

IS IT POSSIBLE TO FORFEIT OUR SALVATION?

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Phil 2:12

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to **work out your salvation** with fear and trembling. (NIV)

“ONCE SAVED ALWAYS SAVED” (Calvinism, Predestination).

John 10:28-29

I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; **no one can snatch them** out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; **no one can snatch them** out of my Father's hand. (NIV)

Rom 8:38-39

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, **will be able to separate us** from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (NIV)

Phil 1:6

...being confident of this, that **he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion** until the day of Christ Jesus. (NIV)

“SAVED, BUT POSSIBLE TO FORFEIT OUR ‘SAVED’ POSITION” (Arminianism)

1 Pet 1:3-5

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade-- kept in heaven for you, who **through faith** are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. (NIV)

Jude 1:21

Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life. (NIV)

Jude 1:24

To **him who is able to keep you** from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—(NIV)

Col 1:22-23

But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation—**if you continue in your faith**, established and firm, **not moved from the hope** held out in the gospel. (NIV)

Rom 11:20-22

Granted. But they (the unbelieving Jews) were broken off because of unbelief, and you (Gentile believers) stand by faith. Do not be arrogant, but be afraid. For if God did not spare the natural branches (the unbelieving Jews), **he will not spare you** (Gentile believers) either.

Consider therefore the kindness and sternness of God: sternness to those who fell (the unbelieving Jews), but kindness to you (Gentile believers), **provided that you continue** in his kindness. Otherwise, **you also will be cut off.** (NIV)

1 Tim 4:1

The Spirit clearly says that in later times **some will abandon the faith** and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. (NIV)

2 Tim 2:11-12

Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him; **if we endure,** we will also reign with him. **If we disown him,** he will also **disown us;** (NIV)

Heb 2:1-3

We must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we **do not drift away.**

For if the message spoken by angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, **how shall we escape** if we ignore such a great salvation? (NIV)

Heb 6:4-6

It is impossible for those who have **once been enlightened,** who have **tasted the heavenly gift,** who have **shared in the Holy Spirit,** who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age, **if they fall away, to be brought back to repentance,** because to their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace. (NIV)

Heb 10:26-29

If we deliberately keep on sinning **after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left,** but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God.

Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.

How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing **the blood of the covenant that sanctified him,** and who has insulted the Spirit of grace? (NIV)

2 Pet 2:20-21

If they have escaped the corruption of the world **by knowing** our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are **again entangled in 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.

2 Pet 2:20-22

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." (NIV)

2 Pet 3:17

Therefore, dear friends, since you already know this, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and **fall from your secure position.** (NIV)

Rev 2:11

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who **overcomes** will not be hurt at all by the **second death.** (NIV)

Rev 20:14

Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the **second death.** (NIV)

Jude 1:12

These men (apostates) are blemishes at your love feasts, eating with you without the slightest qualm-- shepherds who feed only themselves. They are clouds without rain, blown along by the wind; autumn trees, without fruit and uprooted-- **twice dead.** (NIV)

Rev 3:5

He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white. **I will never blot out his name** from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels. (NIV)

This subject is one of many biblical “paradoxes.”

Paradox: “That which is true, yet appears contradictory.”

Diametrical poles of scripture creates a “rubber band” tension for balanced truth.

CALVINISM

**Grace
License
Can't lose Salvation
Predestination
God Chose
God keeps us**

MIDDLE

**Balance
Freedom
Hard to lose Salvation
Foreknowledge
those he knew would accept**

ARMINIANISM

**Law
Works (Legalism)
Can Lose Salvation
Free Will
Man Chooses
Our faith keeps us**

ARMINIANISM vs CALVINISM

THE “FIVE POINTS” OF ARMINIANISM

Free Will or Human Ability

Although human nature was seriously affected by the fall, man has not been left in a state of total spiritual helplessness. God graciously enables every sinner to repent and believe, but He does not interfere with man’s freedom. Each sinner possesses a free will, and his eternal destiny depends on how he uses it. Man’s freedom consists of his ability to choose good over evil in spiritual matters; his will is not enslaved to his sinful nature. The sinner has the power to either cooperate with God’s Spirit and be regenerated or resist God’s grace and perish. The lost sinner needs the Spirit’s assistance, but he does not have to be regenerated by the Spirit before he can believe, for faith is man’s act and precedes the new birth. Faith is the sinner’s gift to God; it is man’s contribution to salvation.

Conditional Election

God’s choice of certain individuals unto salvation before the foundation of the world was based upon His foreseeing that they would respond to His call. He selected only those whom He knew would of themselves freely believe the gospel. Election therefore was determined by or conditioned upon what man would do. The faith which God foresaw and upon which He based His choice was not given to the sinner by God (it was not created by the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit) but resulted solely from man’s will. It was left entirely up to man as to who would believe and therefore as to who would be elected unto salvation. God chose those whom He knew would, of their own free will, choose Christ. Thus the sinner’s choice of Christ, not God’s choice of the sinner, is the ultimate cause of salvation.

