

# Hebrews 6:4-6 and Hebrews 10:26-39 Discussion

## Basic Principles of Christianity

Repentance

- 1) Turn to God—draw near to God
- 2) Turn away from sin—separate from sin

Fall Away = The exact opposite of Repentance

- 1) Turn away from God—separate from God (Christ)
- 2) Turn to sin—fall into sin

Just like the Evil Angels who left with Satan,  
they separated from God  
fell to earth  
fell into sin with humans on earth

## Hebrews 6:4-6

For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.

*Heb 6:4-6*

This passage addresses the apostate nonbeliever who has received instruction in biblical truth which was accompanied by intellectual perception. Understanding the gospel is not the equivalent of regeneration. It is clear that knowing the truth (enlightenment) is not the equivalent of salvation. This person never makes a spiritual commitment from their heart to Jesus Christ. This individual in fact has seen and heard the full witness of the Holy Spirit about Jesus and yet the person refuses and rejects Christ. No matter what additional information is given or sign and wonder, this nonbeliever will never repent and accept Jesus as his Lord and Savior. There is simply nothing else more than can be said or done to convince this person to Repent and receive the Christ. Note: there is no mention of a person who is a believer, or a person that is saved, holy, born again, righteous, or a saint.

The reader must identify correctly who Paul in Hebrews 6:4-6 is talking about. He is addressing apostates (nonbelievers and False Christians who are nonbelievers). The progression is as follows:

- 1) Apostate nonbeliever sees and hears the complete witness of the Holy Spirit about Jesus
- 2) Yet apostate stills rejects Jesus
- 3) Apostate falls away (separates from Christ), falls into sin
- 4) This particular apostate will never Repent. There is simply no additional information or sign and wonder that will change this person's mind and heart. Nothing else in the future can be done to help this hardened heart
- 5) The apostate views Jesus contemptuously by his actions

Apostates fall into two categories of nonbelievers:

- 1) Obvious false teachers and people who reject the truth and the gospel of Jesus Christ
- 2) False Christians—these are nonbelievers who think they are saved but are not. They never truly spiritually commit to Christ and almost always practice sin, refuse to repent and refuse to obey Christ.

Apostates are individuals who fall away from the gospel. They reject it, abandon it, never fully receive and accept it, rebel against it, refuse to obey the commandments of Jesus, depart from the truth, refuse to live godly, teach false doctrine, practice lawlessness and sin, forsake God, do not fear God, refuse to repent of their sins, will not teach Repentance as part of the gospel, separate themselves from God and are not saved.

In Hebrews 6:4-6, the apostate has full knowledge and full revelation, yet still reject the truth and has no hope of being saved now or in the future. They can never have more knowledge than they had when they rejected Jesus.

There is no possibility of these verses referring to losing salvation. Many passages in Scripture make it obviously clear that salvation is eternal and cannot be lost. (John 10:27-29, Rom 8:35-39, Phil 1:6, 1 Pet 1:4-5). Those who want to make this verse mean that believers can lose salvation will have to admit that it would also say that one could never get it back again. This of course is illogical and therefore Heb 6:4-6 addresses the Non-Christian.

### Hebrews 10:26-39

For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The LORD will judge His people." It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God...

Now the just shall live by faith;

But if anyone draws back,

My soul has no pleasure in him."

But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.

*Heb*

10:26-39

#### 10:26-39 If we sin willfully

- after we have received the knowledge of the truth
- certain fearful expectation of judgment
- fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries
- worse punishment
- trampled the Son of God underfoot
- counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing
- insulted the Spirit of Grace
- Vengeance is Mine, I will repay
- The LORD will judge His people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God
- If anyone draws back  
My soul has no pleasure in him
- Draws back to perdition

#### 10:26-39 If we sin willfully

Two possibilities exist with this passage:

- 1) Some theologians believe this statement refers to the saved person who falls into sin and loses salvation

2) Some theologians believe this statement refers to person who thinks they are saved, but in fact are not saved and were never saved, and then falls into sin. (I personally believe in this 2<sup>nd</sup> category).

