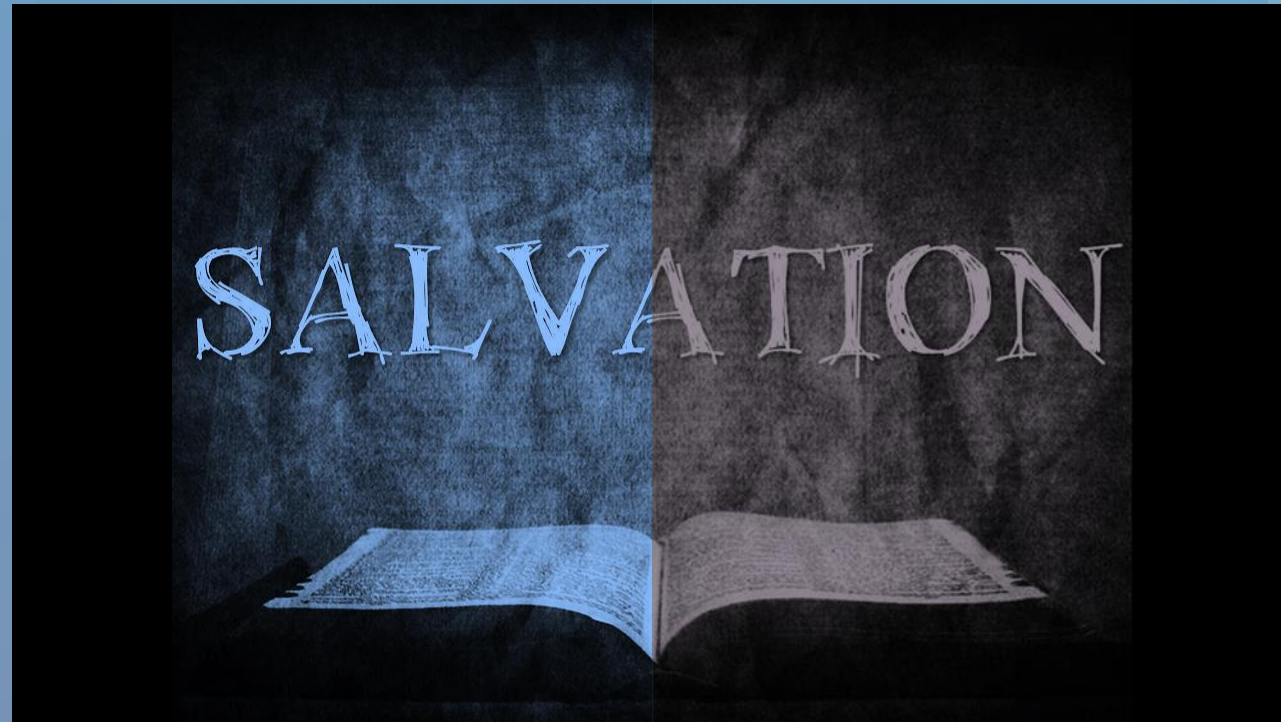


Questions of Salvation



What Is Salvation?



- What does it mean to be saved?
 - Deliverance from danger or suffering
 - Rescue
- Saved from what?
- Saved for what?

Salvation from What and For What?

- ▶ A salvation **from** sin and the wrath of God
- ▶ A salvation **for** eternal life
- ▶ A salvation **for** life in the kingdom and fellowship with God



Are We Saved by Grace through Faith?



- What does that mean?
- What is Grace ?
 - What is included?
 - What is excluded?
- What is Faith?
 - What is included?
 - What is excluded?

Are We Saved by Grace through Faith?

- Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸ For by **grace** you have been saved through **faith**. And this is not your own doing; it is the **gift** of God,
⁹ **not** a result of **works**, so that no one may boast.



If we are Saved by Grace...



- What is included?
 - Eternal Life
 - All Spiritual blessings
 - Spiritual gifts
- What is excluded?
 - Works
 - The Law

If we are Saved through Faith...



- What is included?
 - Trust
 - Repentance
 - Confession
 - Baptism
- What is excluded?
 - Works
- Will we get rewarded for our works?

Do We have a Choice in Salvation?



- Do we make a choice to be saved?

Or

- Has the choice already been made by God?

