

WHY SOME CHRISTIANS FALL FROM FAITH

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Multitudes of people have started out in the Christian life and seemed to have accepted the real Truth of God's Word, ...but many of them have fallen away from the faith, only to come under the control of Satan. Many people wonder why they fall away and how Satan is able to get possession of them again. The cause of them falling away, is, Satan regaining control of their life (after they had become believers in Jesus Christ and made a profession of repentance and surrender to do God's will in their life). He either uses direct suggestions to their mind, or he will speak or act through some other person (under his control). He will use them to say or do things that will cause another person to lose their hold on the Truth. But that is not the foundation cause of their falling away.

Every human being is either under the control of God, or under Satan's control, and the devil is so subtle that he does not want anyone to know that he has them under his control. The devil uses plans and methods that are so clever, that people do not realize that they are under his control. He has them thinking that they are living a good life and are taking a right course (not even imagining that the devil is within miles of them) and that is the serious part of it.

If Satan would come to a person, and say, "I am the devil, coming to capture, rob, and destroy you spiritually, and finally send you to the Lake of Fire", ... then it would be quite natural for people to try to resist him and escape his control. But, when the devil comes disguised as an 'angel of light,' and in a subtle way, ...hardly a person in a million would know it was the devil.

Satan has been deceiving people for thousands of years and he knows a person's weakest point (as well as the easiest way to reach them). He was an archangel in the beginning, so an intelligent being like Satan (with those years of experience in deceiving), is certainly a dangerous enemy to cope with. (Ephes. 6:12), warns, "For ours is not a conflict with mere flesh and blood, but with the despots, the empires, the forces that control and govern this dark world--the spiritual hosts of evil arrayed against us in the heavenly warfare."

That verse of Scripture helps us to understand why people fall away from the Truth, become possessed by an evil spirit, and say and do unscriptural things, (directly opposite the way they should act). Instead of enjoying perfect victory and protection in this life, they find sorrow, distress, and finally the Lake of Fire (if they are not brought to repentance).

However, the Bible reveals the real cause of why we see a person who seemingly had real light, and then falls away from the faith. We need to go back a step and we will find out that the reason they began falling away, was that some circumstance came into their life, which they refused to meet in God's way. We will find that some temptation came along, and it was not met in a scriptural way, which took them out of God's will and plan for their life (and it allowed the devil to

gain an influence over them, causing them to fall away from faith).

God's Truth has a plan for every part of one's life. He has a plan for us to have the spiritual light that we need to live the true Christian life (inspired from learning about the Truth of His Word); health of body (by trusting on His Promises instead of human remedies); the provision of finances (by trust in Him instead of other persons or plans of man).

He also has a plan for us to have His peace in the home-life, in the workshop, and in our spiritual life,... or even when buying, renting, or in other business transactions with people. [When we allow God to guide us (and follow His Word), He will always control the person whom we are dealing with. We must believe... that God is going to protect our interests when we lay aside our self efforts once and for all. We are not to try to control the other person by human efforts nor look out for ourselves. And we must believe... that God is going to control the other person with whom we are dealing. If we fear that the other person is going to take advantage of us, then we are not truly believing that God is going to control them for us. We have put a limit on our faith (as a recent sermon made note). That which they fear will befall them (the Bible explains), or as (Jonah 2:8) says, "Those who regard worthless idols" (meaning, to listen to the lies of the devil), "Forsake their own Mercy."]

When we listen to the devil's lies, and do not meet things right in our home, or a financial circumstance, or temptation of the body (we can meet with serious problems). If someone wrongs us and we refuse to meet it in a scriptural way, whether a business transaction, a situation in the workshop, or whatever,... if we choose to refuse to meet it in God's way, that permits the devil to get control of us in a way that he never had before.

What is more serious, is that the guidance of the Holy Spirit within us will become less and less, eventually lost altogether, if a person does not repent and turn back to God right. A person can not be under the control of Satan and the Holy Spirit at the same time. We will be under control of one or the other. It is our free-will choice to follow one or the other.

We must never lose sight of the fact that there is one thing that will never be taken away from us, and that is, our 'power of choice. It will always be ours as long as we live. (We can use our power of choice to refuse to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit, or to repent and return to following His guidance and doing His will). Jesus said, (Matt. 7:21), "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven."

