

A Fall from Grace

Possibly one of the most puzzling aspects of Christianity is the conscious decision of some that have been faithful to Christ — to leave HIM and go back into the world. I have agonized over this matter for many years and have prepared many sermons to encourage faithfulness realizing that others who are now faithful may be the next to fall away. Indeed, we know that the New Testament teaches that a Christian may “*fall away*”, may “*fall from grace*”, etc. As I have considered this matter it has become evident to me that many leave the faith that those that do leave the faith leave for many different reasons. It is never acceptable to God to leave the faith for any reason but I know through interaction and conversation with some that have left the faith that they had reasons that they considered more important than remaining faithful.

The question of keeping the faith is important as the Christian’s hope rests upon his faithfulness unto death — cf., [Revelation 2:10](#), “*Fear not the things which thou art about to suffer: behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days. Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee the crown of life.*” (ASV) The question is also of great interest to those that are continuing faithful. The faithful are concerned about, “why do the faithful leave?” Is there something that we should have done or are we in some way responsible for their failure? Let us look at the Bible’s teaching about the condition of the backslider.

1. First of all let us recognize that we must never become a stumbling block in the life of any Christian or anyone for that matter:

[Rom. 14:12-13](#), “*So then each of us shall give account of himself to God. 13 Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother’s way.*” NKJV

1 Cor. 8:9-10, “*But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak.*”

[Rev. 2:14](#), “*But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the Children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality.*” NKJV

2. In the second place we that are faithful have a responsibility to one another to Love each other and to bear one another’s burdens:

[Rom. 12:9-10](#), [9](#) *Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. 10 In love of the brethren be tenderly affection one to another; in honor preferring one another;* ASV

1 Cor. 13:4-8, *4 Love suffers long, (and) is kind; love envies not; love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, 5 doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not its own, is not provoked, taketh not account of evil; 6 rejoiceth not in unrighteousness, but rejoiceth with the truth;*

7 beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. 8 Love never faileth: but whether (there be) prophecies, they shall be done away; whether

(there be) tongues, they shall cease; whether (there be) knowledge, it shall be done away.” ASV

[Gal. 6:2](#), *“Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” ASV*

3. In the third place the faithful are to try to restore those that turn away from the faith (i.e., backslide):

[Gal 6:1-2](#), *1 Brethren, even if a man be overtaken in any trespass, ye who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; looking to thyself, lest thou also be tempted. 2 Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.*

4. Finally, whenever the faithful have been a pattern of good works, love, Patience, and possess a willingness to go to the backslider and try and restore him/her to faithfulness, surely they can do nothing else. After the faithful have exhausted all avenues of Biblical instruction in their attempt to restore such a one, the faithful ones must not blame themselves for the failure of the backslider to return to the faith. The guilt for sinning and leaving the faith belongs to him who has chosen to leave the faith and remain in the world.

CONSIDER THIS:

[Ezek. 18:19-21](#), [20](#) *he soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself. 21 but if a wicked man turns from all his sins which he has committed, keeps all My statutes, and does what is lawful and right, he shall surely live; he shall not die.*

There is never a good reason to leave the good relationship that exist with Almighty God when one has been faithfully serving Him for a short time or for a long time. Perhaps something happens in the life of the person that leaves the faith and he/she cannot understand the cause and/or results of the event. There are many things that man controls in his relationship with God that is within the individual’s realm called “obedience” to God’s instruction. Whenever an event occurs in the life of any Christian that creates doubt in their relationship with God; it is wise to set down and consider the reason for the event; did I fail to do something that caused the event; was it within my ability to stop or alter the outcome of the event; if so then you must not cast aspersions upon God but you must accept responsibility for your actions and seek forgiveness from God for the deed – note: [Titus 2:11-12](#) – *11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, 12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;*