TOTAL DEPRAVITY

UNCONDITIONAL
ELECTION

LIMITED ATONEMENT

IRRESISTIBLE GRACE

PERSEVERANCE OF
THE SAINTS



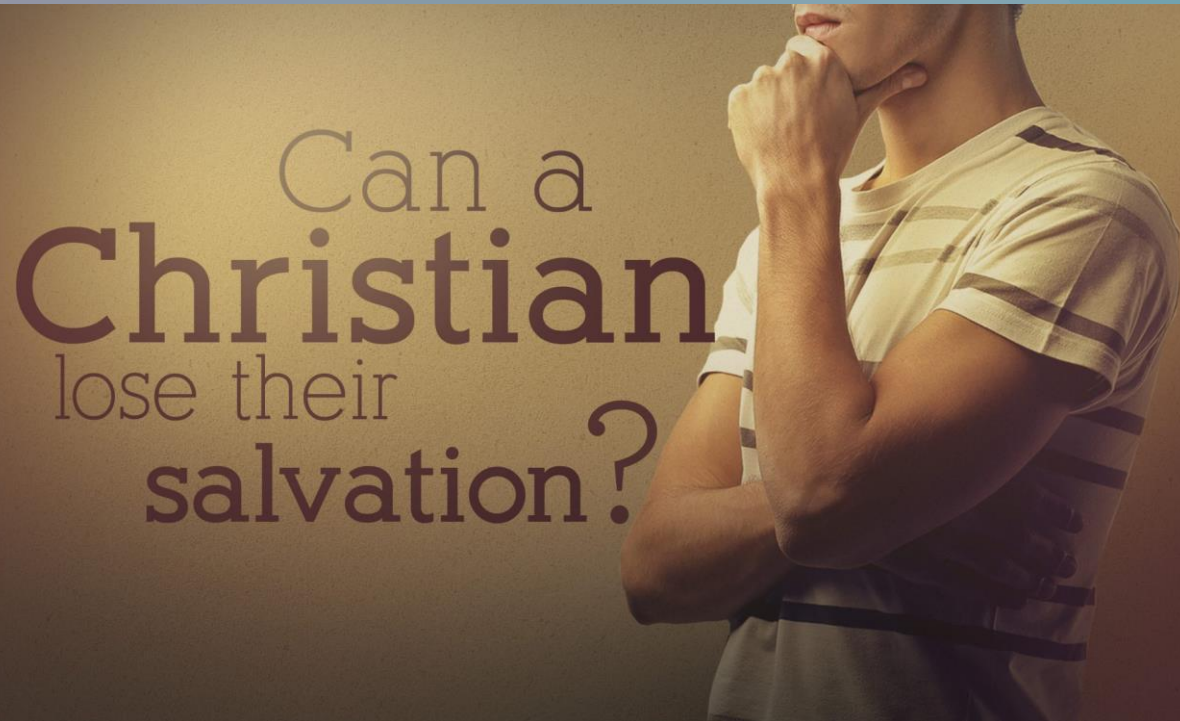
God's Choice

The
CHOSEN



- ▶ God chose to give us the choice to go against his will.
- ▶ Our choice can affect God's choice.
- ▶ God's choice is to choose those who choose to have faith in him.
- ▶ Those God knew before he determined before to **choose**.
- ▶ If we are saved by grace through faith (Eph. 2:8), it is our **choice** to have faith.
- ▶ What if we don't continue to be faithful (have faith/trust).

Do We Have Eternal Security?



- Can we lose not only our reward but also our salvation?
- If we are saved by grace through faith, do we have to remain faithful?
- Do we still have a choice.

The Swiss Reformation



- ▶ Conflict between **Calvinism** and **Arminianism** was a source of division among believers then and continues to be now.
- ▶ *Calvinists* believe: once saved, always saved, and *God makes sure* the saved persevere with faithful faith.
- ▶ *Arminians* believe: once saved, always saved, as long as the person *responds to God and chooses* to persevere with faithful faith.
- ▶ Both theological positions believe those who claim to be Christians but participate in lifestyles of disobedience are in *eternal peril*.

Can We Have Confidence In Our Salvation?

