

My Righteous One Will Live by Faith
Hebrews 10:26-39

The first thing to realize about an apostate is that they are not just a non-Christian. The world is filled with non-Christians, people who don't know Jesus and who aren't saved. An apostate isn't just an unbeliever out there. Also, an apostate is not just a struggling Christian. There are many people who are Christians and who love Jesus that have periods of backsliding and periods of struggle and even periods of disobedience. Think about King David in the Bible, but no one would call him an apostate. What is an apostate? An apostate is someone who's inside God's covenant community, is part of the visible Church, whose professed faith in Christ, seems to be a believer, probably partakes of the Lord's Supper and is a member of that congregation, and then later consciously and intentionally repudiates their belief in Christ and leaves the covenant community. That is what an apostate is.

People get confused by that because they think this means that you can lose your salvation. The answer is no. Apostates are not people who were Christians and then stop being Christians. Apostates were never Christians to begin with and only later did it become apparent that they weren't Christians. Here's the upshot of the whole thing for us: God uses the stories of apostates to warn his people. Time and time again he says, "Don't end up like that person. Don't prove later to find yourself to be a non-Christian. Stay the course; persevere." That doesn't mean people can actually lose their salvation, but God uses those warnings and uses the examples of apostates to encourage his people to stay true to the faith. This is something that we're always going to face in the church, but thankfully we can trust that we're in God's hands, and when we're in God's hands, no one can be plucked out of the hands of the Father. Dr. Michael J. Kruger

- I. It is only through a true heartfelt, lifechanging, genuine belief in the gospel of Jesus Christ that a soul is eternally saved from God's judgement against unforgiven sin. There is no other way. Belief involves more than mere intellectual assent. *Even the demons believe – and shudder (James 2:19)*. It involves having a true heartfelt trust (faith) that forgiveness and a changed life can only come about through being made holy by the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. To be religious without that conviction, is to live as an apostate without any hope beyond the grave.

Heb. 10:19-31

Matt. 24:9-11

1 Jn. 2:15-19

Heb. 2:3

Mk. 7:8

2 Thess. 2:1-2

2 Cor. 13:5 *Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test.*

- II. The Holy Spirit gives us many things upon salvation, supernatural manifestations that not only seal us unto the day of redemption (Eph. 4:30), but also enable us to stay confident and steadfast in our faith. Confidence in God's promises and faithfulness toward us, as well as having a steadfast endurance in standing firm in the faith, are attributes that must be guarded to help keep us true to Him no matter what this evil world system might throw at us. Jesus expects us to live by faith. It is a responsibility that should not only bring conviction to obey him, but also an excitement in knowing that he is coming soon. Apostates don't understand these things, but we do and it's what gets us through the day as we fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith (Heb. 12:2).

Heb. 10:32-38

Heb. 4:16

Luke 8:15

Heb. 11:1

Habakkuk 2:4 (Rom. 1:17; Gal. 3:11)

Hypomonē = steadfast endurance

In the N. T. the characteristic of a man or woman who is unswerved from his deliberate purpose and his loyalty to faith and piety by even the greatest trials and sufferings.
Strong's

- III. To shrink back from living the gospel means to be a coward who retreats out of fear of those who hate believers because of their love for Jesus and the truth of His Word. We are not cowards, instead we choose to fight the good fight of faith by taking hold of the eternal life to which God has called us. We can with confidence say that we are saved because we hold unswervingly to the hope we profess and because we know without a doubt that he who promised is faithful.

Heb. 10:31

Heb. 10:23

2 Tim. 4:7-8

1 Tim. 6:12 Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

2 Tim. 1:17 For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.