idea where it says, *"the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so"*. The fact of the matter is, our sinful nature fights against God's laws and it is impossible, in our own strength, to have victory over sin. The evil within us prevents us from living a holy life and pleasing God and unless God helps us we will always be hopeless sinners, struggling to please Him.

Thankfully, God does empower us to overcome sin. When we read the end of Rom. 7, and into chapter 8, we see that Paul himself totally refutes the idea that he lived the life of a struggling sinner. In Rom. 7:24-25 he said, *"What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? [and then he gave the answer to his own question when he continued on to say] Thanks be to God - through Jesus Christ our Lord!"* The King James version says, *"who shall deliver me from the body of this death"*. From this we can see that Paul is telling us that through Jesus we can be rescued and delivered from our sins just as in Matt. 1:21 where it says that Jesus would save His people FROM their sins. This deliverance from sin is done through the power of the Holy Spirit who is sent into the life of a person when he repents and puts his trust in Jesus for salvation. Rom. 8:4 states this clearly where it says, *"the righteous requirements of the law might be FULLY met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit"*. Note that it says that we can fully meet God's righteous requirements, so, through the Spirit we can live a righteous life, not continually struggling in sin.

Before going any further, I would like to sum up what I've said so far. In Matt. 1:21 we are told that Jesus would save His people from their sin yet many people don't believe it and use the excuse that they are just human. Some people use parts of Rom. 7 to back up this belief but they are in error because they fail to read on to the end of that chapter and into chapter 8. In Rom. 7, Paul's words about struggling to do good describe the life of a saved person, newly saved or otherwise, who is either not aware of the victory that can be gained through the Holy Spirit or, for whatever reason, has not repented of his sinful ways and come under the controlling influence of the Spirit.

I'd like to now look at another passage which makes the work of Holy Spirit very clear. 2 Pet. 1:3-4 say, *"His divine power [that is, the Holy Spirit] has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these ... you may participate in the divine nature and ESCAPE THE CORRUPTION in the world caused by evil desires"*.

In these verses we see that through the power of the Holy Spirit a believer can escape the corruption of sin. The work of the Spirit in our life is very simple. John 16:8 tells us that the Spirit *“will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin”* so whenever we are convicted of sin, the response required of us is to follow 1 John 1:9 which says, *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness”*. It's through this simple but often painful process of repenting and confessing our sins that the Spirit will *“purify us from all unrighteousness”* and enable us to fully meet God's righteous requirements and live a sanctified life, holy and pleasing to God.

Living according to the Spirit is an obligation we MUST fulfill if we want to remain in God's love - 2 Thess. 2:13 tells us that we are *“saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit”* - note that it says **SAVED** so we can see that our salvation depends upon our response to the Spirit. This is made very clear in Rom. 8:12-13 which tell us, *“brothers, we have an obligation [note that this is an obligation, not an option] - but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live”*. Whether we are saved or lost, that is, whether we go to heaven or go to hell, depends on our response to the Holy Spirit. Remember that *“without holiness no one will see the Lord”* Heb. 12:14.

There is much more that could be said but the aim of this video has been to give a short but clear outline to show that salvation is salvation from sin. There is no question that we are just humans and can't stop sinning in our own strength but our Almighty, Loving God has made a way for us live a holy life before Him and it is up to us whether or not we submit to the Spirit and become empowered to follow the command of 1 Pet. 1:16 which is, *“Be holy, because I am holy”*. John 1:12 says, *“to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God”*. In the King James, the word 'right' is translated as 'power' and the Holy Spirit is that power, the Divine Power of our Almighty God which we MUST take a hold of, if we are to be saved eternally. In this life, we will never reach a state of sinless perfection but if we maintain a repentant heart and confess our sins then we will remain blameless in the Lord's sight and know, without question, that we will inherit eternal life.

May the Lord bless you and keep you as you seek to please Him in all that you think, all that you say and all that you do.

This is the first of several videos I hope to make on salvation issues. God willing, Part 2 will be on how to live according to the Spirit and be rescued from habitual sin.

Salvation Part 2

How to live according to the Spirit

In this video I'd like to look at how to live according to the Spirit. In Part 1 we saw in 2nd Pet. 1:3-4 that, through the Spirit, we are given Divine Power to escape the corruption of sin. We also saw in Rom. 8:12-13 that we have an obligation to do this by living according to the Spirit, otherwise we will be lost. Another passage which makes our obligation clear is Col. 3:5-9 which says, *“Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived [that is, before you were saved]. But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips”*. From these verses we can see that, through the Holy Spirit, it's our responsibility to put our earthly nature to death otherwise we will face God's wrath, so understanding how to live according to the Spirit is very important.

