

IF YOU REMAIN IN JESUS

Pastor Joseph Hovsepian

John 15:1-11

* Jesus used simple things to explain mysteries.

- The Bread, the Light, the Door, the Good Shepherd, the Way, the Salt, etc

This time Jesus uses Vine and the Branches.

“Remain” or “Abide” are used 11 times in 11 verses

The images of the vine, and vineyard were commonly used throughout the Mediterranean world.

Jeremiah 2:21

“I had planted you like a choice vine of sound and reliable stock. How then did you turn against me into a corrupt wild vine?”

Jeremiah 6:9 –

This is what the LORD Almighty says: “Let them glean the remnant of Israel as thoroughly as a vine; pass your hand over the branches again, like one gathering grapes.”

Jesus is taking this image and is applying it to Himself. Jesus is the true vine

A branchy must remain connected, attached to the vine to remain alive and bear fruit, so a Christian believer must remain in Christ

There are many examples and warnings in the Bible about the results of being disconnected from God, or fall away.

Trevor Bown says: “The teachings of Jesus and His Disciples actually warn Christians to beware the danger of falling away. The Bible contains examples of people who did fall away.”

There are many passages that speak clearly not only of the **Possibility**, but the danger of falling away.

Hebrews 3:12-13

*“See to it, **brothers**, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that **turns away** from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.”*

Hebrews 2:1-3

“We must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away. For if the message spoken by angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, how shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation?”

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Hebrew 4:1

“Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it.”

Matthew 10:22

“All men will hate you because of me, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.”

Why there are so many warnings in the Bible if Christian believes cannot fall away from grace?

Why Apostle Paul would say:

1 Corinthians 9:26-27

Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.”

He knew that the Christian walk meant perseverance.

He wrote to Timothy:

2 Timothy 4:7

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”

He also wrote to the believers in Galatias about their condition: **Galatians 5:4**

“You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace.”

Of course there are many examples of individuals in the Old and New Testament who had fallen away and had made shipwreck.

Acts 8:22-23

“Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord. Perhaps he will forgive you for having such a thought in your heart. For I see that you are full of bitterness and captive to sin.”

“Shipwreck”

“Falling away”

“Apostasy”

“Forfeiting Salvation”

are terms that describe a person disconnected from God

The term “**Loosing your Salvation**” is being used very often to attack or ridicule those who believe and hold the Biblical doctrine of perseverance...

Salvation is not something that you misplace or lose

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The Bible is very clear that God is a loving and forgiving God, and that He does not want anyone to be lost.

Jesus said: **Luke 19:10**

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.”

In **1 Timothy 2:4** we read: *“Who (God) wants all men to be saved...”*

If God forgave King David Apostle Peter The City of Nineveh ... etc.

God will forgive and restore anyone who comes to Him in repentance

1 John 1:9

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”