Note: The result is the same whether you believe category 1 or 2 exists. If we sin willfully (fall into sin intentionally and presumptuously without repentance) we are not saved and → Hell.

It actually does not matter whether you believe category 1 or 2 is real.

What matters is: the Bible simply says what it says.

If we sin willfully: we → Hell.

That's all you have to know.

Heb 10:26-39 Spiritual spiral of the apostate

The "we" in 10:26 refers to apostates (False Christians).

10:26 For if we (False Christians) sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth...

10:39 but we (True Christians) are not of those (False Christians) who draw back to perdition (hell & sin)

"If we sin willfully": "we"— The author Paul is speaking rhetorically to make a point. He excludes himself and genuine believers from this category. He later, in verse 10:39, goes on to say, "but we (Paul and genuine believers) are not of those who draw back to perdition." True believers will not be counted among "those" who fall away to destruction and sin.

True Christians do not sin willfully, nor continually fall back into sin. They do not fall away to destruction and Hell. Apostasy is the opposite of faith and the nonbeliever at some point draws back from the knowledge of the gospel and faith. This warning passage (Heb 10:26-39) deals with the sin of apostasy, an intentional falling away or defection. Apostates are those who move toward Christ, hear and understand His gospel, are on the verge of saving belief, but then rebel, turn away and fall away. This warning against apostasy is one of the most serious warnings in all of Scripture.

Sin willfully— to sin deliberately, intentionally, habitually and boldly. This is continual premeditated, presumptuous sinning.

Judas Iscariot was the arch-apostate. A person who had full knowledge of the Christ, yet he lacked faith and rejected Jesus. The apostate is beyond salvation because he has rejected the only sacrifice that can cleanse him from sin.

Trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing.

True Christians do not:  
trample the Son of God underfoot  
count the blood of the covenant a common thing  
insult the Spirit of grace

To trample is a gesture of severe contempt that demonstrates a complete rejection of Christ as Lord and Savior. To view Christ's blood as something "common" is the same thing as saying that it is unclean or defiled and implies that Christ was a sinner and a blemished sacrifice. Such thinking is blasphemous.

he was sanctified— "he" here refers to Christ. "he" cannot refer to the apostate because only true believers are sanctified.

Rejecting Christ insults the Spirit who testifies of Jesus the Christ.

Apostates can be obvious nonbelievers or they can be more subtle nonbelievers who as false teachers infiltrate the church with false doctrine. This is one of Satan's favorite deceptions. And lastly, Apostates are often False Christians who think they are saved but are not. They were in fact never saved. These people think they do not need Repentance of sin in their life. They incorrectly think they can sin willfully and still go to heaven. In this case, the apostate, False Christian, is a nonbeliever who has been exposed to God's redemptive truth, and perhaps made a profession of faith, but has not exercised genuine saving faith.

With apostasy, there is active rebelling against God, and forsaking, abandoning or falling away from the Gospel and the Commandments of Jesus Christ. The hallmark characteristics of an apostate is immoral behavior, lawlessness, worker of sin and sinning willfully without remorse, without asking for forgiveness from God and without any desire or attempt to Repent.

Jesus spoke of those who believe for a while but "fall away" in time of temptation. These individuals are intellectually persuaded, but never make a spiritual commitment to Jesus. On Judgment Day, those who work iniquity (practice sin and sin willfully) are told by Jesus to "depart" from Him and are not allowed in the kingdom of heaven (Luke 13:27). We are to withdraw from apostates who teach immoral false doctrine (1 Tim 6:3-5). Remember those people who fall away were never saved in the first place. A true believer may stray but then will never totally fall away and God Himself is able to keep the believer from falling (Jude 24). Hebrews 10:26-39 addresses False Christians. A True Christian, a genuine believer, cannot lose their salvation because of their sins. What the reader (you) need to recognize in yourself is: Are you 1) a True Christian or 2) a False Christian that sins willfully without Repentance? The latter person is not saved.