Now, the term 'to live according to the Spirit' means exactly the same thing as to walk with the Lord, to abide in Jesus, to be led by the Spirit, to walk in the Spirit etc. They are all the same and simply mean to have a relationship with Jesus by listening to and following His Spirit. In John 10:27 Jesus said, *“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me”*.

So we can see that there are two things we have to do to walk with Jesus:

- 1) Listen to His voice and
- 2) Follow His commands.

Let's first look at what it means to listen. When we are first saved, the Spirit comes to live in us and Rom. 8:16 says that *“the Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children”* so we can see that it is through the Spirit that we hear God speaking. In John 16:8 Jesus said that the Spirit *“will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment”*. This means that whenever we sin, the Spirit 'speaks' to us through our conscience by convicting us and making us feel guilty. So, whenever there is sin in our life, the Spirit takes our peace away and this is a witness to us that we have to get right with God. Listening, therefore, is simply being aware that our lack of peace is a result of guilt for sin. So, now we need to look at what it means to follow.

Following is confessing and repenting of whatever sin we are convicted of and when we come to God in repentance we must have the right attitude. Repentance is not saying, “Yeah, I know I'm sinning but I'm only human” as that's just an excuse to continue in sin. What God requires of us is to come to Him in brokenness saying something like, “Lord, I've sinned against you. I'm a hell-deserving sinner, please forgive me and cleanse me of this sin”. In Psa. 51:17, David showed the right attitude of heart toward his sin when he said, *“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise”*. David was broken hearted over his wickedness and we should be too as God hates sin. So, to sum up, listening is being aware of our lack of peace because of the Spirit's conviction and following is heartfelt repentance which results in forgiveness and peace with God. When we sin, our peace with God is taken away; when we repent, it is returned. Rom. 8:6 confirms this in saying, *“The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace”*.

So, that is the basics of listening and following. Neither are easy as our sinful nature fights strongly against the Spirit and we'll find a thousand reasons not to listen, let alone follow. Plus, the devil will get into the argument and give us another thousand reasons. Instead of making excuses we need to take a hold of God's promises in 1 John 1:9 which says, *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness”*. Please look very carefully at this verse as we usually ignore the last few words which tell us that God will *“purify us from all unrighteousness”*. God never lies, so we can believe that when we repent He will not just forgive us but will also cleanse us and Gal. 5:16 verifies this where it says, *“live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature”*. Whenever we exercise self-control and obey, we receive God's approval and He strengthens us to continue in obedience.

One way that I look at this sanctifying work of God in our life is to think of a motor mechanic. We give a mechanic permission to get inside our car, to change bits here and there and to tune it up so that it runs well. Well, Jesus is our Maker and it is a small thing for Him to 'make changes and tune us up' so that we can please Him and live according to His will.

I'd like to tell a couple of short stories to show how the Spirit works within us. There was a particular person (let's say their name was X) who was difficult to fellowship with. I used to go well out of my way to avoid X but one day the Lord convicted me and I said something like, "Lord it's wrong that I dislike this fellow Christian, please help me to love X". Having said this quick prayer, I went to visit X and as soon as I got there the Lord changed my heart and we became friends and to my amazement I began to love this person. I know that I shouldn't have been amazed, as it is a small thing for God to do anything, but experiencing the regenerating power of God in my life was truly eye-opening and very special. My repentance resulted in cleansing, and I have found this true for any sin.

Another time there was a person in church (call them Y) who would never greet me. I always had to stick my hand in Y's face to get a handshake. I prayed that God would help me not to be offended and to love Y and the very next time we met, I was greeted with a big smile and a welcoming handshake. It was truly amazing. In the first case, Jesus, working just like the mechanic, changed my heart and in the second case He changed another person's heart - both cases show how much the Lord wants us to love one another. Even though I saw miraculous changes in these two cases, I have not always had the same results and at times it is hard to say why. However, that is certainly no excuse for me not to repent of unloving thoughts.