THE “FIVE POINTS” OF CALVINISM

Total Inability or Total Depravity

Because of the fall, man is unable of himself to savingly believe the gospel. The sinner is dead, blind, and deaf to the things of God; his heart is deceitful and desperately corrupt. His will is not free, it is in bondage to his evil nature, therefore, he will not — indeed he cannot — choose good over evil in the spiritual realm. Consequently, it takes much more than the Spirit’s assistance to bring a sinner to Christ — it takes regeneration by which the Spirit makes the sinner alive and gives him a new nature. Faith is not something man contributes to salvation but is itself a part of God’s gift of salvation— it is God’s gift to the sinner, not the sinner’s gift to God.

Unconditional Election

God’s choice of certain individuals unto salvation before the foundation of the world rested solely in His own sovereign will. His choice of particular sinners was not based on any foreseen response or obedience on their part, such as faith, repentance, etc. On the contrary, God gives faith and repentance to each individual whom He selected. These acts are the result, not the cause God’s choice. Election therefore was not determined by or conditioned upon any virtuous quality or act foreseen in man. Those whom God sovereignly elected He brings through the power of the Spirit to a willing acceptance of Christ. Thus God’s choice of the sinner, not the sinner’s choice of Christ, is the ultimate cause of salvation.

Universal Redemption or General Atonement

Christ's redeeming work made it possible for everyone to be saved but did not actually secure the salvation of anyone. Although Christ died for all men and for every man, only those who believe on Him are saved. His death enabled God to pardon sinners on the condition that they believe, but it did not actually put away anyone's sins. Christ's redemption becomes effective only if man chooses to accept it.

The Holy Spirit Can Be Effectually Resisted

The Spirit calls inwardly all those who are called outwardly by the gospel invitation; He does all that He can to bring every sinner to salvation. But inasmuch as man is free, he can successfully resist the Spirit's call. The Spirit cannot regenerate the sinner until he believes; faith (which is man's contribution) precedes and makes possible the new birth. Thus, man's free will limits the Spirit in the application of Christ's saving work. The Holy Spirit can only draw to Christ those who allow Him to have His way with them. Until the sinner responds, the Spirit cannot give life. God's grace, therefore, is not invincible; it can be, and often is, resisted and thwarted by man.

Falling From Grace

Those who believe and are truly saved can lose their salvation by failing to keep up their faith. etc. All Armenians, have not been agreed on this point; some have held that believers are eternally secure in Christ — that once a sinner is regenerated, he can never be lost.

Particular Redemption or Limited Atonement

Christ's redeeming work was intended to save the elect only and actually secured salvation for them. His death was a Substitutionary endurance of the penalty of sin in the place of certain specified sinners. In addition to putting away the sins of His people, Christ's redemption secured everything necessary for their salvation, including faith which unites them to Him. The gift of faith is infallibly applied by the Spirit to all for whom Christ died, therefore guaranteeing their salvation

The Efficacious Call of the Spirit or Irresistible Grace

In addition to the outward general call to salvation which is made to everyone who hears the gospel, the Holy Spirit extends to the elect a special inward call that inevitably brings them to salvation. The eternal call (which is made to all without distinction) can be, and often is, rejected; whereas the internal call (which is made only to the elect) cannot be rejected; it always results in conversion. By mean, of this special call the Spirit irresistibly draws sinners to Christ. He is not limited in His work of applying salvation by man's will, nor is He dependent upon man's cooperation for success. The Spirit graciously causes the elect sinner to cooperate, to believe, to repent, to come freely and willingly to Christ. God', grace. therefore, is invincible; it never fails to result in the salvation of those to whom it is extended.

Perseverance of the Saints

All who are chosen by God, redeemed by Christ, and given faith by the Spirit are eternally saved. They are kept in faith by the power of Almighty God and thus persevere to the end.

According to Arminianism: Salvation is accomplished through the combined efforts of *God* (who takes the initiative) and *man* (who must respond)—man’s response being the determining factor. God has provided salvation for everyone, but His provision becomes effective only for those who, of their own free will, “choose” to cooperate with Him and accept His offer of grace. At the crucial point, man’s will plays a decisive role; thus man, not God, determines who will be the recipients of the gift of salvation. **REJECTED** by the Synod of Dort, this was the system of thought contained in the “Remonstrance” (though the “five points” were not originally arranged in this order). It was submitted by the Armenians to the Church of Holland in 1610 for adoption, but was rejected by the Synod of Dort in 1619 on the ground that it was unscriptural.

According to Calvinism: Salvation is accomplished by the almighty power of the Triune God. The Father chose a people, the Son died for them; the Holy Spirit makes Christ’s death effective by bringing the elect to faith and repentance, thereby causing them to willingly obey the gospel. The entire process (election, redemption, regeneration) is the work of God and is by grace alone. Thus *God*, not man, determines who will be the recipients of the gift of salvation.

REAFFIRMED by the Synod of Dort, this system of theology was reaffirmed by the Synod of Dort in 1619 as the doctrine of salvation contained in the Holy Scriptures. The system was at that time formulated into “five points” (in answer to the five points submitted by the Armenians) and has ever since been known as “the five points of Calvinism.”

<http://www.graceonlinelibrary.org/reformed-theology/arminianism/calvinism-vs-arminianism-comparison-chart/>