

## Hardened Heart of Unbelief

**T**he Bible says the Book of Life is the book containing the names of the people who are “saved” (i.e., “born of the Spirit”). Hence, the Book of Life is dynamic, not static. When people are “saved” their name is written in the Book of Life. However, Jesus said He would *not blot out* (remove) the names of people who “overcometh”. Common sense tells us He *will* blot out (remove) the names of those who *do not* “overcometh”. **He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. Revelation 3:5. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. Revelation 21:7.**

The Word defines “overcometh” as overcoming the world and the ways of it. If we “overcometh”, we will not be harmed by the second death. **He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death. Revelation 2:11 (Emphasis added).** The second death is an eternal death in the lake of fire. **And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. Revelation 20:14-15 (Emphasis added).**

Today we “overcometh” by being “born of the Spirit” and *doing* the will of the Father. **For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God? 1 John 5:4-5 (Emphasis added).** But note the circular reasoning: the way to *avoid* being blotted out is by overcoming the world, and overcoming the world is by being born of the Spirit, yet being born of the Spirit is how we got our names written in the Book of Life in the first place.

Compare this seemingly circular reasoning to this: **Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself. John 7:16-17 (Emphasis added).** Thus, we “overcometh” the world by faith in God beginning with His Son—the Word of His will for all. **Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. James 2:17. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? James 2:20. For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also. James 2:26.**

By way of example, a lot of Jews under the Old (Covenant) Testament had their names written in the Book of Life by observing the Law. When the OT Jews rejected Christ and the New Covenant, their belief in the pure Word and their own prophets who foretold of Him ceased. By preferring the Old Covenant instead of the New Covenant they chose the will of their flesh as their chosen lifestyle of the world, and they did not “overcometh” the world. When they rejected Christ they lost their salvation they themselves believed, and some still

believe, cannot be lost.

Stated another way, the Old Testament clinging Jews relied on the Old Testament Word for their salvation, but they reject the New Testament Word for salvation today. The Spirit of the Christ Jesus is the Word, and thus the Jews rejection of the New Covenant is a rejection of Christ even though their own prophets spoke of Him. As a result, the Jews who cling to the Old Covenant rejecting Christ have lost their salvation. Their loss of salvation is because they reject the will of God. They reject the Word of the New Covenant for salvation which is the will of God. Thus, the Word *does not* dwell in their heart by faith in Christ as the required starting point as explained previously.

Under the New Covenant of faith, each person must account for himself or herself individually. When the OT Jews rejected Christ and the New Covenant, they became believers of a law for salvation unto themselves. The Bible describes the situation in the context of the “olive tree”. Under the Old Covenant during Old Testament times the entire nation of Israel was referred to as an “olive tree”. The nation of the Gentiles (non-Jews) was referred to as a “wild olive tree.”

As individual branches of the olive tree, the unbelievers of the New Covenant are broken off when they cling to their Law instead of accepting Jesus as their Messiah (the Christ). Meanwhile, the branches of the wild olive tree (non-Jews) were being grafted into the original olive tree by their faith in Christ Jesus and the New Covenant. **For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead? For if the firstfruit be holy, the lump is also holy: and if the root be holy, so are the branches. And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree; Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee. Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in. Well; *because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear: Romans 11:15-20. (Emphasis added).***

The branches that were broken off are the people whose names are blotted out of the book of Life (*Revelation 3:5*). But note, just as some of the original olive branches were “broken off” because of unbelief, *so too* can anyone grafted in if they stop believing the pure Word. **For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee. Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou *continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off. And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graft them in again.*** For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree? For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. *Romans 11:21-25 (Emphasis added).* Anyone broken off at any time loses their salvation in unbelief of the pure Word. This loss of salvation is *by the Word* even if people don't believe it!

Unfortunately, some denominational religions and the doctrines of men have confused people by asserting the view that the names of all mankind are written in the Book of Life at the beginning of time or on the person's fleshly birthday (i.e., the day they entered the world as a human baby). Then, those who do not get "saved" are blotted out when they die. This theology sounds good to the flesh, and pleases a lot of churchy people who like to postpone or forego repentance and personal service of God. However, the Word of God disagrees with their theology.

People whose names are written in the Book of Life are "born again" by the will of the Father, and not according to the flesh. The Bible clearly talks about names *not written* in the Book of Life *from the foundation of the world*. "... **whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world...**" *Revelation 17:8*. To suggest names not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world could mean everybody not yet born, then no name would ever be written in the Book simply because nobody existed at the foundation of the world. To say all people *are the world* and the foundation is defined by man's existence which removes God's will from creation is silly. The lost are of the world, but do not define it. The god of this world—the devil defines the world.

