Once Saved Always Saved - Is It True?

According to Got Questoins.org (https://www.gotquestions.org/once-saved-always-saved.html), "Once a person is saved are they always saved? Yes, when people come to know Christ as their Savior, they are brought into a relationship with God that guarantees their salvation as eternally secure. When salvation occurs, God gives the forgiven sinner a new heart and puts a new spirit within him. The Spirit will cause the saved person to walk in obedience to God's Word. Numerous passages of Scripture declare the fact that, as an act of God, salvation is secure." The site offers John 3:3, Titus 3:5, Ezekiel 36:26-27, and James 2:26 as proof texts. Reading these passages and even combining the passages together does not support the site's statement. Considering the following passages one can easily see that the answer to the question as provided by the site is not true.

The New Testament asserts that a Christian can fall away. Paul warned the Christians in Corinth to "take heed lest they fall" (1 Corinthians 10:12). The Hebrews writer clearly pictured some Christians as those who had been saved and then fell away (Hebrews 6:6). Paul even said of himself, "I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified" (1 Corinthians 9:27). Peter adds, "You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked" (2 Peter 3:17). The saved can fall out of salvation.

The Gospel of Christ declares that a Christian can stumble. Jesus spoke of one who hears and receives the word, but with "no root in himself… he stumbles" (Matthew 13:20-21). Peter, speaking of the qualities and characteristics (faith, virtue,

knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, love) involved in proper Christian growth states, “if you do these things you will never stumble” (2 Peter1:5-10). Our God is able to keep us from stumbling (Jude 24), but we must allow Him to work through us. The saved can stumble out of salvation.

God's word proclaims that a Christian can turn away. The Hebrew writer warned of refusing to listen to Him who speaks from heaven by "turning away" (Hebrews 12:25). Paul warned Timothy that some would “turn their ears away from the truth” (2 Timothy 4:4). Paul rebuked the Christians in Galatia for “turning away… from Him” (Galatians 1:6). Peter writes of those Christians who “turn from the holy commandment delivered to them,” like “a dog returns to his own vomit” (2 Peter 2:20-22). The saved can turn away from salvation.

Finally, the Hebrew writer provides a strong admonition. "Beware brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God" (Hebrews 3:12). Falling away, stumbling, or turning away need not happen. However, we must always humbly realize that it can.