How To Keep Saved?

Intro: The two great questions of life: What must I do to be saved? What must I do to keep saved? These questions imply that man was once in a lost condition. Since he was in a lost condition, he had to obey the Gospel to become saved. However, there is the danger of falling away.

I. THE DANGER OF FALLING

A. Warnings:
1. 1 Cor. 10:12 “Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.”
2. Heb. 3:12 “Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.”
3. 2 Pet. 3:17 “Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness.”
4. Instructions telling us to “take heed” or to “beware” are warnings to us.

B. It’s reality:
1. Acts 8:18-21 “And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money. 19Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. 20But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. 21Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God.”
2. Gal. 5:4 “Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.”
3. Demas
   a. Phm. 24 “Marcus, Aristarchus, Demas, Lucas, my fellowlabourers.”
   b. 2 Tim. 4:10 “For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.”
4. 2 Tim. 2:17-18 “And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; 18Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.”
5. Ephesian brethren; Rev. 2:4-5 “Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. 5Remember 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.”

C. Final condition:
1. 2 Pet. 2:20-21 “For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. 21For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.”
2. Death; Jam. 5:19-20 “Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; 20Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.”

II. POWER TO STAND

A. Christians do not have to fall:
1. 2 Pet. 1:10 “Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall.”
   a. These things are adding the Christian graces.
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b. 2 Pet. 1:5-7 “And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; “And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.”

2. 2 Tim. 4:6-8 “For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. ‘I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: 4Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”

B. It takes certain things.
1. Mat. 6:33 “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”
2. Luke 14:26-27 “If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. 27And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.”

C. Anyone can go to heaven:
1. He must first enter the way.
2. He must travel the road that leads to heaven.

III. Four Rules To Help Us Attain Heaven:

A. Read and study the Bible daily
1. 1 Pet. 2:2 “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.”
2. Psa. 1:1-3 “Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scorners. 3But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. 4And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.”
3. 2 Tim. 2:15 “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”
4. The Bible will judge us:
   a. John 12:48 “He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.”
   b. Rom. 2:16 “In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.”
5. Lack of knowledge causes destruction:
   a. Hos. 4:6 “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.”
   b. Rom. 1:28 “And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;”

B. Pray to the Father every day.
1. Mat. 7:7-11 “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: 7For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. 8Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? 9Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? 10If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?”
2. The early church; Acts 2:42 “And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”
3. Col. 4:2 “Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgivings.”
4. 1 Thes. 5:17 “Pray without ceasing.”

5. God promises to hear and answer the Christian’s prayer:
   a. Psa. 65:2 “O thou that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come.”
   b. While dealing specifically with the miraculous; Mat. 21:22 “And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.”
   c. 1 John 5:14-15 “And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: 15And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.”

6. Prayer accomplishes much:
   a. Jam. 5:16 “Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”
   b. It gives strength and comfort. (Even atheist will pray under certain circumstances and receive this.)
   c. It will stop sin, and sin will stop prayer.
   d. It brings us closer to God and spiritual things.
   e. It brings us closer to those for whom we pray.
      (1) Family
      (2) Friends
      (3) Rulers
   f. It will alter what would be.

C. **Attend all the services of the church.**

1. We are to come together in worship to God:
   a. 1 Cor. 11:17-24
   b. Acts 11:26 “And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.”

2. It is a time for worship:
   a. Worship’s basic meaning is “to kiss toward,” thus to do reverence or make obeisance; thus an act of homage or reverence to God.
   b. Psa. 29:2 “Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.”
   c. John 4:23-24 “But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. 24God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”
   d. Acts 2:42 “And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”

3. It is a time for edification; 1 Cor. 14:26 “How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.”

4. Psa. 122:1 “I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD.”

D. **Give liberally.**

1. Of your time:
   a. Eph. 5:15-16 “See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise. Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.”
   b. Col. 4:5 “Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.”
   c. Psa. 90:12 “So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.”
2. Of your abilities:
   a. Ecc. 9:10 “Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.”
   b. Parable of the talents; Mat. 25:14-30.

3. Of your money:
   a. 1 Cor. 16:2 “Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.”
   b. 2 Cor. 9:6-7 “But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.”
   c. Mat. 6:19-21 “Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

4. 1 Cor. 6:20 “For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.”

5. Invest in heaven.
   a. Be interested in the work and the growth of the church.
   b. Work for its success.
   c. 1 Tim. 6:19 “Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.”

**Conclusion:** John writes in 1 John 2:3: “And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.” We can keep the commandments and thus know we have eternal life; 1 John 5:13 “These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.” Have you kept His commandments so you have eternal life? We can have it, but it takes effort on our part.