▶ John 10:28-29

²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and **no one will snatch them out of my hand.** ²⁹ 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.**

- ▶ Those in Christ possess the Holy Spirit and have His full power to strive against Satan, sin, the world, and their own flesh and to win the victory. **If** we do not **resist** (Acts 7:51) and **grieve** (Eph. 4:30) the Holy Spirit and **quench** His power (1 Thess. 5:19), and we **desire** the spirit's help and **partner** with Him (Gal. 5:16-26), no deceit or power of Satan or any man can pluck us out of Christ's hands.



Can We Have Confidence In Our Salvation?

▶ Roman 5:8-10

⁸ but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Since, therefore, we have **now been justified** by his blood, **much more** shall we **be saved** by him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were **enemies** we were **reconciled** to God by the death of his Son, **much more, now** that we are reconciled, shall we **be saved by his life**.

▶ Christ died to justify and reconcile us to God. He is **now living** for us to bring us to **complete our salvation**.



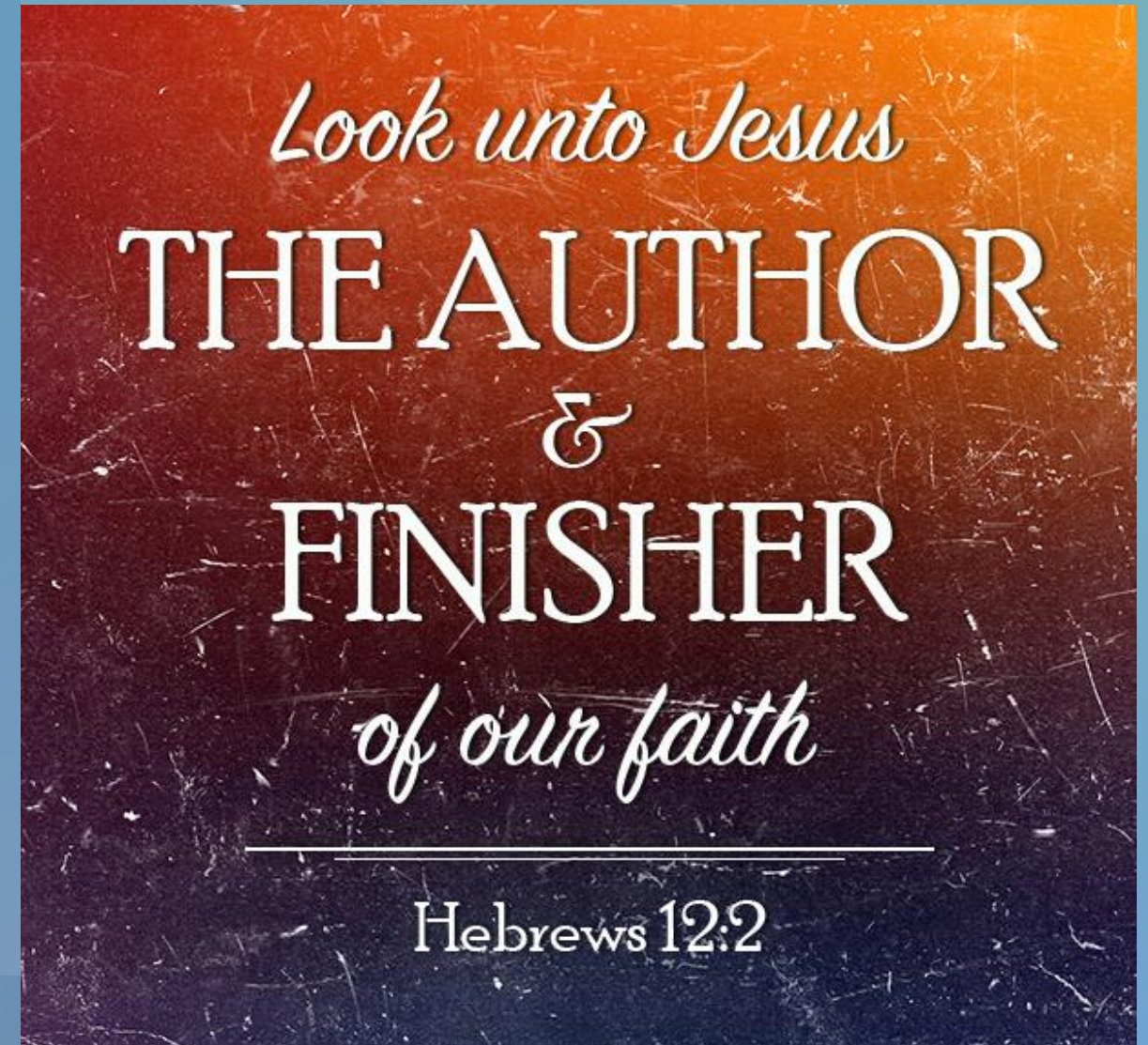
Can We Have Confidence In Our Salvation?