Many people argue that we are saved by Grace alone and that there is nothing we need to do because God does it all. However, as we have seen in these videos, we have an obligation to live according to the Spirit. 1 Tim. 4:16 makes it clear that we have a part to play in our salvation where it says, "*Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.*" Timothy was told to persevere in both his life and his doctrine in order to save himself. There is no doubt that we are saved by Grace but it is GRACE THROUGH FAITH, and faith requires action on our part. Faith is a lifestyle and not the act of a single moment in time - "*we live by faith*" (2 Cor. 5:7). Titus 2:11-12 link Grace with our actions where they say, "*For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age*". In these verses we are told that through God's Grace we can live godly lives by exercising self-control and saying "No" to our sinful nature. It is through living a humble, repentant life that God cleanses us of unrighteousness and gives us His power to resist temptation and to walk in obedience to His commands to love Him and love our neighbour.

Finally, it's important to know that we cannot be sinless but we can be blameless, simply through confessing our sins. Salvation is living according to the Spirit by humbly listening to and following the Lord's voice. It's not a miserable life of ever feeling like a hell-deserving sinner but rather a life of peace and joy that comes through having the right relationship with Jesus.

There is a wonderful little book, called *The Calvary Road*, which has greatly changed many lives by showing, in simple terms, how to come into a very close relationship with Jesus. It is free to download from the link at the end of this video. In the next video I would like to look more at the practical side of living according to the Spirit with some relevant Bible verses.

Salvation Part 3

A deeper look at living according to the Spirit. False peace and false guilt.

In the last video we saw that when we sin we lose our peace and when we sincerely repent our conscience is cleared and God's peace returns. This is made clear in Heb. 10:22 also where it says, *"let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience"*. Repenting of sin always brings God's peace.

God's peace is in fact our guide in all matters, not just for sin. Phil. 2:13 tells us, *"it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose"*, so we can see that God works in our heart to guide us to serve Him in thought, word and deed. When we are in God's will, we will have His peace but when we don't have that peace we need to look to Him for guidance. We only need to ask for wisdom and we will receive it as Jam. 1:5 says, *"If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him"*. God is always on hand to guide us and this is made clear in Ezek. 36:26-27 where He said, *"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws"*. God gives believers a new heart and the Holy Spirit to move us to follow Him and, when we are in His will, Isa. 26:3 says about God, *"You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you"*. So, understanding God's peace is the key to knowing His will.

A very important point to be aware of is that there is a false peace which comes from our sinful nature or from the devil. If we have peace about something that is not biblical then clearly that peace does not come from God. I heard of a man who said that God told him to leave his wife and marry another woman. I guess he had peace about it because he did, despite God saying in Mal. 2:16, *"I hate divorce"*. We can be sure that any peace the man may have had did not come from God. When we are misguided, and have this false peace, God still puts a check in our conscience to tell us we're sinning. However, the more we ignore this check and continue to follow our lusts, the harder our heart will get and the Lord's voice will get more and more difficult to hear. Heb. 3:15,13 say, *"Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts"* and *"encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness"*. We all very much need to seriously listen to the quiet, inner voice of God, to believe what is written, and to seek the advice of godly friends.

Of course, things are not always clear and at times it can be hard to determine why we lack peace. When we are praying about peace, the most important point to consider is Jesus' command to *"love one another"* (John 13:34). If an issue is causing us to be unloving, like when we want to be first or think that we are better than someone, then we clearly need to repent. Also, some people remain angry with fellow Christians and won't be reconciled saying, *"It's not my fault"*. The fact is, these angry souls need to heed Jesus' words in Matt. 5:22-24 where He said, *"anyone who is angry with his brother ... will be in danger of the fire of hell ... Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift"*. We can be sure that if we are not welcome at God's earthly altar then we certainly won't be welcome at His heavenly one because in Matt 6:15, Jesus tells us, *"if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins"*. 1 John 4:20 & 3:15 also make this point very clear where they say, *"If anyone says, 'I love God', yet hates his brother, he is a liar [and] a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him"*. To anyone in such a situation, I must say to you, *"Be reconciled or be damned"*.

As well as false peace there is also false guilt which comes from our accuser, the devil. We know that when we have confessed a sin, it is forgiven and that should be the end of it. However, the devil will keep reminding us of how bad we are and when he does we need to follow Paul's advice in Phil. 3:13 where he said, *"One thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead"*. So we should confess and then move on, rejecting the devil's accusations which only keep us wallowing in false guilt and self pity.

