

Study Companion

Once Saved, Always Saved?

Can a Believer Walk Away—or Does Yehovah Keep Everyone Who Truly Belongs to Him?

A printable companion for tracing biblical assurance, perseverance, warnings, and apostasy passages with your Bible open.

Use this packet to compare the strongest security texts with the strongest warning texts before deciding what Scripture actually promises.

Don't take my word for it—Open your Bible.

openyourbible.org

Start With What You Believe

Do not edit your starting position yet. Record it honestly.

If someone is genuinely saved, can that person later reject Yeshua and be lost?

What passage most strongly shapes my answer?

What does “eternal security” mean to me?

What would count as “falling away” or apostasy?

The Strong Security Passages

Read the promises before reading the warnings.

John 5:24 — What does the believer already possess? What transition has already occurred?

John 6:35-40 — What does Yeshua promise concerning those who come to Him and those the Father gives Him?

John 10:27-29 — What characterizes Yeshua's sheep? What can no one do to them?

Romans 8:31-39 — What can separate believers from the love of God in Messiah?

Ephesians 1:13-14; Jude 24 — What do sealing, guarantee, and Yehovah's ability to keep add to biblical assurance?

Never His—or Believed for a While?

Scripture gives more than one category. Keep them separate.

Matthew 7:21–23 — What does Yeshua say about the people who call Him “Lord”?

1 John 2:18–19 — What explanation does John give for some who leave the community?

Luke 8:13 — What sequence does Yeshua give for the rocky soil?

Passage	What the text explicitly says	My interpretation
Matthew 7:23	“I never knew you.”	
1 John 2:19	They went out because they were not truly “of us.”	
Luke 8:13	They receive with joy, believe for a while, then fall away.	

Remain in Me — John 15

Work through the vine and branches without rushing to a system.

Who is the vine? Who is the gardener? How are the branches described?

What word does Yeshua repeat in verses 4–10? What does that word require?

Verse 6 — What happens if someone does not remain in Yeshua?

What details support the view that these branches represent genuine believers?

What details could support the view that fruitless branches were never regenerate?

Stand by Faith. Continue. Do Not Become Proud.

Romans 11 and Colossians 1 make continuation impossible to ignore.

Romans 11:20 — Why were some branches broken off?

How do the Gentile branches stand?

What warning follows in Romans 11:20–22?

Colossians 1:21–23 — What has Messiah done? What “if” follows?

Does the corporate Jew/Gentile context of Romans 11 erase the force of Paul’s direct warnings to his readers? Explain.

Run, Hold Faith, Do Not Depart

Read 1 Corinthians 9–10, Galatians 5, and 1 Timothy together.

1 Corinthians 9:24–27 — What outcome does Paul discipline himself to avoid?

1 Corinthians 10:1–13 — Why does Paul use Israel's wilderness failure as an example for believers?

Galatians 5:1–4 — What severe phrases does Paul use?

1 Timothy 1:18–20 — What can happen to faith when a good conscience is rejected?

1 Timothy 4:1 — What does the Spirit say some will depart from?

Take Care, Brothers — Hebrews 3

Pay attention to who is addressed and what they are warned against.

How are the readers addressed in Hebrews 3:1?

Hebrews 3:6 — “We are His house if...” What follows?

Hebrews 3:12 — What kind of heart are the “brothers” warned not to develop?

Hebrews 3:14 — What is connected with holding firm to the end?

If apostasy is impossible for the people addressed, what function might the warning serve?

Hebrews 6: Do Not Pretend This Is Easy

Record every description before choosing an interpretation.

Description in Hebrews 6	What I think it means
Once enlightened	
Tasted the heavenly gift	
Shared in the Holy Spirit	
Tasted the good word of God	
Tasted powers of the coming age	
Then fallen away	

Do these descriptions sound like no real participation at all? Why or why not?

How does verse 9 ("better things...things connected with salvation") affect your reading?

Hebrews 10: Assurance and Apostasy

Do not turn an apostasy warning into terror over ordinary failure.

Hebrews 10:19–25 — What confidence and privileges do the readers have?

Hebrews 10:26–31 — What kind of rejection is described?

Verse 29 — How is the person related to the covenant blood?

List the phrases that show this is stronger than an ordinary stumble.

Why is it pastorally important not to equate every sin with this kind of repudiation?

Escaped, Entangled Again, Hold Fast

Read 2 Peter 2 and Revelation 2-3.

2 Peter 2:20-22 — What did these people escape, and through knowledge of whom?

What happens when they become entangled again?

Revelation 2-3 — What repeated commands do you notice? (repent, hold fast, conquer, remain faithful...)

Why do the assemblies receive repeated perseverance warnings if perseverance is irrelevant?

Stumbling Is Not the Same as Apostasy

Peter and 1 John keep warning passages from becoming weapons against tender consciences.

Luke 22:31–34 — What does Yeshua pray for Peter, and what does He expect Peter eventually to do?

How severe is Peter's failure later that night?

1 John 1:5–2:2 — What provision exists when believers sin?

Write examples of “stumbling/struggling” versus “repudiating/abandoning.”

Key distinction: weakness, doubt, failure, and repentance are not identical to deliberate, settled rejection of Messiah.

Test the Four Major Explanations

Give each view its strongest case before deciding.

Explanation	Strongest supporting passages	What it must explain
1. Those who permanently leave were never truly saved	Matthew 7; 1 John 2; John 6; John 10; Romans 8	
2. A genuine believer can later abandon faith	Luke 8; John 15; Romans 11; Hebrews 3, 6, 10; 2 Peter 2	
3. Warnings are means Yehovah uses to preserve the elect	Security passages + serious warnings as preserving instruments	
4. Salvation remains even if faith is later abandoned	Eternal life / never perish / sealed / gift language	

Which explanation currently accounts for the greatest number of passages with the fewest forced exceptions?

Security and Warnings Belong on the Same Page

Do not use one column to erase the other.

SECURITY — what Scripture clearly promises	WARNINGS — what Scripture clearly commands or warns

What truth do I lose if I ignore the security passages?

What truth do I lose if I ignore the warning passages?

Pressure-Test the Slogans

Use full passages, not inherited one-liners.

Claim	Passages to test	My conclusion
"If someone leaves, they were definitely never saved."	Matthew 7; 1 John 2; Luke 8; Hebrews 6	
"No one can snatch you means you cannot walk away."	John 10; John 15	
"One serious sin means salvation is gone."	Luke 22; John 21; 1 John 1-2	
"Once you believe, future faith is irrelevant."	Romans 11; Colossians 1; Hebrews 3	
"The warning passages only mean loss of rewards."	Hebrews 6; Hebrews 10; 2 Peter 2	

Now Answer the Original Question

Use Scripture. Show your work.

Does Scripture teach that outside powers can overpower Yeshua and steal His sheep?

What characterizes Yeshua's sheep in John 10?

What evidence shows some who leave were never truly His?

What evidence warns people who appear to participate genuinely in faith to remain and continue?

Can I identify a passage that guarantees final salvation to someone who permanently repudiates Yeshua and abandons faith?

What kind of security do I believe Scripture actually promises?

What role does perseverance/continuing faith play in that security?

Assurance Without Presumption

Reflect before moving on.

Which security passage gave me the most comfort?

Which warning passage challenged me most?

Did I change my view? If so, what changed?

How would I now counsel a frightened believer who has sinned and wants to return to Yehovah?

How would I counsel someone relying on a past profession while openly rejecting Yeshua now?

NOTES

Study Notes

Extra verses, questions, word studies, and observations.

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