

QUEST 52

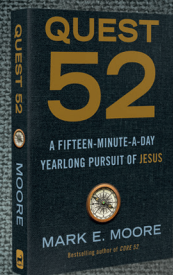
Quest52.org



Eternal Security Debate

By Mark E. Moore, Ph.D.

1. In some ways it is a moot point. Some say you can fall away; others argue that an apostate was never saved in the first place. Neither, however, doubt the destiny of one like Judas Iscariot (John 17:12); Simon Magus (Acts 8:18–23); or Hymenaeus & Alexander (1 Tim 1:19–20).
2. We must be cautious here because we are generally judging others' salvation, not taking any warnings to heart.
3. Both camps can be justly criticized. Eternal Security for "lawlessness" and Apostasy for preaching "Eternal INsecurity."
4. Paradox is not a horrible thing. Let each text stand on its own even if you have difficulty blending or combining two seemingly paradoxical statements.
5. Our conclusion may depend on our starting point. Let each text speak honestly what it desires to say.
 - a. There are wonderful promises about the faithfulness of God in protecting his people (cf. John 10:28; Rom 8:35–39). God expends more effort on sustaining our faith than we generally give him credit for.
 - b. There are also some very clear warnings about abandoning our faith (Rom 11:20–22; Gal 5:1–4; 1 Tim 1:18–20; Heb 6:4–8). We apparently are given a choice to be faithful to God's covenant or to abandon it.
 - i. Love necessitates freedom of choice.
 - ii. Covenant necessitates fidelity to the terms. There are several imperatives in the N.T. connected with salvation:
 1. Repentance (Luke 13:5; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 17:30–31; Rev 2:16, 22).
 2. Confession (Matt 10:32–33; John 12:42; Rom 10:90–10; 1 John 2:23; 4:2–3, 15).
 3. Immersion (Mark 16:15–16; Acts 2:38; Rom 6:3–5; Gal 3:27; 1 Pet 3:21).
 4. Forgiveness of Others (Matt 6:14–15; 18:35; Eph 4:32; James 2:13).
 5. Calling on Christ's name (Acts 2:21; 22:16; Rom 10:13).
 6. Obedience (John 3:36; Heb 5:9; 11:8; 1 John 5:1–3).
 7. Works/Fruit (Matt 7:21–23; John 15:2; James 2:20–26).
 8. Love (Gal 5:6; 1 John 3:10–24; 4:7–21).
 9. Benevolence (Matt 25:31–46; 1 John 3:17).
 10. Remaining faithful unto death (John 15:6; Heb 3:6, 12; 10:23–31, 36–39; Rev 2:10, 26).



QUEST 52

Quest52.org



Scripture:

Josh 24:19–20
Neh 1:7–9
Psa 95:7–10
(w/ Jn 10:27–30)
Mat 10:22
13:1–9
13:18–23
18:21–35
24:13
Luk 12:42–46
Joh 15:1–6
Rom 11:20–22
1 Cor 9:24–27
10:1–13
15:1–2
Gal 5:1–4
6:7–9
Col 1:19–23
1 Tim 1:18–19
4:1
2 Tim 2:11–13
4:10
Heb 3:1–19
4:1–13
6:4–8
10:26–31
10:36–39
12:15–17
2 Pet 2:20–22
Jude 6
Rev 2:5,7,10,11,17,26
3:5,12,21
21:7

Others