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# RESTORING THE ERRING

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## INTRODUCTION

1. In this lesson we will study:

- a. The fact that children of God can fall from grace and be lost.
- b. The faithful Christian's duty to those who do fall.
- c. Things that cause Christians to fall, and motivation from the scriptures to restore them.
- d. Some ways to prevent apostasy.

## I. SAVED PEOPLE CAN FALL FROM THE GRACE OF GOD AND BE ETERNALLY LOST!

1. Paul warns: I Cor. 10:12; Gal. 5:4; Luke 8:13.
2. Peter warns: 2 Pet. 1:10.
3. Paul said that he could become a castaway: I Cor. 9:27.
4. Paul said, "*Some shall depart from the faith*" – I Tim. 4:1.
5. One can deny the faith – I Tim. 5:8.
6. One can make "*shipwreck*" of his faith – I Tim. 1: 19.
7. One can *err* from the truth – James 5: 19 – 20.
8. One can again become *entangled* in the world and be overcome – 2 Pet. 2: 20- 22.
9. Persecution offends some and they fall away – Matt. 13: 21.
10. One can become involved in the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches and become unfruitful – Matt. 13:22.

## II. FAITHFUL CHRISTIANS MUST RESTORE THOSE WHO FALL.

1. Paul said, "*ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness*"; -- Gal. 6:1.
2. James said, "*if any of you do err from the truth*" we are to convert him – James 5: 19 – 20.
3. Peter restored Simon – Acts 8: 18 – 24.
4. Those who fall will be lost *unless* they are brought to repentance – James 5: 19 – 20; Matt. 25: 24 – 30.

## III. THINGS THAT CAUSE CHILDREN OF GOD TO FALL FROM GRACE:

1. INACTIVITY and the resulting FAILURE TO GROW.
  - a. Three things needed to Grow:
    - i. Elimination of Sin – I Pet. 2:1.
    - ii. Spiritual food – I Pet. 2:2.
    - iii. Exercise – I Tim. 4:7.
  - b. We are to exercise ourselves unto godliness – I Tim. 4:8.
  - c. Some participate little in worship, work and study.
  - d. When one is not busy in the Lord's work, his faith will become weak, interest will wane, and love will grow cold – Matt. 24:12.
  - e. Passages that will motivate one to be restored:
    - i. Heb. 10: 24 – 25
    - ii. I Pet. 2: 1 – 2

iii. Heb. 5: 12 – 14

2. THE DESIRE TO BE LIKE OTHERS.

a. The children of Israel did.

i. They were to dwell alone – Num. 23:9.

ii. They wanted to be like the Nations – I Sam. 8: 4 – 5.

b. God's people today wish to imitate the denominations – they want to bring in many innovations.

c. Rom. 12: 1 – 2.

3. FORMING WRONG RELATIONSHIPS

a. BUSINESS CONNECTIONS

i. Some form business *connections* that are *hurtful* to spiritual growth.

1. Sometimes one must miss many services of the church; this is detrimental to the spiritual health of the Christian.

2. A Christian may be associated with one who does not deal justly with customers; this has its effect on the Christian.

b. WORLDLY FRIENDS

i. Many Christians are carried back into the world by *worldly friendships*.

ii. Passages that will motivate one to be restored: 2 Cor. 6: 14 – 17; I Cor. 15:33; Heb. 10:25.

4. BY MARRYING AN UNBELIEVER

a. Marrying an unbeliever who cares nothing for the Lord and His church can have a disastrous effect on one's spirituality.

b. Many times, the unbeliever is worldly and has many worldly friends; this can lead to many problems for the Christian.

c. A bad marriage is, many times, disastrous to the happiness and salvation of the Christian.

d. Passages that will help motivate one to be restored: I Pet. 3: 1 – 7; I Cor. 7:16; Matt. 6:33.

