

4. In closing, pray. Tell the Lord honestly where you are. Where do you want to be in your relationship with Him? Let Him know you are grateful for what He has done for you, and then simply confess your sin. Ask Him to help you come to a place of true repentance. Ask the Lord to give you endurance. He holds your life in His hands, and He alone has the power to keep you from falling away—and one day, joyfully bring you into His glorious presence!

Can I Stop Sinning? Can I Lose My Salvation?



Text: John 20:30-31, Acts 2: 36-41

The Plain Truth

"Salvation is a gift to claim
through _____ and _____,
not an _____."

- 1) Does God _____ ?
- 2) Can I _____ repeating the same sin?
 - A) Confession
 - B) _____
 - C) _____
 - D) Put on a new nature:
 - E) Realize that salvation is an _____

- 3) Can I lose my _____ ?

One Year Bible Reading

January 18: Genesis 37:1-38:30, Matthew 12:22-45, Psalm 16:1-11, Proverbs 3:27-32
January 19: Genesis 39:1-41:16, Matthew 12:46-13:23, Psalm 17:1-15, Prov. 3:33-35
January 20: Genesis 41:17-42:17, Matthew 13:24-46, Psalm 18:1-15, Proverbs 4:1-6
January 21: Genesis 42:18-43:34, Matthew 13:47-14:12, Psalm 18:16-36, Proverbs 4:7-10
January 22: Genesis 44:1-45:28, Matthew 14:13-36, Psalm 18:37-50, Proverbs 4:11-13
January 23: Genesis 46:1-47:31, Matthew 15:1-28, Psalm 19:1-14, Proverbs 4:14-19
January 24: Genesis 48:1-49:33, Matthew 15:29-16:12, Psalm 20:1-9, Proverbs 4:20-27

January 17 & 18 2015

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Life Group Lesson

• Week of January 18

(1) How Can I Know that I'm Saved?

"We proclaim to you the One who existed from the beginning, whom we have heard and seen. We saw Him with our own eyes and touched Him with our own hands. He is the Word of life. This One who is life itself was revealed to us, and we have seen Him. And now we testify and proclaim to you that He is the One who is eternal life. He was with the Father, and then He was revealed to us. We proclaim to you what we ourselves have actually seen and heard so that you may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that you may fully share our joy" (1 John 1:1-4).

These words were written by one of the early apostles, John the Beloved. Just as Peter declares that he, James, and John "were not making up clever stories" (see 2 Peter 1:16) and Luke states that he has gathered eyewitness reports (see Luke 1:1-4), John the Beloved says, what we have seen and heard we now declare to you! Throughout time Christians have struggled with questions about God, about Jesus being equal with God, and about personal assurance of salvation. But John says, "This is the message we heard from Jesus and now declare to you: God is light, and there is no darkness in Him at all... And we can be sure that we know Him if we obey His commandments" (1 John 1:5, 2:3). In other words, if you really want to know the Lord, you can. The question is, do you really want to know Him?

1. Perhaps there has been a time you doubted God's plan of salvation through Christ Jesus. Where did you look for answers? Where did you find answers?

Briefly share how God has brought you to a place of certainty.

How would you respond to someone who says, "How can I know that I know the Lord?"

Faith is a gift to be treasured because it comes from above. In fact, every good and perfect gift comes from our Lord who never changes. Salvation is God's idea, not ours, so "He chose to give birth to us by giving us His true Word. And we, out of all creation, became His prized possession" (see James 1:17-18). You see, God chose to save you a long time ago when He sent His Son to die on the cross for sin. God chose to raise you to new life (give you new birth) when He raised Christ from the dead (see Ephesians 2:4-5). Even if you don't understand everything about salvation, you can move forward with great certainty about the things you *do* know.

(2) How Can I Stop Repeating the Same Sin?

Just as God's Word is an accurate record of His redeeming love through Christ (the Gospel Message), the Bible also points us to truth for living. But turning to Christ (the way, the truth, and the life) means turning from sin (lies, darkness, and death). When you and I are through with something, we throw it away like trash.

2. Spiritually speaking, name a time (or times) you came to a point when you were ready and willing to part with the sin garbage in your life?

The Bible says to turn old sinful habits over to the Lord, and He will help us live a new life for His glory and our own good. Read the following passages and jot down one take-away beside each reference.

Mark 8:34-38

Romans 8:1-4

Colossians 3:1-10

1 Peter 4:1-9

(3) Can I Lose My Salvation?

This is a difficult question and should be held in tandem with this question: "Am I *through* with my salvation?" We are never *through* with being saved. From start to finish (and into eternity) salvation belongs to our God and depends upon our God. There will never be a time when "we've arrived" and no longer need God. In fact, the moment we are ushered into His glorious presence will be the moment we will understand just how much we have needed the Lord all along. There'll be no boasting in man at that point—only God!

3. Read the two passages below, and describe how you hold your own relationship with the Lord under the covering of His glory and blessing.

John 10:27-30

Hebrews 6:4-6

The writer of Hebrews goes on to say: "Dear friends, even though we are talking this way, we really don't believe it applies to you. We are confident that you are meant for better things, things that come with salvation. For God is not unjust. He will not forget how hard you have worked for Him and how you have shown your love to Him by caring for other believers as you still do. Our great desire is that you will keep on loving others as long as life lasts, in order to make certain that what you hope for will come true. Then you will not become spiritually dull and indifferent. Instead, you will follow the example of those who are going to inherit God's promises because of their faith and endurance" (Hebrews 6:9-12).