

# **Lest He Fall**

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The Apostle Paul wrote; *“Therefore, let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall”* (1 Cor. 10:12). When one becomes arrogant in his faith, he has laid himself open for a fall from the grace of God. The very confidence, by which he thinks he stands, is that which causes him to fall. His arrogance moves him to trust in himself, and thus, he leads himself astray after this own righteousness (Rom. 11:20). We must not assume that one’s fall here refers to one becoming irreligious or pagan in behavior. In the Corinthian’s context, the false teachers were falling after their own arrogant religiosity (Rev. 2:2-6).

Paul continued to explain that *“God is faithful”* (vs 13) in contrast to one who trusts in Him (1:9; Psalms 125:3). One stands, therefore, not because of his ability to guarantee his salvation, but by the grace of God. *“But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love with which He loved us even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ-by grace you have been saved.”* (Eph. 2:4-5). The justice of God stands on the fact that He has extended mercy to those who have sought Him by faith. (Rom. 9:23; 11:31-32; 15:9; 1 Pet. 1:3; Titus 3:3-7). God’s mercy has been extended toward man because of His great love for all men (John 3:16; Rom. 5:8).

Those who sin against God will reap the consequences of sin (Rom. 6:23). The problem with being human is the fact that we cannot live in a manner that is sinless before God. Therefore, we cannot live in a manner that would merit the mercy of God. Mercy is not given out of merit, but out of love. God’s mercy is not something that we merit according to the law. It is given out of love and not on the basis that is legally earned. *“Even when we were dead”*. But God manifests His love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Rom. 5:8). No man can righteously live in a manner to earn the mercy of God (Rom. 3:9-10, 20, 23).

**Temptations.** All men are tempted. But the temptations to sin originates from within the individual (James 1:12-15). Sin occurs, therefore, when the lusts and pride of the individual are carried into action that is contrary to the will of God (1 John 2:15).

**A way of escape.** Since temptation originates from within the individual to carry out lust and pride, the way of escape originates from within one’s heart. In order to escape temptations, therefore, one must look within himself. It is within one’s heart that he must seek the way in which he lives. He or she cannot blame anyone or anything that lies outside his heart for the sin he may commit in carrying out the lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes and pride of life.

**Able to endure.** One is able to bear only when he trusts in the will of God in his heart; he will give his heart over to the evil influences of the environment in which he lives. (Heb. 4:12) says, *“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intents of the heart.”* Let us all, the children of God, depend on it.

God bless you.

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