In theory, following the Lord's voice is simple enough but our sinful nature complicates it. There have been times when I've asked God why I lack peace and He has given me the answer, only to have me say, "Nah! that can't be right. I must be listening to the devil". I had asked God for wisdom and when He gave me an answer that I didn't like, I dismissed it. We really have to believe that when we pray for wisdom we have received it because James 1:6-8 tell us that when anyone asks, "*he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does*". We must learn to trust God fully and not just when it suits us otherwise we'll be on unstable ground. Pro. 3:5-6 tell us, "*Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight*". When we plant our feet firmly on the Rock of Salvation, we will be on solid ground.

There are things which are not clear in the Bible as they are really a matter of personal choice. For example, I wear thongs whenever possible so wearing them to church seemed OK to me but one day I got convicted so I upgraded to sandals (no laughing please). I don't condemn those who wear thongs to church and I hope that those who wear shoes don't condemn me. These sort of issues are matters of personal faith and I think that we should look to Rom. 14:23 as our guide where it says, "*everything that does not come from faith is sin*". I had no peace about wearing thongs but I do have peace about sandals. Other verses to consider when seeking guidance for our actions are 1 Cor. 10:31-32 which say, "*whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. Do not cause anyone to stumble*". So if, even in faith, we do something that is seriously bothering someone then we should, for their sake, consider stopping so that we don't cause anyone to stumble.

Another very common way to lose all peace, especially in ministry, is by trying to work in our own strength. The Lord wants us to be available so that He can work through us but we try to do it all even though we know that He can do in a moment what we could not do in a thousand lifetimes. I often start the day by telling the Lord I'm His but I still have my own agenda and when it gets interrupted, I get agitated. How can the Lord guide me in His service when I'm not available? He can't! But the good news is that as we repent of being annoyed, we do get into step with God and don't get agitated and anxious when distractions occur. Phil. 4:6-7 bring this point home where it says, "*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus*".

Finally, I don't pretend to have all the answers but our Heavenly Father does and if we go to Him for wisdom then we'll find the truth. I do know that we always need to deal with sin from the very moment it begins it's work in our mind. When our thoughts are lustful, angry, critical, bitter, selfish or sinful in any other way, 2 Cor. 10:5 tells us, "*take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ*", and Jam. 1:14-15 give us the reason why, where it says, "*each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death*". So, if we entertain a sinful thought, rather than rejecting it, it can lead us into sin and may eventually have awful consequences because "*the wages of sin is death*" (Rom. 6:23) and that death is eternity in hell.

In the next video I'd like to examine the doctrine of Eternal Security, also called Once Saved Always Saved. I have other videos and one that may be of interest to you is called Love One Another. The link to my YouTube videos is given at the end of this video.

Salvation Part 4 The Once Saved Always Saved doctrine of Eternal Security.

Before watching this video it would be best, if you have not already done so, to watch the first three parts as they lead into this video by showing that salvation is salvation from sin through living according to the Spirit. In this video I'd like to examine the Once Saved Always Saved doctrine of Eternal Security. This doctrine says that if a person believes once, for a single moment in time, then they are saved eternally and cannot lose their salvation. Now, if we look at the word believe, as in John 3:16, we see that it is present tense which means it is a continuing action so the real meaning of this verse is, "whoever believes in and continues to believe in Jesus shall not perish but have eternal life". Also, the word believe means to commit to or to trust in so believers must commit to, trust in and continue to commit to and trust in Jesus in order to inherit eternal life. Matt. 10:22 makes this point clear where Jesus said, "*he who stands firm to the end will be saved*". Obviously, because we have to stand firm "*to the end*" then it is over a period of time which continues up until the end. So we can see that to be saved we have to continue to believe until we see Jesus.

An example which shows our need to stand firm until we see the Lord is given in Luke 12:42-46. In this parable note that there is only ONE servant. In v.42, the faithful servant, obviously a saved man, is put in charge while the Master, Jesus, is away. Then, in vs.43-44, if the Master returns and finds that the servant has remained faithful then He will put the servant in charge of all His possessions. However, vs.45-46 say that if the Master returns to find that His once faithful servant has fallen into sin, getting drunk and abusing others, then the servant will be assigned a place with the unbelievers, which is of course hell. This parable clearly shows that we must stand firm until we see Jesus.