- ▶ Phillipians 1:6
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.
- ▶ Should we have confidence and assurance in our salvation and the hope of eternal life?



Is the completion of our faith a partnership?

- ▶ Hebrews 12:1-2a
Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, **let us lay aside** every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and **let us run with endurance** the race that is set before us, ² looking unto Jesus, the **author and finisher of our faith,**



Is the completion of our faith a partnership?

- ▶ Philippians 2:12-13 (NCV)
12 My dear friends, you have always obeyed God when I was with you. It is even more important that you obey now while I am away from you. Keep on **working** to **complete** your **salvation** with fear and trembling, 13 because **God is working** in you to help you **want to do** and **be able to do** what pleases him.



Do We Still Have a Choice of Faith?

► Heb. 6:4-6

⁴ For it is **impossible**, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have **tasted** the heavenly **gift**, and have **shared** in the Holy **Spirit**, ⁵ and have **tasted** the goodness of the word of God and the **powers** of the age to come, ⁶ and **then** have **fallen away**, to **restore** them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own **harm** and holding him up to **contempt**.

*Does Hebrews 6:4-6 Mean You
Can Lose Your Salvation?*

Do We Still Have a Choice of Faith?

► Heb. 10:26-27

²⁶ For if we go on **sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth**, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, ²⁷ but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. ²⁸ Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. ²⁹ How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has **trampled underfoot** the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he **was sanctified**, and has **outraged the Spirit** of grace?

DOES HEBREWS 10:26 MEAN
THAT A BELIEVER CAN LOSE SALVATION?

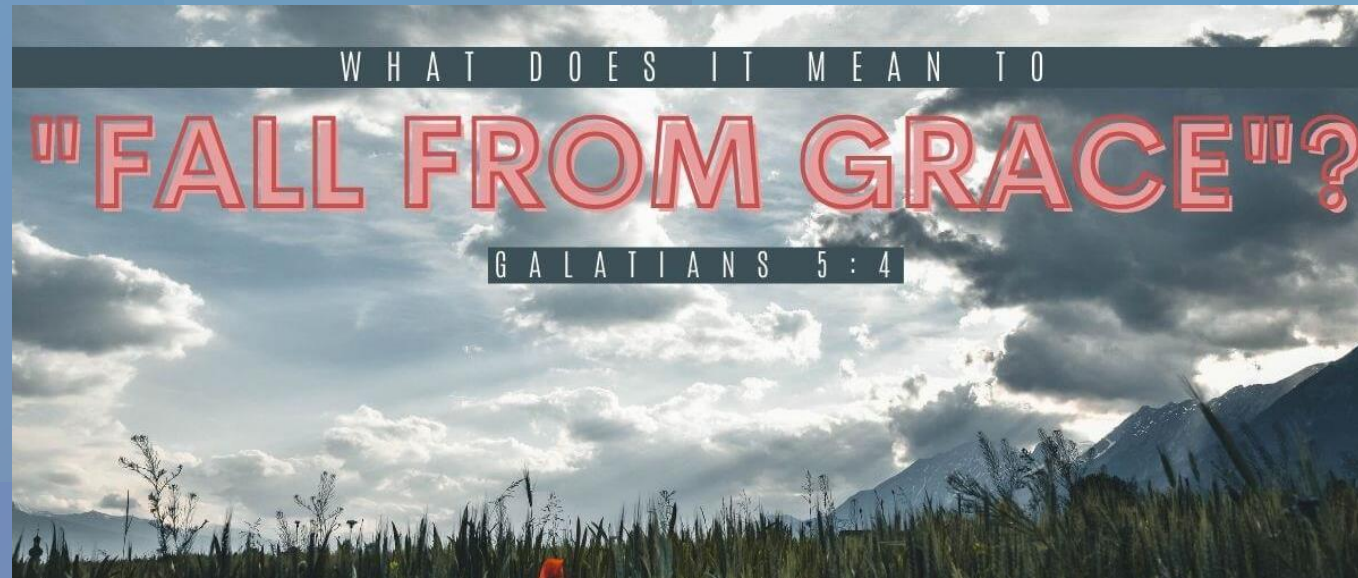
How Can Christians Lose Their Faith

▶ **Turning from Jesus and His gospel – Gal. 5:4**

“You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have **fallen away from grace.**”

