

THE LORD GAVE, AND THE LORD HATH TAKEN AWAY

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Can man lose the gift of salvation once he has become a Christian? This writer once asked a Baptist preacher that question, and his only reply was that “If God gives you something, he will not take it away.” Dear reader, is that what the Bible teaches? Is it not true that throughout time God has placed conditions upon keeping many of the gifts which He has given to man? The following are a few examples of God taking away gifts He has given because of man’s unfaithfulness:

1. LIFE TO MAN

A. GIVEN: Gen. 1:27, 2:7 – God gave life to Adam and Eve, and keeping the gift of life was conditioned upon their obedience to God.

B. TAKEN AWAY: Gen. 2:16, 17; 3:1-6, 22, 23 – When man sinned, he died spiritually, and he was also sentenced to die physically.

2. THE GARDEN OF EDEN

A. GIVEN: Gen. 2:8-17 – Adam and Eve had everything they needed. The garden was truly a gift from God.

B. TAKEN AWAY: Gen. 3:22-24 – When Adam and Eve sinned, God took the garden away from them, forcing them to leave and never return.

3. JERICHO

A. GIVEN: Jos. 6:1ff – God said this was a gift (Jos. 6:2), but would they have received this gift of Jericho without obeying God exactly as He instructed? There are often conditions placed upon both receiving gifts from God and keeping those gifts.

B. TAKEN AWAY: 2 Kings 23:27, 25:21 – Eventually they lost Jericho and all of their land because of disobedience to God.

4. THE PROMISED LAND

A. GIVEN: Num. 13:1, 2; Jos. 3:15ff – God had spoken of the gift of the promised land since the time of Abraham. Even though this was a gift, the Israelites still had to obey God to get the gift. God told them to spy out the land before they could have the land. After they finally got the land, God told them that if they turned from God and fell into disobedience, God would remove them from the land.

B. TAKEN AWAY: 2 Kings 15:29, 23:27, 25:21 – God took the gift away from His people when they refused to faithfully follow Him. Moses did not even get to enter the promised land because of his disobedience! (Num. 20:7-12; Deut. 34:1-5).

5. OUR SALVATION

- A. GIVEN:** Acts 2:37-38; 22:16 – The Bible teaches that salvation is a gift from God (Rom. 6:23), but like Jericho and many other examples, the gift can only be received by those who obey God's commands (Heb. 5:9; Matt. 7:21-23; 1 Pet. 1:22; Acts 10:34-35, etc.). These commands must be followed exactly as God instructed, or the "wall of sin" will not fall down! (Jos. 6:3ff; Acts 2:38; 8:35-39; 19:1-5; 22:16, etc.).
- B. CAN BE TAKEN AWAY:** 2 Pet. 2:20-22; Gal. 5:4; 6:1; Heb. 10:26-31; James 5:19-20; Rev.2:10, etc. – There could not be a clearer teaching found in the New Testament than the possibility of apostasy. As a matter of fact, the majority of the New Testament Scriptures were written to encourage Christians to be faithful so they would not lose their salvation! One will lose the gift of his salvation if he chooses to become unfaithful to God, just like all these other gifts we have noticed!

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