

Taking Heed Lest You Fall

Possibility of Falling Away

The Warnings of the Text:

- Heb. 3:12; 4:11; 10:26-29
- 1 Cor. 9:27
- Gal. 4:9; 5:4
- 2 Pet. 2:14-15, 20-22
- 1 Tim. 1:19-20; 4:1; 5:8; 6:10, 21
- 2 Tim. 2:18

Possibility of Falling Away

Could Happen To You!

People Change

- Strong – become – Weak (1 Sam. 10:24; 13:8f)
- Godly – become – Ungodly (Tit. 2:12)
- Believer – become – Unbeliever (Heb. 3:12f)
- Faithful – become – Unfaithful (Rev. 2:10)

Possibility of Falling Away

How Far it is Possible to Go?

- Possible to go beyond repentance (Heb. 6:1-6)
- Possible to lose soul eternally (Heb. 10:27-29)

Evidences of Falling Away

- Neglect study of word (Heb. 5:12-14)
- Less prayer to God (Dan. 6:10; 1 Thess. 5:17)
- Growing fondness for worldly pleasure (2 Tim. 3:1-5)
- Making excuses for neglect (Luke 14:16-24)
- A tendency toward being discontent (1 Tim. 6:8)
- Lack of interest in salvation of others (Psa. 126:5,6)

Causes of Falling Away

- Mixed marriages (Neh. 13:26)
- Love of money (Mt. 26:14-25; 1 Tim. 6:10)
- Reverting to sinful practices (Acts 8:9-24)
- Returning to false religion (Gal. 5:1, 4; 4:21)
- Association with evil (Luke 22:54-62)
- Love of the world (2 Tim. 4:10)
- Self satisfaction (Rev. 3:14-22)
- Modernistic education (1 Cor. 1:18-31)
- Gradually missing services (Heb. 10:25)

Preventing Falling Away

What The Church Can Do

- Teaching (Mt. 28:20; Acts 20:28)
- Encouragement (Heb. 10:24)
- Elders watch for souls (Heb. 13:7, 17)
 - Bible classes, Home Studies, Books, Classes, Gospel Meetings, Computer lessons, Tapes, Etc.

Preventing Falling Away

What The Individual Can do

- Examine self (2 Cor. 13:5)
- Faithful in attendance (Heb. 10:24-25; Jms. 4:17)
- Strive to grow (2 Pet. 1:5-11)
- Pray daily (Luke 18:1)
- Study daily (Acts 17:11)
- Avoid every form of evil (1 Thess. 5:22)

Results of Falling Away

- Worse than at beginning (2 Pet. 2:20-22)
- Worthy of sorer punishment (Heb. 10:26-29)
- Lost in hell (Mt. 13:41-42)

Returning From Falling Away

Those who fall can return:

- Simon did (Acts 8)
- Peter did (Gal. 2)
- Corinthian brother did (2 Cor. 2)
- Blood cleanses (1 John 1:7)

Returning From Falling Away

What are the fallen to do?

- Repent (Acts 8:22; Rev. 2:5)
- Confess (1 John 1:9; Jms. 5:16)
- Pray (Acts 8:22)

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