OSAS Is a Strong Delusion

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A delusion is a false belief that is maintained or followed despite evidence to the contrary. A delusion can also be described as a fantasy or an imagined scenario that is not based on reality or in this case is not based on God's Word.

It is easy to understand why so many professing Christians want to believe that this false doctrine is true, for it eliminates the need for any real changes in their lives, any sincere repentance, and any need to fully surrender their lives to God in real trusting faith in God for healing, protection, finances, and every other issue in life.

Many have been led to believe that if they repeat the words one time that someone is telling them to say, which are often called the "sinners' prayer," then they are saved and can never lose their salvation, no matter how they may live thereafter.

If a person who has repeated the "sinners' prayer" at someone's prompting were to lead a very sinful life after their one-time profession of faith, and we were to question whether they are saved, the proponents or supporters of OSAS would say that that person was never saved in the first place, but that is not what they said and what they led that person to believe when they finished their one-time profession of faith.

(Romans 12:9) *"Hate what is evil; cling to what is good."* False teaching is everywhere today, and Satan has caused it to be so much more readily available today through a number of social media platforms as well as podcasts, in addition to books and other written materials, so we must be ready to *"Contend for the faith"* (Jude 1:3) and to *"Defend the truth"* (NLT). God loves us, and God gave us the choice to love Him. That responsibility that we have to choose whom we will love and trust can never be revoked or taken away.

God wants to save people (through His Truth), but Satan wants to destroy people (through his lies and distortions of truth). The majority of religious books and teaching, along with a significant number of contemporary Christian songs available today, are from a *once saved always saved* viewpoint, so we must be very careful about what literature we read, what so-called Christian music we listen to, what programs we listen to and watch, and whose opinions we are listening to on the subject of salvation.

It is said that a significant number of contemporary Christian songs reflect the "once saved, always saved" message. These artists it says are promoting God's promise of unchanging grace; however, these artists are not reminding their listeners that God's unchanging promises are for those who do not change—not for those who fall way from God's grace. God's promise of unchanging grace is for those who choose to continue to trust God alone in faithful obedience for all issues of this life.

Many contemporary Christian songs have been criticized for promoting the OSAS doctrine, which suggests that once a person is saved, they cannot lose their salvation, regardless of their actions or faithfulness afterward.

It is said that for some believers who come from theologically questionable churches, these songs promoting OSAS trigger negative feelings; critics argue that songs with the OSAS message imbedded in them can lead to complacency in faith, as the lyrics imply that a lack of ongoing commitment to Christ does not affect one's salvation.

It is said that songs from certain popular groups have been noted for their alignment with OSAS, which can be problematic for those seeking a more robust or strong theological foundation—not one built on deception. So that certainly implies that many self-proclaimed Christians are really only seeking a weak, watered down Gospel of Jesus Christ—one that tickles their ears—one that makes them comfortable living the lifestyle that they want to live.

It is said that music that conveys the OSAS doctrine can alienate mature believers who are aware of the theological implications and may find it troubling.

This certainly implies that many so-called believers are immature in their knowledge of the

full Gospel of Jesus Christ; of course, this is because the church, the religious teachers, the messages, and the music that they are listening to are only giving them a weak, watered-down message that does not require any change in their lifestyles—just a "repeat after me one-time profession of faith."

Of course, there are contemporary Christian songs that are reminding the listeners that an ongoing commitment to be faithful and obedient to God's Word is necessary to have one's salvation remain secure; however, it is our responsibility to carefully, with the help of the Holy Spirit, go over the lyrics to contemporary Christian songs before we become attached to the song because of its music or the hook of the song that grabs our attention and keeps it on our mind all day long.

A *doctrine* is a set of principles by which we conduct our life, so the doctrine we accept must be based on God's Word. 1 Timothy 4:16, *"Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers,"* (1 Timothy 4:16).

The doctrine of *once saved always saved* is a strong delusion. 2 Thessalonians 2:11, "And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:" 2 Timothy 4:3-4 AV, "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." Over the years, many people have left one church or another because they were not hearing what they wanted to hear.

Satan convinced Adam and Eve that their choice to disobey God would not affect their relationship with God—but it did. The serpent lied and said to Eve, *"You will not surely die"* (Genesis 3:4) right after God had just warned, *"You will surely die"* (if you disobey). That is why Jesus said, *"Watch out that no one deceives you"* (Matthew 24:4), and *"Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees"* (Matthew 16:6). False teachers are disguised *"in sheep's clothing"* (Matthew 7:15).

The false teaching of *once saved always saved* can go by many names, but it is the same lie that can lead to serious sins. Christians agree that salvation is based on our faith in Christ, but the teaching of OSAS mixes in a lie and saying that once a person has had a moment of faith in Christ, they can never lose that right standing with God (regardless of their spiritual condition later).

If Satan convinces a person to believe they can never lose their salvation, he can easily lead them into serious sins by having them be off their spiritual guard. Satan is a dangerous enemy who is out to destroy souls forever. *"Be very careful how you live"* (Ephesians 5:15)*."*

OSAS teachers often quote John 10:28. Jesus said, *"I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand,"* but will often omit verse 27 which explains verse 28. *"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me."* If we listen to Christ and follow Him in faith, no one could take us out of His hand, but if we choose not to listen (and not to follow Him), we have taken ourselves out of His hand. We must *"Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many will try to enter and will not be able to,"* (Luke 13:24).

There are many false doctrines, false teachers (and wrong teaching) today. *Who* we listen to (and *what* doctrine we accept) is our responsibility. The apostle predicted, *"The time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths,"* (2 Timothy 4:3-4 NIV).

