

“Can we walk away from Christ?”

The question is, can you walk away after making a profession of faith? Is it possible?

The short answer is no! Once you are saved you are a child of God, and He will guide your steps from that moment forward.

The issue is rooted in someone’s salvation;

1 Corinthians 15:1-2, “Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.”

The word vain simply means useless, if we believe on the Lord Jesus uselessly then we can have a false sense of salvation.

Acts 10:33, “So I sent for you at once, and you have been kind enough to come. Now therefore we are all here in the presence of God to hear all that you have been commanded by the Lord.”

Peter was sent to Cornelius’s house to explain to them salvation.

Philip was sent to the Ethiopian Eunuch to help him understand salvation.

Acts 8:30-35, “So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” ...Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus.”

Acts 16:29-32, “And the jailer called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.”

Paul had to explain what it meant to believe in the Lord Jesus.

At some point you must have an understanding of what you are believing and why!

Now when we come to accept Christ, we deny sin and self and bind ourselves to Him out of love and from that moment forward He becomes our new master, and we are fused with Him.

Unfortunately, knowing of one’s salvation is between that person and God; the only person we can know for sure who is saved is ourself.

Romans 8:15-16, “For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” 16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,”

There are a few ideas of believing in vain;

Matthew 13 Jesus gives the parables of the soils, and there are 4 soils to be understood.

1) **Matthew 13:19, “When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path.”** This is the seed or word of God that generally went out on the ground or to people’s hearts/minds. But, immediately Satan takes away from them what was given, and they do not believe. Examples of these types of people might be scientists, atheists, Muslims, Mormons, Hindus, etc. They have a blatant disregard for the truth that has been revealed.

2) **Matthew 13:20-21, “As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away.”** These people are not rooted in Christ; they are not fused with Him as a child of God. They have superficially accepted some general things of God’s word. But when people make fun of them, ridicule their new lifestyle, exclude them from activities, or they lose a job, friends, family, etc, they lose interest in Christ because there is no firm root in Him. The sun symbolizes the persecution or trouble that being interested in Jesus causes.

3) **Matthew 13:22, “As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.”** These folks have some kind of attention to Jesus but no real commitment. Their commitment level is superficial; they uselessly believe. Yet when the worries of the world and wealth spring up, then the commitment or the word that was sown in their heart/mind becomes choked out by the world. At that moment their belief in Christ becomes useless.

Only the seed that falls on the good soil, has deep roots, and springs up and produces fruit becomes evidence of the saved individual.

There are a lot of people that say a prayer, but walk away later and never look back. John explains this in,

1 John 2:19, “They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.”

Even though people have a desire for certain things of God doesn’t mean they are actually committed to Him.

We see this in **Acts 8** where Simon the sorcerer listens to Philip about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus. And the Bible even says, **Acts 8:13**, “**Even Simon himself BELIEVED, and after being baptized he continued with Philip. And seeing signs and great miracles performed, he was amazed.**” Emphasis is mine, but it says he believed. But, in reality, it doesn’t mean that he was truly saved. When Peter lays hands on them, and the others receive the Holy Spirit, Simon wanted to make money off of that. **Acts 8:18-19**, “**Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles’ hands, he offered them money, saying, “Give me this power also, so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.”** Exemplifies the seed that fell on thorns and wealth and riches choked it out, because Peter tells him this; **Acts 8:20-23**, “**May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. Repent, therefore, of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and enslaved to sin.**”

Salvation is the true issue, not whether you can leave or not, but rather if you were truly saved to begin with.

Ephesians 1:13-14, “**In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.**” So when we accept Christ as Lord and Savior we are given the Holy Spirit or sealed with the Spirit as Paul says, as our guarantee for eternal life. So if the Holy Spirit resides in you, then as Paul says in **Philippians 1:6**, “**And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.**” God will finish the work He started at salvation. Jesus said in, **John 10:27-30**, “**My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one.**” Nothing can take us away from Christ, if it were possible then for us to give up Jesus, then the sealed promised Holy Spirit can be lost which makes God a liar. Which we know is impossible, **Titus 1:2**, “**in hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised before the ages began**” which would also make Jesus a liar, **John 5:24**, “**Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment but has passed from death to life.**” You cannot go from death to life and then back to death; that would make God a liar.

That is the importance of Examining yourselves, **2 Corinthians 13:5**, “**Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!**”

One must make sure a true commitment to Christ is made, resulting in salvation and God continuing to work in you. As He does, you can then see how the Spirit is at work in your

life by you growing more and more in godliness. **2 Peter 1:10, “Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.”**

It’s the whole point of salvation, you are not the same as you were, you are an entirely new creation. **2 Corinthians 5:17, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”**

If you truly are in Christ then you cannot walk away from Him.