Glad You Asked: What happens when someone walks away from the faith? Can you lose your salvation? Next Steps Study

The Next Steps studies will help us dive a little deeper into what the sermon covers on Sunday morning. This study can be done as a small group or individually.

1. Read John 10:24-30 *“****24*** *The Jews who were there gathered around him, saying, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.”* ***25*** *Jesus answered, “I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father’s name testify about me,* ***26*** *but you do not believe because you are not my sheep.* ***27*** *My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.* ***28*** *I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.* ***29*** *My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand.* ***30*** *I and the Father are one.”*

Define “**Preservation** of the Saints”. Who is doing the work of preservation?

1. Read Hebrews 2:1 “*We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away.”*

Define “**Perseverance** of the Saints.” Who is doing the work of perseverance?

1. How are preservation and perseverance different? How do they work together?
2. Read Hebrews 10:23-25. “***23*** *Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.* ***24*** *And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds,* ***25*** *not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”*

What are some proactive things we can do to not fall away?

1. Read Hebrews 4:14-16. “***14*** *Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.* ***15*** *For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.* ***16*** *Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”*

How does this passage show both preservation and perseverance?

1. Pastor Russell said in his sermon, “But we must still persevere. Claiming Jesus is not an excuse for drifting. We can still make shipwreck of our faith, but if we do, that is not on Jesus. That’s on us. John Piper puts it this way, ‘Persevering does not earn your participating in Christ; it verifies your participation in Christ. Perseverance is not a payment for getting into Christ. It is proof that you are in Christ. So the person who drifts along in sin and makes no business in life of holiness does not fall out of Christ. He was never in Christ to begin with.” <http://www.desiringgod.org/messages/the-doctrine-of-perserverance-the-future-of-a-fruitless-field>

According to Piper, if a person walks away from the faith that means \_\_\_\_

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1. Read Jude verses 20-25

***“20*** *But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit,* ***21*** *keep yourselves in God’s love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.* ***22*** *Be merciful to those who doubt;* ***23*** *save others by snatching them from the fire; to others show mercy, mixed with fear—hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.* ***24*** *To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—* ***25*** *to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.”*

What warnings and what promises does the author of Jude give us to hold onto?

1. After listening to Pastor Russell’s sermon and going through this study, how would you answer the question, “How can I be sure of my salvation?”