



Remain Loyal | Part Three

Lesson Eight • Hebrews 10:26-31

Two Initial Questions that Must Be Answered to Remain Loyal

- **What Is the Sin in This Warning?** *It is the deliberate, persistent sin of APOSTASY.*
- **How Does This Persistent, Deliberate Sin of Apostasy Happen?** *Apostasy is a SLOW FADE.*

Two Critical Questions that Must Be Answered to Remain Loyal

1. Who Is Being Warned Not to COMMIT This Apostasy?

“For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth...But we are not those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul.” Hebrews 10:26, 39

Who has **already committed** the sin of apostasy in the Book of Hebrews?

Who is **being warned to not commit** the sin of apostasy in the Book of Hebrews?

➤ **REVIEW: The Four Basic Views...**

FOUR BASIC VIEWS: WHO IS BEING WARNED About WHAT and WHY?			
BASIC VIEW	WHO IS BEING ADDRESSED?	WHAT IS the SIN WARNED AGAINST?	WHAT IS the JUDGMENT ADMINISTERED?
View #1 LOSS of SALVATION	True Believers	Apostasy <i>Falling Away from the Salvation They Once Possessed</i>	Loss of the Salvation They Once Had <i>Eternal Judgment</i>
View #2 LOSS of REWARDS	True Believers	Immaturity Even to “Apostasy” <i>Falling Away from Fruitfulness and Even the Faith Yet Still Saved</i> <i>Allows for...</i> <i>Followers Who Don't Follow and Forsake the Faith</i> <i>Believers Who Don't Believe and BlaspHEME the Lord</i> <i>Disciples Who Defy Their Master and Deny the Gospel</i> <i>...Yet Are Still Saved</i>	Loss of Temporal Blessings <i>They Could Have Enjoyed</i> Loss of Eternal Rewards <i>They Could Have Earned</i> Suffering Parental Discipline <i>in This Life or the Millennial Kingdom</i>
View #3 TEST of GENUINENESS (SALVATION)	False Believers with Temporary Faith <i>Mixed Audience Emphasized</i>	Apostasy <i>Falling Away from the Salvation They Professed But Never Actually Possessed as Proven by Their Falling Away</i>	Prove to Be Unbelievers <i>Eternal Judgment</i>
View #4 MEANS of SALVATION (PERSEVERANCE)	True Believers with Persevering Faith <i>Mixed Audience Recognized</i>	Apostasy <i>Falling Away from the Salvation the Author Believes They Actually Possess, Which Provides the Divine Preservation and Enables the Diligent Perseverance Required to Finish the Race to Final Salvation</i>	Prove to Be Believers <i>Eternal Life</i> <i>Rather Than Eternal Judgment</i>

➤ **REFLECT: The Book of Hebrews Emphasizes Persevering in the Race and on the Journey!**

ABRAHAM lived like an *alien – immigrant – sojourner*. (11:8-10)

MOSES chose *identify* with God's people rather than stay in Egypt. (11:24-26)

THE OT SAINTS lived like *strangers and exiles* on this earth. (11:13-16, 39-40)

RUNNING the RACE and RECEIVING a COMING KINGDOM (12:1-3, 28-29)

REPEATED THEMES like...

- Endurance, perseverance
- Receiving our future inheritance
- Entering our future rest
- Holding fast to our future hope

PLUS, TWO KEY VERSES that **POINT to HOLDING FAST to the END!** (3:6-7, 13-14)

➤ **REMINDER: Whenever You Are Faced with Multiple Views Go into BEREAN-Mode Not Buffet-Mode!**

*“Now [the Bereans] were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, **examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.**” Acts 17:11*

➤ **REFUTE: Which Views Can Be Set Aside When We Compare Scripture with Scripture?**

View #1 | Loss of Salvation Simply **NOT** biblical when we compare Scripture with Scripture.

View #1 struggles with the **SOVEREIGNTY of God's power and the SECURITY of His promises.**

View #2 | Loss of Rewards This is a biblical truth but it cannot be justified in the context of the warning passages.

View #2 struggles with the **SEVERITY of God's judgment** as described in the warning passages.

View #3 | Test of Genuineness This also is a biblical truth but does not seem to be the **main emphasis** in Hebrews.

1) Plenty of passages in the Bible teach the idea of temporary faith or false believers!

Jesus in **Matthew 7:13-29; John 2:23-25; Luke 8:13, 15**

John in **2John 2:18-19**

Peter in **2Peter 1:10-11**

Paul in **1Corinthians 15:1-2; Colossians 1:23**

2) But it is hard to see the descriptions of **Hebrews 6:4-6** and **10:26, 29 as being anyone other than true believers!**

View #3 struggles with the **SALVATION descriptions** of the hearers in the warning passage of Hebrews 6:4-6.

View #4 | Means of Salvation This also is a biblical truth and it does seem to be the **main emphasis** in Hebrews.

View #4 struggles with the **SERIOUSNESS of the warnings** for true believers who cannot fall into apostasy and will surely persevere in the faith to the end. Why warn them about what will never actually happen?

But **View #4** does a **sufficient job** of **avoiding** the difficulties of the other views, while **answering** the main difficulty with its own interpretation.

- It affirms the **sovereignty of God's power and the security of His promises** throughout the Bible as well as the promises of New Covenant salvation in the Book of Hebrews.
- It affirms the **severity of God's judgment** as described in the warning passages and the logic of the "lesser-to-greater" arguments of the author.
- It affirms the **salvation descriptions** of the hearers as described in the warning passage of Hebrews 6:4-6.
- It addresses the **seriousness of the warnings** for true believers with the biblical truth that God is a God of means and ends.

➤ **RELEVANCE: Why Warn True Believers to Not Fall Away If They Won't Fall Away in the First Place?**

2. Why Do These Warnings **MATTER** to Those Who Are Truly Saved and Won't Fall Away Anyway?

➤ Even though we are preserved by God's sovereign power, does this mean we **NEVER** need to be warned of the sin of apostasy and exhorted to persevere?

Evangelism & Missions – *Romans 10:14-17*

Prayer & Prophecy – *Daniel 9:1-3, 20-23*

Sailors & Shipwrecks – *Acts 27:21-26, 30-38*

➤ Will those who are preserved by God's sovereign power, consider these warnings about apostasy and these exhortations to persevere to be an **UNNECESSARY** waste of time?

Colossians 1:22-23; 1Corinthians 6:9-11; Ephesians 5:3-8

➤ Will those who are warned about apostasy and exhorted to persevere become **LESS SURE** of their salvation and fearful of not measuring up?

Hebrews 13:20-22; Philippians 2:12-13

What's the Takeaway?

The faith that falls away before the finish was flawed from the first!

But the faith that perseveres to the finish is able to do so by the preserving power of God's saving grace in the Person (Prophet-Priest-King), the promises, and the privileges of the New Covenant, all of which are freely given to the Believer-Priests He eternally saves!

As Believer-Priests...OBEY the WARNINGS to REMAIN LOYAL by Persevering in Your Faith in Our Great High Priest and His New Covenant Salvation, Knowing This Is One of the Ways God Uses to Keep Us Eternally Secure by His Power!