▶ **Turn from Jesus Due to Testing and Hardship – Luke 8:13**

“And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, **receive it with joy.** But these have no root; they **believe for a while,** and in time of testing **fall away.**”



How Can Christians Lose Their Faith

► Embracing Sinful Lifestyles Inconsistent with Repentant Faith – Hebrews 3:12-14

“¹² Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, **unbelieving** heart, leading you to **fall away** from the living God. ¹³ But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be **hardened** by the deceitfulness of sin. ¹⁴ For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our **original confidence** firm **to the end.**”





A Dangerous Third Way



- ▶ “Once saved, always saved, no matter how you live.”
 - ▶ Recent development in mainstream Christian theology (especially since the 1960s).
 - ▶ Not based on scripture.
 - ▶ Made popular by certain preachers who intended to comfort those with loved ones who no longer follow Jesus.
 - ▶ According to this teaching, salvation is granted totally by grace, and faith is reduced to a sincere affirmation that Jesus died on the cross for our sins. That, they say, is all one needs.

Is Affirmation that Jesus Died on the Cross a Saving Faith?

► Matthew 7:21-23

²¹ “Not everyone who says to me, ‘**Lord, Lord,**’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who **does the will of my Father** who is in heaven. ²² On that day many will say to me, ‘**Lord, Lord,** did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many **mighty works** in your name?’ ²³ And then will I declare to them, ‘**I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.**’



Is Affirmation that Jesus Died on the Cross a Saving Faith?

► 1 John 1:6-7

⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that **God is light**, and in him is **no darkness** at all. ⁶ If we say we have fellowship with him while we **walk in darkness**, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷ But if we **walk in the light**, as he is in the **light**, we have **fellowship** with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son **cleanses us from all sin.**



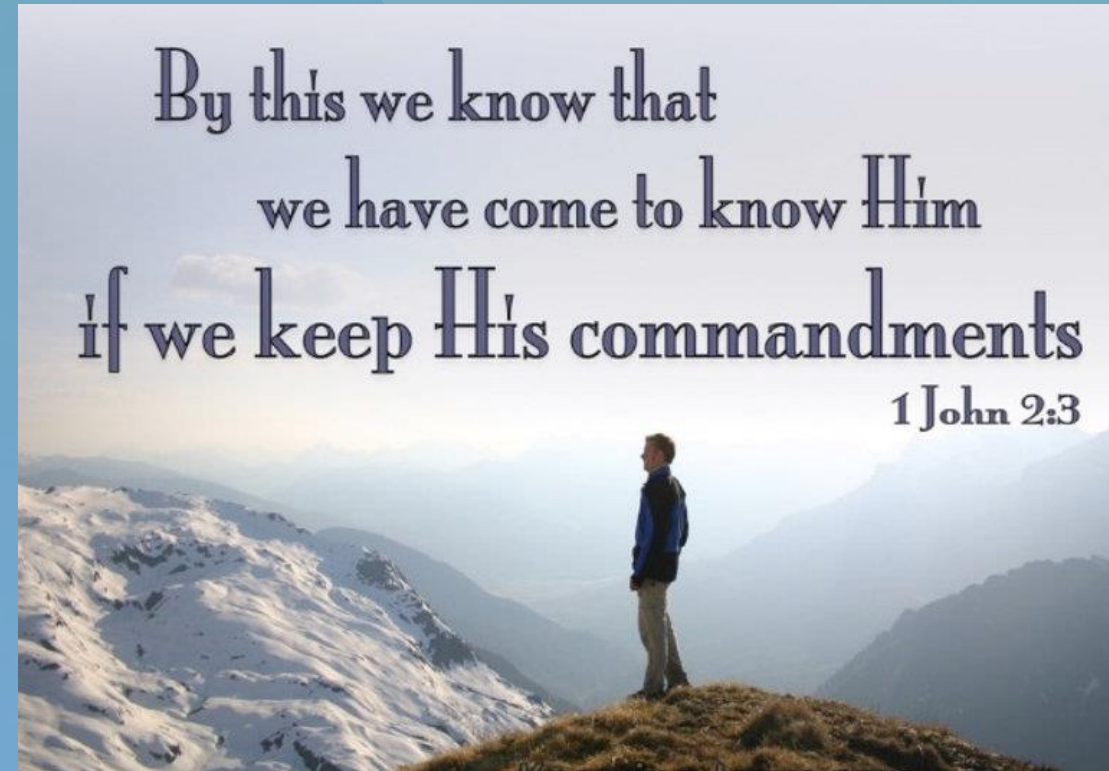
Is Affirmation that Jesus Died on the Cross a Saving Faith?

