

# **How To Remain Faithful To The Lord**

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## Gal 5:4

Gal. 5:4, “*Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.*”

It is possible that once we have become members of the body of Christ, we can fall from grace, and leave the Lord and His ways, just as the Apostle Paul warned the Galatian brethren.

The Apostle Peter said that if we do certain things we can prevent our falling.

2 Pet. 1:1-11, “*Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.*”

In light of this, let us take a look at the things we can do to keep from falling.

## Depend on what God has done for you

### **God has given us all good things.**

Exceeding great and precious promises have been made to us in order that we might become partakers of His divine nature.

We have been able through His plan to escape the corruption of the world through the forgiveness of sins.

Acts 2:38, “*Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*”

**We have been privileged to become the children of God.**

1 John 3:1, “*Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God..*”

God’s children have also been promised to have Christ as our advocate.

1 John 2:1, “*My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.*”

His children have also been given another promise to help them defeat Satan in their temptations.

1 Cor. 10:13, “*There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*”

Seek that way; it is promised.

**We have God’s words of instruction to us so that we may know what He expects of us.**

He went to great lengths to give us that word.

Acts 20:32, “*And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.*”

The Holy Spirit guided the apostles into all truth.

**We have the church as a unit of fellowship to provide us an environment for spiritual growth.**

Eph. 4:16, “*From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.*”

**We have Christ’s blood that continuously cleanses us from all sin.**

1 John 1:7, “*But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*”

Stay in His word. Psa. 119:105, “*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.*”

How can we lose when we have such promises as these? Who would want to fall away from such privileges?

## **Keep your objective in mind**

2 Pet. 1:4, *“Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”*

That is our purpose in life. Our great aim is to separate ourselves from the corruption of the world and take upon ourselves the divine nature to which we were called when we became Christians.

We cannot lose sight of our objective. Satan would like to set things in between us and God, and we have to remove them or get out of their way so that the way of righteousness is never hid from us.

Don't put yourselves in situations where God would not be, and where you cannot see God.

## **Grow spiritually**

2 Pet. 1:5-7, *“And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.”*

This passage deals with what has been termed through the ages as the Christian graces.

This is simply the process of growth which is expected of every Christian.

When one stops growing, he falls. There is strength in growth.

Let us take a closer look as to how we are to grow:

### **We are to grow in virtue.**

This is defined as a combination of manliness, power, and strength in the course of thought, feeling, and action in moral goodness. Purity.

Phil. 4:8, *“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”*

## **We are to grow in knowledge.**

This comes through a study and understanding of God's word.

Ignorance is no excuse. Acts 17:30, "*And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent.*"

Having a knowledge of God's word gives us a tool to keep us from sinning. Psalms 119:11, "*Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.*"

## **We are to grow in temperance.**

Satan would have you to think this means "do in moderation". Sin in moderation? God forbid!

This means self-control.

One usage would be abstinence from harmful things.

It is obvious that when the Apostle Paul taught Felix, one of things discussed was temperance.

Acts 24:25, "*And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.*"

## **We are to grow in patience.**

This implies steadfastness or perseverance.

- Luke 21:19, "*In your patience possess ye your souls.*"
- James 1:3-4, "*Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.*"

If we had the patience of Job we would never fail.

## **We are to grow in godliness.**

The more like God we become the harder it would be to leave Him.

- 1 Tim. 4:7-8, "*But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness. For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.*"
- 1 Tim. 6:3-7, "*If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes*

*of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself. But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.”*

## **We are to grow in brotherly kindness.**

Brotherly kindness is a quality that many lack.

They are ready to pounce upon someone upon someone who makes a slip, when, instead, in the spirit of meekness, approach that person and help him with his burden.

## **We are to grow in charity, or love.**

This is our crowning area of growth.

- Rom. 12:9-10, “*Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another,*”
- Rom. 13:10, “*Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.*”

When we learn to love as God has loved us, then we are spiritually mature.

## **Be fruitful**

2 Pet. 1:8, “*For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*”

We should be fruitful in that we are capable of not only knowing and doing the will of God, but also capable of teaching it, of saving souls, of working for the Lord, of helping the church to grow.

If you are fruitful as a disciple, it is not likely that you will fall away.

The lazy Christian who is not interested in saving souls is the one who becomes unhappy and then falls away.

## Remember your cleansing

2 Pet. 1:9, “*But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.*”

Think of yourself when you obey the gospel as getting a new set of clothes. When you got a new set of clothes, you were very careful not to get them dirty. It is when you forget your new clothes that you become careless and get them dirty.

So it is with our Christian life. Let us never forget how clean we are when we are baptized, and do our very best so stay that way.

## Be zealous

Titus 2:11-14, “*For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.*”

The Lord intended for His people to be zealous of good works. We are to be diligent, work hard, and be alert.

If we do this, we will never fall.