That is what "getting back to Christ" means (or being "born again of the Spirit"), to be led by the Spirit of Christ. It is making a sincere confession of our sins and mistakes of the self-life, and then

believing (in our heart) that God is faithful to forgive us. It is a true re-consecration of one's life to start over again, to follow the example of our Savior in meeting things according to the Scriptures (through the guidance of His Spirit), "Whom" God promises to those who will repent and turn back to Him in faith. (Malachi 3:6-7), says, "I the LORD do not change. So, you, O descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. Ever since the time of your forefathers you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you," says the LORD Almighty."

So, we must choose to do the will of God, as Jesus said, by meeting circumstances according to His instructions (which He gave us in word and by example), and He will protect us from falling away. When we use our power of choice to obey His Word and follow Him in faith (that is staying connected to the true Vine, Jesus Christ),... He promises to protect us from falling away. For those who choose to listen to His Word and to follow Him (that is to stay in the faith by meeting things in His way), ... He promises (John 10:28), "I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand." That is a wonderful protection to have and enjoy, simply by using our power of choice in the right way.

Again, one's choosing not to meet things right, is where and why the devil is able to gain an influence over a person, and to cause them to fall away from real faith in Christ.

It is that same power of choice that God gave to Adam (the first man). Adam used his power of choice to listen the deceitful trick of Satan in the Garden of Eden (and refused to follow God's instructions). He lost the influence of the Spirit of God, all the blessings he had in the Garden of Eden, and turned himself over to the curse of the devil (and everyone else who follows him on that wrong course).

[That is why Christ had to die on the Cross for us, and be raised to life again, to pay the price with His Blood, to take away that curse that fell on mankind (if we will believe and accept what He has done for us and place ourselves under His control and guidance). (1 Cor. 15:22), "For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive." (45) So, it is written: 'The first man Adam became a living being; the last Adam, a life-giving Spirit.'"]

The devil took possession of the first Adam after he fell away from trusting in God and began following his own efforts of the self-life. Adam fell away...from the blessing and guidance of the Holy Spirit, because he refused to meet in God's way, a temptation that seemed to be a small circumstance. But it allowed Satan to take full control of him, and the Bible doesn't say that Adam ever repented of his mistake of allowing the devil to deceive him.

In (2 Thess. 2:), Paul was inspired to say that the whole world is going to be deceived by the Anti-Christ in the closing days of the

Gospel Age. The world as a whole, will not only reject the Christ that God sent, but they will accept the Anti-Christ of the devil. Paul explained why God permits the devil to take possession of and deceive and rob the whole world. He said, "because they received not the 'love of the Truth', that they might be saved." (vs. 10). (Meaning, because they refuse to meet things as God's Word directs.)

[Jesus told us that He is the Truth (sent by God), and the Way, ...and, in His commands, He gave us instructions on how to meet things in God's way, that we may be saved if we "receive the love of the Truth". "Because they received not the 'love of the Truth', that they might be saved"...does not mean that if we fail to meet one circumstance in God's way, that He will send us to the Lake of Fire. That is not the meaning at all.

It does mean however, that if we refuse to meet a physical battle, a financial difficulty, some home trouble, or a wrong that was done to us, in a Scriptural way, God will allow that circumstance to recur until we are willing to meet it in His way. God's Spirit can not help us meet circumstances scripturally if we are not willing to let Him help us. [A true Christian may as well be determined that with God's help, they are going to meet the circumstance in God's way the first time (or they will only have to meet it again).]

God does not want anyone to perish (the Bible says), and that is why He allows our faith to be tested in physical battles, meeting wrongs done to us in a right way, and showing love for our fellow man, for Jesus said (Matt. 5:44-45), "But I command you all, love your enemies, and pray for your persecutors; that so you may become true sons of your Father in Heaven".

And(vs.48) "You however are to be complete in goodness, as your Heavenly Father is complete." (The NKJV says), "Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect."

In regard to one's finances, Jesus said (Matt. 19:21) "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."

If a certain incident should arise in our life, that we failed to meet in God's way, the Scriptural thing to do would be to go right back to the thing that we failed to meet right, settle it in our mind and heart that we will meet it right, and make that correction. If we do, we will move back into God's will, and with Him on our side, things will turn out all right for us. (Meeting things as God's Word instructs, is "receiving the love of the Truth", and His power can be manifested for us.)