► 1 John 2:3-6

³ And by this we know that we have come to **know him**, if we **keep his commandments**.

⁴ Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him,

⁵ but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may **know that we are in him**: ⁶ whoever says he **abides in him** ought to **walk** in the same way in which he walked.



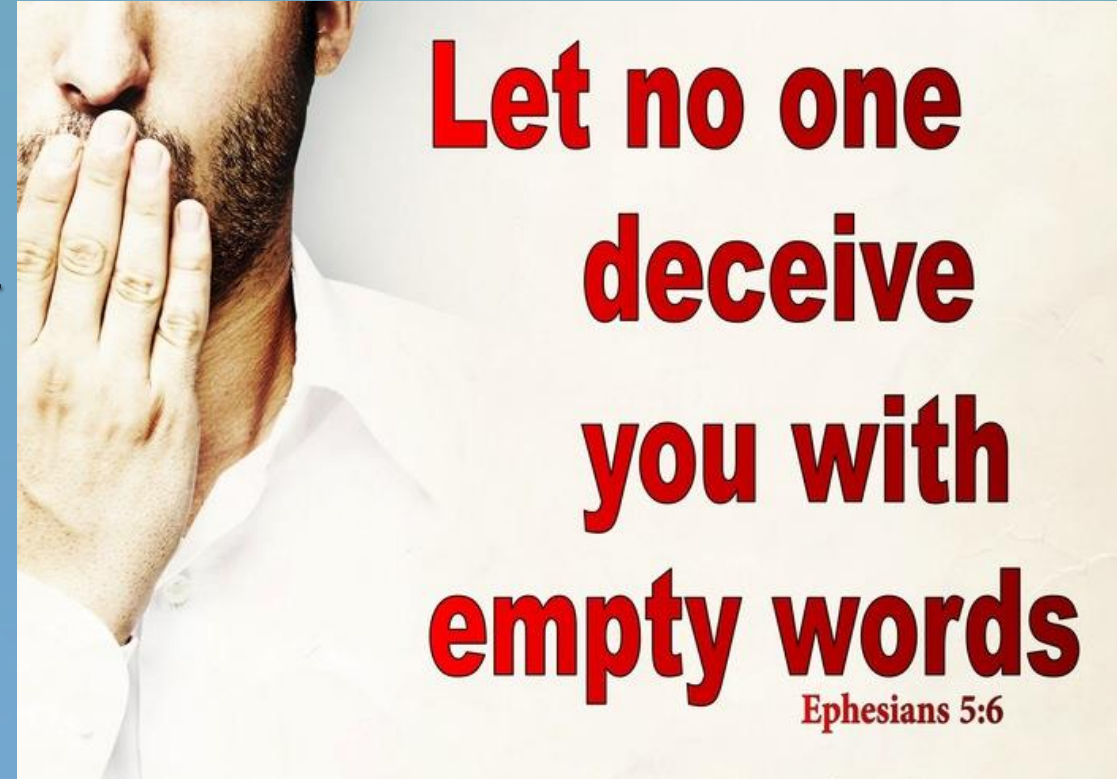
Is Affirmation that Jesus Died on the Cross a Saving Faith?

▶ Eph. 5:5

⁵ For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has **no inheritance** in the kingdom of Christ and God. ⁶ Let no one deceive you with **empty words**, for because of these things the **wrath of God** comes upon the **sons of disobedience**.

▶ What does a Saving Faith look like?

▶ To have a Saving Faith is both to trust and to follow, i.e. “Trust and Obey”





Recommended Resources

Eternal Security: Walking In Faithfulness, Bobby Harrington, Real Life Theology Series, Renew.org, 2021



Thank you

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