

Warning to the unbeliever

Let me give you a warning and it is going to be different than the warnings you have heard before. Now, you might think that I am going to warn you about burning in hell, and that, when it comes to choosing to believe in Jesus Christ, is certainly a consideration. However, I need to give you a different kind of warning; if you choose to believe in Jesus Christ, then you cannot change your mind; you cannot take it back. Now, does this mean that you are stuck being a Christian and going to churches you can't stand and spending Sundays with people you can't stand? Of course not. God does not take away your free will. After believing in Jesus Christ, you can pretty much do whatever it is that you want to do. However, what has changed is, God has become your Father. God is not everyone's Father. Jesus spoke to some Jews in the Temple, saying, "**You are of your Father, the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and doesn't stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks on his own; for he is a liar, and the father of it.**" (John 8:44). When God becomes your Father, you are now subject to being disciplined by God (**For whom the Lord loves, he chastens, And scourges every son whom he receives. It is for discipline that you endure. God deals with you as with children, for what son is there whom his father doesn't discipline?**—Prov. 3:12 Heb. 12:6–7). You still have your free will; you can still do whatever it is you want to do. You can have a field day doing every evil thing that you can think of; and you cannot lose your salvation. However, that is a double-edged sword. You cannot lose your salvation; and you cannot lose God. Every time you sin, you are going to potentially face discipline. Your life on earth could become the most miserable existence a person could ever have. I know that you have heard some evangelists say, "Believe in Jesus and you will have a fulfilled and happy life." Well, that isn't exactly true. If you get with the program—if you regularly name your sins to God and you learn God's plan under a pastor-teacher, then you can have a remarkable life—however, if you get religious, if you join a cult, if you imitate believers that you meet and like, if you go back to sinning without a thought to the choice you made, things are going to be different. God did not discipline you for sin before because God was not your Father; God will discipline you now, because He has become your Father. Once that relationship has been established (and it can be established in a few seconds; the time it takes to believe in Jesus Christ), there are no take-backs; there is no way to undo this. You cannot even renounce Christ in hopes of getting out of this (**if we endure** [grow spiritually; function in this life as God has intended], **we will also reign with him** [this is a part of our eternal rewards package; you might call it our *life-severance package*]; **if we deny him, he also will deny us** [rewards]; **if we are faithless, He remains faithful—for He cannot deny Himself**—2Tim. 2:12–13). Our salvation is based upon what Jesus Christ did for us on the cross; we appropriate it by believing in Him; God keeps us after that point; He does not let us go. Since our salvation is based upon Christ and His work, even **if we are faithless after salvation, He remains faithful to us, because He cannot deny Himself.**

The Plus Column	The Minus Column
<p>If you believe in Jesus Christ, you are saved forever; you cannot lose this salvation.</p> <p>This means that you will spend eternity with God, no matter how badly you screw up in this life.</p> <p>You will not burn in hell for eternity.</p>	<p>You cannot undo believing in Jesus Christ. The cannot change it, you cannot take it back.</p> <p>God remains your Father from that point through eternity.</p> <p>Since God becomes your Father at the moment that you believe in Jesus Christ, your life is going to be forever changed, no matter what you choose to do.</p>