"Because they received not the love of the Truth, that they might be saved, And for this cause God will send them a strong delusion." (2 Thess. 2:10-11).

That means that God will permit the devil to delude the unbeliever, so they will believe a lie, and they will accept a wrong

teaching (thinking that it is the Truth). It may be hard to believe that anybody could possibly be deceived so completely, but Satan has a strong power over any person who will allow him. He can make them see things directly opposite to what they really are (in the Truth).

God permits the devil to bring a terrible delusion upon them, so that they will believe that they are right, while all the time they are absolutely wrong. "Because they received not the love of the Truth" (the Word of God), they are sent the terrible delusion, "in order that all may come under judgment, who have refused to believe the Truth and have taken pleasure in unrighteousness" (vs.12 says).

Why is that? (one might ask). We can go back another step to find the real cause for taking pleasure in unrighteousness and accepting the delusion. That is, the person failed to make a full surrender to do God's will in some area of their life when they had professed to repent, ... (so they had to be tested in that area). God in His mercy is dealing with each one, to bring them into the center of His will and His plan for their life, and to protect them from a 'strong delusion', and from being deceived by the anti-Christ along with most of the world.

This does not mean that everyone fully surrenders their life to God right at the beginning of their repentance and accepting Christ into their heart, ... because they do not know everything at first. Our surrender to God must be like a leap in the dark (a faith in the unseen God), as we believe on what His 'written Word says (same as if we could see Him and hear Him speak to us).

It is by faith that we are seeing ourselves pardoned, cleansed, and freed from sin and the self-life. Paul said we are to "present our body as a 'living sacrifice", and it would become "holy and acceptable unto God. This is your spiritual 'act of worship'." (Rom.12:1 says).

So, to present our bodies as a living sacrifice, means that something (sin and the self-life), has been slain and laid on the altar (and washed away by the Blood of Christ as we place ourselves under that Blood). Also, that we are surrendered to be absolutely subject to God's will and His control over our life. It means that we are to be the same as a lamb slain and placed on the altar, for God to have full control over us. We are to lay ourselves on God's altar for life or death, and for Him to have His way in everything (not trying to hold on to the old way of life), ... and God will protect us from being deluded by Satan and keep us from falling away from real faith and trust for things in our life.

Satan will try to picture it as a real hardship and a bondage, but, as our surrender is made final and complete by the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit, God will make the Christian's life of trust a pleasant experience (just opposite to what Satan pictures to our mind).

A complete surrender to God (for His will to be done in every part of our life), is the only road to perfect peace, happiness, and protection in this life, and most importantly, it is the pathway that will lead one to Heaven. We will come to realize that God's yoke is easy, and His burden light, if we put ourselves on God's altar to stay.

We can also be assured from God's written Word, that His goodness reaches to our children and grandchildren (as well as ourselves). (Psalm 103:17-18) "But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting, On those who fear Him, And His righteousness to children's children, To such as keep His covenant, And to those who remember His commandments to do them." (That is to believe His words and put them into practice.)

If we do not put ourselves on God's altar to stay (no matter what the risk may be), Satan can have us fall away. It must be an un-compromising commitment to God, otherwise He cannot take full possession of us, ... and, we will have an up-and-down experience. When God gets full control of a life that has been placed on His altar right, He says of those who have made that commitment to trust Him, (1 Cor. 10:13) "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God [is] faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the 'way of escape', that you may be able to bear it."

Thus, whatever temptation comes to us, we will be in a position to draw from God's strength and power to bring us to victory. God will keep us from falling away from real faith in Him, because we have made a final decision to meet circumstances Scripturally and remain trusting on Him. &&&&&&&&

THE FIRST CENTURY GOSPEL CHURCH/PHILADELPHIA

SOME MAIN POINTS OF "WHY CHRISTIANS FALL FROM FAITH":

1. The cause of why people fall away is considered in some detail.
2. The importance of choosing right, and to know that we never lose that power of choice (to choose in God's favor).
3. Getting back to God right is also explained, and that God wants us to re-consecrate our life to Him, make a new start, and He will return to us.
4. We must see ourselves in faith, as pardoned and cleansed from sin, because that is what God's word says to us.
5. If our surrender is genuine and final, God, Himself, will protect us from falling away from the faith for He wants no soul to perish.

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