The Berean spirit refers to the noble attitude of the people of Berea who eagerly received new teachings and diligently examined the Scriptures to verify their truth, as commended in Acts 17:10-12. *"And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews. These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. Therefore many of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few."*

However, there are millions today who look for some teaching that suits their immoral lifestyle. They are searching the Scriptures to try to find some loophole that, in their mind, will allow

them to live the lifestyle that they desire to live. They are not searching the Scriptures to make sure that they are living the lifestyle that God requires them to live.

Satan approaches in the disguise of false doctrines— (such as *once saved always saved*, and which has other aliases—*eternal security*, *perseverance of the saints*, *Calvinism*, *doctrine of election*, etc.).

OSAS twists Scripture to support false teaching. John 3:16 says that whoever believes in Christ *"shall not perish but have eternal life."* The literal rendering in Greek means whoever is *still believing* (when Jesus returns) *"will not perish."* The one condition for salvation is to *believe in God's Son*— (through all trials and tests).

To give a partial truth as the whole truth can be deadly. (Ephesians 2:8), *"It is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God."* The OSAS deception is that *obedience* is *works* (which is not true—obedience is acting in faith). (Hebrews 5:9), *"Once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him."*

If we try to be saved by outward works or outward religion (with no inward change of heart) we will have *"fallen away from grace,"* (Galatians 5:4). If it *is* possible to *fall* from the grace by which we are saved, then we could cancel out the salvation we once had *because* of God's grace.

(Romans 5:1), *"We have been justified through faith,"* but there are Bible examples to prove that our faith can cease to exist. When a person truly believes in Christ, they are promised salvation. There are conditions to meet to retain that promise, however. Resentment in our heart would nullify the promise. (Matthew 6:15) *"If you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins."* Anger can cancel the promise. (1 John 3:15). *"Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him."*

In the Parable of the Four Soils Jesus said, *"Those on the rock are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away"* (Luke 8:13). It is possible to *believe for a time* and later cease to believe (due to various circumstances, love of money, worldly pleasures, etc.).

A person can *once be saved* and later be lost (by wrong choices, persecution, trials, temptation, love of this world, etc.). Satan masquerades as some one (or some teaching) that can deceive and destroy. Everyone must finish the Christian race with their faith in Christ intact. *"You are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls,"* (1 Peter 1:9).

Timothy had to, *"fight the good fight, holding on to faith and a good conscience"* (1 Timothy 1:18-19), because some had *shipwrecked their faith.* If our faith can be destroyed, then we would no longer be heading toward the *goal* of our faith (which is salvation of our soul).

We have a responsibility to turn back and remain faithful to God. (Malachi 3:7), *"Return to me, and I will return to you," says the LORD."* We must hold steadfast in faith and be loyal to God (by the power of His Spirit) because, *"We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first,"* (Hebrews 3:14).

King Saul's spiritual decline after he turned his back to God shows it can happen to anyone. The king's jealously of David (1 Samuel 18) led to more serious sins, including attempts to murder David, his own son Jonathan, and then ordering the killing of all the priests at Nob (which included everyone in the town). (John 3:15), *"No murderer has eternal life."*

The prophet said to the king (1 Samuel 28:16), *"Why do you consult me, now that the LORD has turned away from you and become your enemy?"* Raging fire will *"consume the enemies of God,"* (Hebrews 10:27).

King Saul could have repented and could have turned back to God, but he chose not to. He had shipwrecked his faith. With only one day to live (when Samuel spoke to him), the king had not repented and later committed suicide as an enemy of God (1 Samuel 31:4). It is a sad story of once being saved and later being lost forever (because of falling into sin and never turning back).

The dangerous doctrine of *once saved always saved* is a delusion from the devil. The serpent lied to Eve, and he convinced her that choosing to do what she wanted (not what God commanded) would not affect her relationship with God—but it did! Now we know why Jesus

warned, *"Watch out that no one deceives you,"* (Matthew 24:4).

Salvation is given the moment we believe in Christ. *"He who believes has everlasting life,"* (John 6:47). *"The gift of God is eternal life,"* (Romans 6:23). *"He who has the Son has life,"* (1 John 5:12). Jesus said that if we gave up everything for His sake, we would not *"fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age (homes, loved ones, including tests of faith) and in the age to come, eternal life,"* (Mark 10:29-30).

Salvation is a *hope* (Titus 3:7), *if we do not grow weary and give up* (Galatians 6:9) and only if we *persist in the faith* (Romans 2:7). Continuing to believe has nothing to do with works, but everything to do with faith. Bible warnings remind us to be more serious about our faith. We are to read God's Word and be well informed of the sacrifice Jesus made for us. Then we are to live by faith in that perfect sacrifice that freed us from our past sins. Continuing in that faith just gives evidence that we love God with all our heart.

The devil cannot defeat us (nor deceive us) when we are connected to the True Vine (the Lamb of God and Source of our Salvation). If we choose correctly, God will enable us to understand the importance of repenting and showing fruits of repentance (Matthew 3:8).

The true plan of salvation is repentance toward God and a continuing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 20:21). Jesus said that the gate into the kingdom is small, so only a few find it (Matthew 7:14). Many have believed in Jesus, but later fell away (Luke 8:13) and followed Him no more (John 6:66).

Sound doctrine teaches us to endure in the faith to the end so that we will escape the flames (Matthew 10:22). *"We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first,"* (Hebrews 3:14). Our confidence is in the atonement of Christ because that sacrifice includes eternal life, *"Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life,"* (Revelation 2:10).

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