

## Fall and Restoration

### Introduction:

Several months ago, my mother-in-law was riding her bike behind my two boys. For some reason or another, Bill doesn't react as quickly as she used to. She tried to swerve, ends up running over him and taking a pretty nasty tumbler. Her arms were bruised and her back was stiff for several weeks. NO ONE likes to fall. Falls can be pretty nasty. It can take even months or years to be fully restored.

NO FALL is worse than the Spiritual Fall. To have known Jesus, felt his love and then fall away.

**Luke 9:62** "And Jesus said unto him, **No man**, having put his hand to the plough, **and looking back, is fit for**

There is nothing scarier than standing before Jesus and being lost....but imagine the feeling of knowing the truth before Jesus

**Luke 12:47** "And that slave who knew his master's will and did not get ready **or act in accord with his will**, shall

The thought is out there, PUNISHMENT for those who turned from the truth is more severe than it is for those who do not understand how Hell for one can be any worse than it is for another...but do you want to test it???

People fall away everyday....How about a few sad statistics:

-**75 of all Americans** say they have a belief in Jesus Christ

-**38% of all Americans** attend services at least once a month

-**18% attend services** more than once a week

-Of all the youth in the Church..

-**3 in 10** will fall away before they reach the age of 21

-**5 in 10** will be out before they are 25 WHAT DOES THIS say???

**Sad truth = Many fall away every day.**

**This is not a new phenomenon~! Consider the Scriptures:**

### **1 Tim 1:18-20**

This command I entrust to you, Timothy, my son, in accordance with the prophecies previously made concerning you, to fight a good fight, 19 keeping faith and a good conscience, **which some have rejected and suffered shipwreck in regard to** Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have delivered over to Satan, so that they may be taught not to blaspheme.

Hymenaeus and Alexander went as far as to Blaspheme what they knew to be truth, and for it, Paul turned them over to Satan. Timothy to keep his faith in good conscience and NOT TO TURN (REJECT) Notice hear....they paid immediate shipwrecked.

**Shipwrecked = isolated, trapped** (so mired in sin there is no way to swim for shore)

**Paul would also say:**

**1 Tim 4:1-3** "But the Spirit explicitly says that **in later times some will fall away from the faith**, paying attention to demons, 2 by means of the **hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience** as with a branding iron, 3 men who abstain from foods, which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth

In the early Church Paul warned that some would fall away from the truth....

**Ironically, they would replace** the truth with their own version of the truth. Teaching their own beliefs, their own. Perhaps even something that they so confidently assert as truth. People will cling to their own variety of religion

**FOR EXAMPLE:**

Many of you have friends which attest to the fact that they are members of some BODY. I've been a member of one, I've attended there, my grandparents went there and I'll be a member till the day I die!!!! Q: When was the last time you attended? A: In quite a while, I've been so busy, working and all.. Besides, I don't really care for the preacher right now.... Of course, I'm not teaching.... OR I don't get along with some of the members over there... Q: Well, maybe you ought to come with them. A: I would be wrong!

Aren't people silly when it comes to the truth, and many have turned their backs on him without even knowing it?

**Gal 5:2-8** "Behold I, Paul, say to you that if you receive circumcision, Christ will be of no benefit to you. 3 And if you receive circumcision, that he is under obligation to keep the whole Law. 4 **You have been severed from Christ, you who are justified by law; you have fallen from grace.** 5 For we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of glory. 6 Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through love. 7 **You were running; why have you stopped obeying the truth? 8 This persuasion did not come from Him who calls you.**

Paul asked, what stopped you, you were doing so fine! NOTICE, this persuasion did not come from Him who calls you.

For the man who stands in the pulpit and preached contrary to God's word. For the TV Evangelist who manipulates the people's needs. For the one who SAYS, "God spoke to me" and yet speaks ONE WORD contrary to God's established word. YOU...

IT DID NOT COME FROM GOD....The Devil knows how to turn the hearts of man from the Blessed Lord, and man does not even know!

Ok, so many have fallen away, and many will every day... SO what can we do about it????

-----Before we can answer that question, we must understand a few scriptures:

**Heb 10:26** "For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains

**Heb 6:4-6** "For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and the Holy Spirit, 5 and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, 6 and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God, and put Him to open shame.

**Acts 26:29** "And Paul said, "I would to God, that whether in a short or long time, not only you, but also all who hear me, should be like me, except for these chains."

Sometimes all the wishing in the world won't do any good. We can talk till we are blue in the face until 2 am....I can't change someone whose heart is turned from the Lord? THEN WHY EVEN TRY????????????

**Because the Lord expects us to, even he has tried to warn them**, even He is waiting patiently for their hearts  
**REMEMBER the book of Revelation**. God sends his word to John to those congregations where many have

**Rev 2:4-5 Ephesus**

4'But I have this against you, that you have left your first love. 5'Remember therefore from where you have fallen at first; or else I am coming to you, and will remove your lamp stand out of its place-- unless you repent.

**Rev 2:16-17 Pergamum**

16'Repent therefore; or else I am coming to you quickly, and I will make war against them with the sword of My

**Rev 2:21-23 Thyatira**

21'And I gave her time to repent; and she does not want to repent of her immorality. 22'Behold, I will cast her up and commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of her deeds.

**(Notice in these 3 examples what it takes to be RESTORED to the LORD) -Repentance, and works**

When Peter and John were solicited by a man who wished to buy the gift of the Holy Spirit they said these words

**Acts 8:22-24** "Therefore **repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that if possible, the intention be forgiven you.** 23 "For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bondage of iniquity." 24 But Simon answered and said to Peter, "I beseech you, my lord, that you will forgive my sin; for I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bondage of iniquity." 25 Peter said to him, "Your prayer is granted; but it must be that you suffer affliction first, and that you repent of your wickedness, so that nothing of what you have said may come upon me."

In this example we see Peter commanding Simon to: Repent and Pray.... that his heart may be forgiven.

---UNFORTUNATELY, when talking and trying to help them with scripture no longer seems to get you anywhere

**1 Cor 5:9-13** "I wrote you in my **letter not to associate with immoral people**; 10 I did not at all mean with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters; for then you would have to go out of the world. 11 But actually, I **so-called brother if he should be an immoral person**, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or **such a one**. 12 For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within the church judges. Remove the wicked man from among yourselves.

**People, this is a scripture many would prefer to overlook**. IT COMMANDS us not to associate with those who are immoral. PROBLEM = What about family????? (another cong. family, son = homosexual) Ex: -I have a sister who turned her back on me she does not associate with me. BUT what if she wanted to be my close friend. SCRIPTURALLY I could not!

THERE Comes a time when we must separate ourselves from those who have separated themselves from GOD

Conclusion:

Dealing with those who have turned their backs on Jesus is never easy. **And in truth, we should be seeking God's right path as well. No one who has ever fallen away....did so without stumbling first.**

**But I know someone who has the power to keep us from stumbling, someone**

**Jude 24-25** "Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of the Father our Lord, the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all

