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## ***“THEY WALKED WITH HIM NO MORE”***

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**John 6:66**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

1. In the sixth chapter of the book of John, Jesus spoke on the bread of life.
2. Many of His disciples heard His teaching on this subject and said, *“This is a hard saying; who can hear it?”* – John 6:66.
3. *“From that time many of His disciples went back, and walked no more with Him”* – John 6:66.
4. For lack of faith, NOW as then, disciples have the same experience.
5. These disciples, during His personal ministry, disagreed with Christ and walked with Him no more.
6. Many today do the same.
7. The Lord’s church has always had too large a “fall-out” rate; someone has said we lose 50% of new members every seven years.
8. We need to evaluate the situation and try to get it stopped as much as we can.
9. In this lesson, I want to ask the following question and answer them:
  - a. Can one fall away?
  - b. What are the symptoms of falling away from the faith?
  - c. What is the prevention for such falling?

### **I. CAN ONE FALL AWAY FROM THE FAITH?**

- a. Some will answer “No”.
- b. Some say that once you are saved you are always saved.
- c. If one cannot lose his faith, then why are there so many warnings?
  - i. Peter warns us about Satan – I Pet. 5: 8 – 9.
  - ii. Paul said he could become a “castaway” – I Cor. 9: 27.
  - iii. Paul said, “Some shall depart from the faith” – I Tim. 4:1.
  - iv. One can deny the faith – I Tim. 5:8.
  - v. One can make “shipwreck” of the faith – I Tim. 1:19.
  - vi. One can err from the truth – James 5:19.
  - vii. One can have an evil heart of unbelief – Heb. 3:12.
- d. The Tragedy of falling away:
  - i. Can you think of anything worse than losing your fellowship with God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit? – I Cor. 1:9
  - ii. This happens to one when he turns back and *“walks with Him no more”*—I Pet. 3:18.
  - iii. Sin separates a child of God from God – Isa. 59:1 – 2; Acts 8:23.
- e. Not only does the Christian lose his fellowship with God when he walks no more with Him, but he loses fellowship with brethren.
- f. When one *“walks with Him no more”* he loses his potential for doing good.

## **II. SYMPTOMS OF FALLING.**

- a. ACTIONS come from the heart, so when one begins to lose his faith, it is a HEART problem – Prov. 4:23; Acts 8:21.
- b. Just as a headache may be a symptom of a deeper problem, so the things brethren can see in one who is falling are tell-tale signs of what is in the heart.
- c. Each Christian must EXAMINE his heart to see if he is in danger – 2 Cor. 13:5.
  - i. Do we continue to worship, but our heart is not in it?
  - ii. Do we continue to give, but grudgingly?
  - iii. Do we continue to listen to the preaching, but with an attitude to find fault?
  - iv. Do we continue to talk occasionally to our neighbors about the Lord, but the fire is gone?
- d. In time, our actions begin to show to others.
  - i. We miss the mid-week Bible study and the Sunday evening worship.
  - ii. We don't study the Bible as we did.
  - iii. We seldom visit the sick and the shut-ins.
  - iv. We cut back on our giving, or don't give at all.
  - v. We find fault with the elders.
  - vi. We begin to find fault with about everything the preacher says.
  - vii. Our job is more important than the Lord's work. . .
  - viii. We don't attend gospel meetings anymore.
  - ix. We are disturbed when the meetings interfere with our social and business appointments.
- e. Brethren, these are symptoms of heart disease, and if it isn't soon corrected, we will fall away.

## **III. SOME CAUSES OF FALLING AWAY:**

- a. Underneath all "CAUSES" is Satan – I Pet. 5:8.
  - i. The devil aims at our weak points, and uses any means to cause one to leave the fellowship of God.
- b. Evil Companionship.
  - i. I Cor. 15:33
  - ii. A young man in the Bullitt county jail said, "My friends are the reason I am here".
  - iii. Solomon wives – I Kings 11: 1 – 4.
- c. Weakness toward pleasure:
  - i. Many become too busy with the pleasures and the cares of the world to be Christians.
  - ii. Matt. 13: 20 – 22.
- d. Inability to withstand Persecution.
  - i. Persecution is going to come – 2 Tim. 3:12; Matt. 5: 10 – 12.
  - ii. Matt. 13: 20 – 21.

## **IV. THINGS THAT WILL PREVENT FALLING.**

- a. Christians must be careful to help one another – I Thess. 5: 14; Gal. 6: 1- 2; Rom. 15:1.
- b. Brotherly love is very important in the prevention of one's falling away from Christ – Heb. 13:1; John 13: 34 – 35; Rom. 13:8.
- c. Awareness is so very important to the Christian:

- i. If we are always aware of the possibility of falling, and becoming an apostate, surely we will watch for pitfalls – I Cor. 10:12.
- ii. Heb. 3: 12 – 13

**V. CONCLUSION**

- a. Brethren, I pray that none of will ever turn from Christ and walk with Him no more.

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