The Book of Life cannot contain the names of every person who was ever born from the beginning of time, simply because not all names are written in the Book of Life (*Revelation 17:8*). Furthermore, salvation was only for the Jews under the Old Covenant prior to Christ (*John 4:22*). At that time, only the names of Jews were written in the Book of Life, and the non-Jews had no hope as mentioned previously. **That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:** *Ephesians 2:12*.

Therefore, the Bible mentions: 1.) the names that were "written" in the Book of Life, 2.) the names that were "not written" in the Book of Life, and 3.) the names that were "blotted out" of the book of life. Jesus the Christ promised to blot out names from the Book of Life, and of course, He cannot blot out a name that was never written in it.

Today, the names of people who do not repent and accept the forgiveness through belief in Him set about to do God's will are "not written" in the Book of Life because they are not born of the Spirit. Those who once repented and accepted the Word as their plan for life, but later refuse to repent of their sin or continue in sin leave the protection of the Word, place themselves back as they were by choice and are blotted out.

Anyone who believes salvation can never be lost does not know the Word, and more importantly, the Word does not know them. Anyone whose name is blotted out of the Book of Life has effectively lost their salvation even if they think it cannot be lost. Still, many people who defend their reasons for clinging to their fleshly lifestyles end up proving their own unbelief and/or lack of understanding particularly when their best rebuttal includes the statement, "We can never be separated from the love of Christ." **Who shall separate us from the**

love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. *Romans 8:35-39.*

True, nothing outside ourselves can separate us from the love of God, but people *can* separate themselves from the love of God just like they separate themselves from a “love” interest in the flesh. **Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.** *Revelation 2:4-5.* The matter is not complicated, but many self-professing believers have a hard time with “losing their life” as the cost of salvation. **He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.** *John 12:25 (Emphasis added).*

In short, **WE** can separate ourselves from Him by rejecting our “first (true) love”—the pure Word of God from Jesus. The love of God in Christ *is* the pure Word as our “first love” from Him. **We love him, because he first loved us.** *1 John 4:19.* **Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou has left thy first love.** *Revelation 2:4* Compare, if a person loves anyone more than Jesus they are unworthy of Him. **He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.** *Matthew 10:37.*

For example, if a mother loves her male offspring more than the pure Word as the Son of God, or because of her own embarrassment she rejects the pure Word, she is unworthy of Him. As noted previously, many people will call Him their Lord and do many things in His name, but in the end He will say to them, “I never knew you.” **Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.** *Matthew 7:21-23.* No doubt, the workers of iniquity shall be surprised at their fate! **But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.** *Matthew 8:12.* Then said the king to the servants, **Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness, there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.** *Matthew 22:13.* And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. *Matthew 24:51.* And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. *Matthew 25:30.* **There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out.** *Luke 13:28.*

What about grace? By grace we are saved *through* faith, and salvation is the gift of God. **For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves:**

**it is the gift of God:** *Ephesians 2:8*. This gift can only be claimed through faith, because it is impossible to please God without faith (*Hebrews 11:6*). Recall, faith is belief put into action. Faith in the pure Word is a penitent lifestyle that works by love (*Galatians 5:6*). Living by the pure unadulterated Word being the will of God *IS* that lifestyle, and the Holy Ghost quickens our mortal bodies to live it!

When we are alive in Christ we have the grace He has. **For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.** *John 1:17*. This grace is not of ourselves as if we could naturally be of His grace without repentance. Grace is *OF* God and not just from God! **Jesus (i.e., the Word) was full of grace and truth. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.** *John 1:14*.

What shall we say then, shall we continue in sin *or disobedience of His will* so that grace abounds? **What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.** *Romans 6:1-4*.

If we don't have the heart to live by the truth in the Word as He did being the Word, we are not part of Him. Not being part of Him means a person chooses to remain disobedient, and no grace shall be given them. God's will is for all to believe and obey His Word. Pleading "grace for the believer" is of no help when the desire for truth by the pure Word is not of heart. Why? Belief is from the heart of love, and grace is not given to the unbeliever because they lack the sincerity of heart to love Him.

Therefore, grace is *only* for the children of God, but not everyone is a child of God as explained previously. The unbeliever goes to hell. *Revelation 21:8*. Of course, the children of the devil may receive God's mercy all the while He withholds His wrath, as we all did at one time or another. However, neither grace for the believing nor mercy for the unbelieving connotes a license to sin. Because of His mercy and goodness we can repent, become born of the Spirit, and live as the "saved" in Him by His grace. **Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Titus 3:5. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Ephesians 2:8.** Any doctrine of grace that eliminates the need for repentance is of the *anti*-Christ and the antichrist is the devil.