Once Saved doctrine says that we are saved by Grace alone and as true as that is, it is an incomplete statement as Eph. 2:8 tells us, "*It is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God*". So we see that we are saved THROUGH FAITH which is a gift of God's Grace and faith is not a momentary thing but a believer's lifestyle because "*we live by faith*" (2 Cor. 5:7). Now, since salvation is through faith and 1 Tim. 4:1 tells us that "*some will abandon the faith*", then logically, those who abandon the faith have abandoned their salvation. The Lord said in Heb. 13:5, "*Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you*", however, we can leave Him as 2 Tim. 2:12 says, "*If we disown him, he will also disown us*". So, just as we were free to accept Jesus into our life, we are also free to reject Him. This is made clear in 1 Thess. 4:7-8 where it says, "*God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. Therefore, he who rejects this instruction does not reject man but God, who gives you his Holy Spirit*".

2 Pet. 2:20-22 also show how we can turn our back on Jesus where it says, "*If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning. It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them. Of them the proverbs are true: 'A dog returns to its vomit,' and, 'A sow that is washed goes back to her wallowing in the mud'*".

We can see that these souls are clearly lost but they were saved at some point because:

- 1) They had known Jesus
- 2) They had known the way of righteousness and
- 3) They had escaped the corruption of the world which only believers can do because they have the Holy Spirit. So, a believer can reject God, disown and be disowned or turn his back on Jesus and be worse off than if he had never been saved.

At the Passover Meal, Jesus gave a vividly clear warning regarding salvation loss. There were only eleven Apostles present as Judas had left earlier on. In John 15:5-6 He said to these eleven men, "*I am the vine; you [that is, you Apostles] are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned*". Jesus was speaking to

saved men, all faithful Apostles. He told them that they were branches in Him and if any one of them did not abide then, like a branch, he would be thrown into the fire. So, we can see that even an Apostle could have deserted Jesus and faced hell if he remained unrepentant, just as Judas did. Can this simple setting and these plain words lead us to any other conclusion?

Once Saved doctrine also says that if we have to do anything to be saved then it is salvation by works, however, Jesus said that there IS something we must do. In Luke 13:3 He said, *“unless you repent, you too will all perish”*. Now, we all know that when we first repent it is not considered to be works. So, because it isn't works to repent to be saved, then it can't be works to continue in repentance and we have to do that as Rom. 8:12-13 tell us that we are obliged to live according to the Spirit and to put to death the misdeeds of our body, otherwise we will die.

Regarding living by the Spirit, if we look at Gal. 5:16-25, we see in vs.16-17 that it says, *“live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want”*. This tells us that there is a spiritual war going on within us, between our sinful nature and the Spirit and we know that in all wars there are overcomers and those who are overcome. Likewise, there are two possible outcomes for a believer and these verses go on to show both of these possibilities. If we first look at vs.22-24 we see the overcomers, saved souls, who have the fruit of the Spirit, *“love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control”*, and they have this fruit because *“those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires”*. The second possible outcome is to be overcome by sin. Back in v.16, the Galatian Christians were told, *“live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature”*, and then in vs.19-21 they are told, *“the acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God”*. So, if we live according to our sinful nature then sin will overcome us and we'll be shut out of heaven but if we live according to the Spirit then we'll overcome sin and go on to eternal life.

Clearly, believers who fail to come under the controlling influence of the Spirit will be overcome by sin. We are told in 2 Cor. 13:5, *“examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves”*. So, I ask you, *“Are you in the faith? Do you examine yourself? Do you have fits of anger, envy, selfish ambition, jealousy, dissenting gossip, drunkenness or lust etc in your life?”* If you have then please don't be a fool and think, *“Ahh! I'm saved. I'll be OK. God knows what I'm like and besides that, no one's perfect”*. It's certainly true that God knows exactly what you're like but it is equally true that He has no favourites (Rom. 2:11) and will condemn anyone who fails to repent. All that is required of us, to be perfect in Christ, is to confess and the Lord will forgive and cleanse us, just as it says in 1 John 1:9. We will never reach a state of sinless perfection until we see Jesus but if we maintain a repentant heart and confess our sins then we will be blameless in the Lord's sight and know, without question, that we will inherit eternal life.

Finally, to me, it is plain that we can lose our salvation but if you're not convinced then I still urge you not to grieve the Spirit but to live a repentant life and remain in Jesus' love as in John 15:10 He said, *“If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love”*. I have a video called Grieving The Spirit on YouTube and the link, along with a link to a free book, called The Calvary Road, is at the end of this video. This book shows in simple terms how to have a close walk with Jesus.

These videos can be seen on YouTube at
<http://www.youtube.com/christianissues>

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