5. BY A FAILURE TO CONTROL ONE'S PASSIONS:

a. David *failed to control his passions*; he lusted after another man's wife and committed adultery with her – 2 Sam. 11: 2 – 4.

b. The brother at Corinth had *failed to control his passion*; he was committing fornication with his father's wife – I Cor. 5: 1 – 5.

c. Many fail today because *they do not control their sexual desires* – 2 Tim. 2:22; I Cor. 6:18.

d. Passages that will help motivate one to be restored: Matt. 5: 28; I Cor. 9:27; I Cor. 6:18; I Thess. 4: 3 – 6; Gal. 5: 19 – 21; Matt. 19: 3 – 9; 2 Tim. 2:22; I Pet. 2:11.

6. GREED

a. Ananias and Sapphira had the problem of greed – Acts 5: 1 – 11.

b. Jesus said the "*deceitfulness of riches*" would cause some to become unfruitful – Matt. 13:22.

c. Passages that will help motivate one to be *restored* – I Tim. 6: 9 – 10; Matt. 6: 24; Mark 10: 23 – 24.

7. PETTY COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE CHURCH

a. Ask these people if they *really* love the Lord and His church.

b. Read I Cor. 13:1 – 7 and point out that this is the way *LOVE BEHAVES*.

c. Point out *what the Lord endured* for the good of all mankind.

IV. INCENTIVES FOR THE ERRING TO REPENT AND BE RESTORED.

1. The *erring one needs to be genuinely sorry* for his/her sins – 2 Cor. 7:10.

- a. He needs to be sorry he has *sinned against God*.
  - b. He needs to be *concerned enough to do something* about his sins.
  - c. Repentance is a change of mind that is followed by a reformation of life – Matt. 3:8.
  - d. The *erring child of God* must *repent, confess* his sins and *pray* – Acts 8:22; I John 1: 9.
- 2. There are incentives that can lead the erring to repentance:
  - a. THE GOODNESS OF GOD
    - 1. Rom. 2:4
    - 2. The goodness of God helps to lead one to repentance.
    - 3. Think of all that the God of heaven has done for us!
  - b. THE FEAR OF PUNISHMENT
    - 1. Sinners are warned repeatedly about the wrath of God and the certainty of punishment.
    - 2. Luke 13:5; Matt. 25:30, 41; Matt. 13: 41 – 43; Rev. 20: 11 – 15; Rom. 2: 4 – 9; Heb. 10: 30 – 31; Mark 9: 43 – 48.
  - c. CONTEMPLATION OF FORMER JOY
    - 1. One needs to think back to the time of his or her baptism and the joy they felt knowing they had obeyed God.
    - 2. One needs to remember the happiness they had when they were faithful – Psa. 57: 3.
    - 3. The church at Ephesus was to remember – Rev. 2:5.
  - d. THE FACT THAT GOD, CHRIST, THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND THE ANGELS ARE INTERESTED IN THE REPENTANCE OF THE ERRING.
    - 1. Luke 15: 10; 2 Pet. 3:9; I Tim. 2: 3 – 4; Eph. 4:30
  - e. THE DESIRE TO GO TO HEAVEN
    - 1. John 14: 1 – 6; Rev. 21:4

#### **V. SOME WAYS TO PREVENT APOSTASY**

- 1. Be genuinely involved in the Lord's Supper each Lord's Day – I Cor. 11: 27 – 30.
- 2. Be genuinely involved in the Worship in Song – Col. 3:16; Eph. 5:19.
- 3. Search each sermon for something meaningful to YOU.
- 4. Give liberally to the Lord each Lord's Day – I Cor. 16: 1 – 2; 2 Cor. 9: 6 – 7.
- 5. Look for something you can do, and do it with gladness!
- 6. Try helping others with their problems – Gal. 6: 2.
- 7. Pray often – I Thess. 5:17.
- 8. Discipline yourself to read and study the Bible regularly – 2 Tim. 2:15.
- 9. Get involved in Bible classes; be sure your lessons are well-prepared.
- 10. Lead just one soul to Christ, and you will want to do it over and over again!
- 11. Associate frequently with other Christians.
- 12. If you have trouble with doctrinal points, seek aid of knowledgeable Christians.

#### **VI. CONCLUSION:**

- 1. Let us all be busy restoring the erring.
- 2. If we are lost, what would we want our brethren to do? Matt. 7:12.