Being "saved" is a never-ending process continuing for as long as we remain on this earth, and Jesus said it this way: **For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard. And when he had agreed with the labourers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And he went out about the third hour, and saw others standing idle in the marketplace, And said**

unto them; Go ye also into the vineyard, and whatsoever is right I will give you. And they went their way. Again he went out about the sixth and ninth hour, and did likewise. And about the eleventh hour he went out, and found others standing idle, and saith unto them, Why stand ye here all the day idle? They say unto him, Because no man hath hired us. He saith unto them, Go ye also into the vineyard; and whatsoever is right, that shall ye receive. So when even was come, the lord of the vineyard saith unto his steward, Call the labourers, and give them their hire, beginning from the last unto the first. And when they came that were hired about the eleventh hour, they received every man a penny. But when the first came, they supposed that they should have received more; and they likewise received every man a penny. And when they had received it, they murmured against the goodman of the house, Saying, These last have wrought but one hour, and thou hast made them equal unto us, which have borne the burden and heat of the day. But he answered one of them, and said, Friend, I do thee no wrong: didst not thou agree with me for a penny? Take that thine is, and go thy way: I will give unto this last, even as unto thee. Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good? So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen. *Matthew 20:1-16.*

Also consider: **For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.** *John 3:16-17. (Emphasis added).* The word “might” is used, not “shall”. Similarly, **And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.** *John 6:40. (Emphasis added).* The word “may” is used, not “shall”. From the preceding verses, the words “might” (*John 3:16-17*) and “may” (*John 6:40*) are not definitive. “Son” is used in the context of the pure Word (*John 1:1*) as the association with God as the will of God for man. We have salvation in Him by the Holy Ghost in us, and thus the pure Word as His spirit/will of man becomes our will too. **And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.** *John 20:31 (Emphasis added).* Is anyone so bold to assume “may” and “might” means *shall*, or the “Son” is a variable form of the Word not to be believed as-is?

Recall, the penitent man on the cross next to Jesus when Jesus was crucified was also facing imminent death. He was literally unable to prove his penitent heart by an amendment of his lifestyle in conduct. But what if he was able to get down from the cross and live on like you and me? Does he live an amended lifestyle of repentance or continue as a thief and yet remain “saved” by the Word? What about his other sins? What if someone wearing a robe lied to him saying he didn’t need an amendment of life, but a doctrine of grace would cover his continued thievery sufficient for him to “retain” his salvation? What if he was told by a family member that “sided” with him saying his thefts were the product of his ancestral genetic makeup as a human, and thus natural behavior as part of God’s creation? Is he allowed to continue stealing while being “saved” so long as *he* believes his genes made him do it, and the works of his flesh are always covered

by grace? Does it matter if what he believes is not in line with the pure Word, and his own hardened heart keeps him from the truth?.. **And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.** *Matthew 24:4-5; see also Mark 13:5-6.*

Lastly, we are supposed to fear God. **But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.** *Luke 12:5; see also Matthew 10:28, Luke 1:50 and 23:40, Acts 13:16, 1 Peter 2:17, and Revelation 14:7.* If people came to the realization they could lose the salvation they think cannot be lost, would they act in fear of God and repent? Would they seek the strength of the Holy Ghost which means suffering in the flesh to do whatever it takes to endure an amendment of lifestyle in order to stay obediently faithful in service to Him instead of pursuing their own will of the flesh? Yes, of course! **Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.** *2 Corinthians 7:1.*

Many people shall lose the salvation they think cannot be lost!

Despite the numerous examples in the Bible that teach man *can* lose the salvation he thinks cannot be lost, have the “eternal security” proponents of a religious theology (science) forgotten about Adam? ...the OT clinging Jews? ... the whole concept of being “broken off” for not doing God’s will? Why do people prefer to rely on the doctrines of men and their theology despite what the pure Word says? Are they relying on their own beliefs thinking God will change His Word to suit them? Do they think the Bible is outdated because the authors didn’t understand science as we do today? Do they believe the Bible is “less true” today than it once was?

Why would anyone think the Word is not as forceful as it ever was simply because man has progressed in his understanding of the flesh and the world around him? **Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.** *1 Corinthians 1:25.* Has the Word gotten “dumber” because man believes he has gotten smarter? God forbid! **For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.** *1 Corinthians 3:19.*

If all self-professing believers would start by knowing they *can* lose the salvation they may have convinced themselves cannot be lost, all believers would be: **...in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love. This I**

say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. But ye have not so learned Christ; If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. *Ephesians 4:13-24.*

Only by fear of God is salvation truly valuable to us anyway, and a proper fear of God includes the possibility of losing one's salvation as per the Word!

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