**Can A Christian Lose Eternal Life?**

On the July 1, 2018 Bible Crossfire program, a caller mentioned John 3:16 which teaches sinners receive “everlasting life” when they are saved. The caller asked - how can you lose that?

This is just another way of asking if Once Saved Always Saved is true, if a Christian can fall from grace: Gal 5:4 “Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; **ye are fallen from grace**.”

Two illustrations …

“A diamond is forever” – but you can lose a diamond, and then you don’t have it anymore.

After Adam and Eve sinned in the garden, Gen 3:22,24 reads “And the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: … So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.” And so Adam and Eve possessed eternal physical life while in the garden, but they lost that eternal physical life when they lost access to the tree of life because of their sin. If they could lose eternal physical life, then certainly we can lose eternal spiritual life on the same basis.

John 3:36 “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”

So that verse says a believer possesses “everlasting life.” But what does it say about a believer who becomes an unbeliever? It says about that unbeliever “he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.” He doesn’t have it anymore, does he?

You might ask then, is it possible for a believer to become an unbeliever?

* Haven’t you seen a few believers lose their faith yourself?
* People don’t become robots when they become a Christian do they? They still have freedom of choice, don’t they?
* Heb 3:1,12 “Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling … Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.”

As I said, the question boils down to – does the Bible teach Once Saved Always Saved or just the opposite? …

**Sam Morris**, Pastor, First Baptist Church, Stamford, Texas - … a Christian’s sins do not condemn his soul. … all the sins he may commit **from idolatry to murder** will not make his soul in any more danger …. That is the logical conclusion of the OSAS doctrine.

James 5:19-20 "Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins."

II Peter 2:20-22 "For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire."

Revelation 3:5 "He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels."

I 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.” But what if we refuse to repent of and confess our sins?

II Chron 15:2 “The Lord is with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found …; but **if ye forsake him, he will forsake you.**”

I think the “once saved always saved” doctrine is a good example of “wishful thinking” - teaching what they want to be true instead of what is true.