

Yes, You Can Fall From Grace!

1. *I Corinthians 9:21-10:13:*

(9:21) “To those not having the Law I became like one not having the Law (though I am not free from God’s Law but am under Christ’s Law — New Testament), so as to win those not having the Law (Old Testament). To the weak (spiritually) I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the Gospel, that I may share in its blessing.

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. (9:27) No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others. I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

(10:1) For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ (Exodus 13:21). Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered over the desert.

Now these things occurred as examples, to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: ‘The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in pagan revelry (Exodus 32:6).’ We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did — and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. We should not test the Lord, as some of them did — and were killed by snakes (Numbers 21:5-9). And do not grumble, as some of them did — and were killed by the destroying angel (Exodus 12:23, I Chronicles 21:15).

(10:11) These things (Old Testament stories) happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come (Christians).

(10:12) So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall! No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

Therefore, my dear friends, flee from idolatry (things that lead you into sin).”

A. Paul said he was “**under Christ’s law**” in 9:21. That means he was under obligation to obey it.

B. What if he chose not to obey it? 9:27 says: “**No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.**”

C. After this warning, he uses Old Testament people to clarify his warning to New Testament Christians in 10:11,12: “**These things happened to them (Old Testament) as examples and were written down as warnings for us (New Testament Christians), on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come. So, if you think you stand firm, be careful that you don’t fall!**”

2. Jesus explains the Parable of the Sower in *Mark 4:14-17*:

(14) *“The farmer sows the Word (seed). (15) Some people are like seed along the path, where the Word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the Word that was sown in them. (16) Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the Word and at once receive it with joy. (17) But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the Word, they quickly fall away.”*

A. In verse 17, Jesus warned new Christians that **“When trouble or persecution comes because of the word (which verse 14 tells us is the “seed” mentioned in verse 3 of this parable), they quickly fall.”**

B. This Scripture from Jesus explains *I John 3:9*: **“No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God’s seed (word) remains in him; he cannot go on sinning.”**

(1) Jesus was explaining in His Parable of the Sower that young Christians **“quickly fall away,”** because **“trouble or persecution comes because of the word,”** and they can no longer follow the word (seed) of God. **Remember, John said a Christian could not sin if the seed (word of God) remains in him.”** **When the word of God no longer remains in a Christian because they have stopped obeying it, then they will “quickly fall away.”**

3. Jesus warns in *Matthew 7:13-27*:

“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow is the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them.

(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 (obey the New Testament Scriptures given to the Apostles from God to Christ through the Holy Spirit). *Many will say to Me on that Day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your Name, and in your Name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from Me you evildoers!’*

(24) Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine (New Testament) and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew against that house, and it fell with a great crash!”

A. After Jesus warns that only a few people will find their way to Heaven, because false prophets will preach, cast out demons, and perform miracles in His name to draw us away from the Truth; He clearly tells us in **verse 21**: **“only he who does the will of my Father” will get into Heaven.** Then He explains what He means by this in **verses 24-27**. If you

only listen to His words (seed), but don't obey them, you will ***"fall with a great crash!"***

4. I Corinthians 15:1,2 says: *"By this Gospel (word, seed) you are saved, if you hold firmly to the Word I preached to you — otherwise, you have believed in vain."*

A. In Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, he wanted to be sure they understood his stand on the subject of grace when he wrote II Corinthians 6:1: *"...we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain."*

5. Hebrews 3:12 -14:

*"See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. **We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first.**"*

A. The only way you can be assured that you will never fall from grace is *"if we hold firmly till the end the confidence (word, seed) we had at first."*

6. Galatians 5:4-21:

(4) *"You who are trying to be justified by Law (Old Testament) have been alienated from Christ; **you have fallen away from grace.**"*

(7) *You were running a good race (faithful Christians). Who cut in on you and kept you from obeying the Truth?*

(13) *You, my brothers, were called to be free (from the Old Testament Law). But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature.*

(16) *So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature (notice you, as a Spirit-filled Christian, have a choice). For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law (which the Jews were trying these new Christians back to).*

(19) *The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; **(20)** idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions **(21)** and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. **I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the Kingdom of God!"***

A. Paul wrote these words to the Christians in Galatia. In 1:6-9 he says: *"I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel (word, seed) — which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ."*

B. How were they “perverting the gospel of Christ”? 5:7 says: You were running a good race (Paul said they were all Christians in 3:26-4:7). Who cut in on you and kept you from obeying the Truth (Word, or Seed)? False prophets that Jesus warned us about came in and told them they didn’t have to actually obey the Truth (Word, Seed).

C. These Jewish false prophets tried to get the Christians in Galatia to go back to obeying the works of the Old Testament Law, instead of the works of the New Testament or “Christ’s Law” (as we have already read in I Corinthians 9:21). They explained to these Christians that they didn’t have to obey Christ’s Law, and Paul explained that they either obey or miss Heaven (5:13, 19-21).

D. Galatians 5:4 clearly tells Christians that they can fall from grace if they chose to use God’s grace as a license to sin, as warned in Jude 4: “For certain men whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you (as fellow Christians). They are godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality (sin)...”

E. But, remember, we will be judge by Christ’s law according to James 2:12: “Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the Law that gives freedom (Christ’s Law, or the New Testament Scriptures).”

(1) Jesus warned us in John 12:47-50: “As for the person who hears My Words but does not keep them, I do not judge him. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save it. **There is a judge for the one who rejects Me and does not accept My Words; that very Word which I spoke will condemn him at the Last Day.** For I did not speak of My own accord, but the Father who sent Me commanded Me what to say and how to say it. I know that His command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told Me to say.”

7. Hebrews 10:26-31 warns us that Christians can not continue in a saved relationship with the Lord if we deliberately keep on sinning once we have received a knowledge of the Truth (Word, Seed): “If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the Truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. Anyone who rejected the Law of Moses (Old Testament) died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the Covenant (New Testament) that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, ‘It is mine to avenge, I will repay’ (Deuteronomy 32:35), and again, ‘The Lord will judge His people’ (Deuteronomy 32:36). It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God!”

A. I John 1:5-2:4 tells us that the only way we can receive forgiveness of sins is to get out of that sin (“darkness”), and get back to the “Light” (Truth, Word, Seed).

(1) 2:3,4 says “We know that we have come to know Him **if we obey His commands**. The man who says, ‘I know Him’ (I’m a Christian), but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the Truth (Word, Seed) is not in him.”

8. In Revelation 2:1-5, Jesus told John that the entire Church of Ephesus had “fallen,” and were in danger having their “lampstand” removed from its place in Heaven, if they didn’t repent: (4) “Yet I hold this against you (Church of Ephesus): You have forsaken your first love (the things taught them by the Apostle Paul when he first started this Church). Remember the height from which you have fallen (from His grace)! Repent and do the things (the Greek word “erga” or “works”) you did at first. If you do not repent (stop sinning), I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place (you won’t get into Heaven)!”

9. The last thing on Peter’s mind was Paul’s Churches. It’s interesting that years before Jesus told John to warn Paul’s greatest Church in Ephesus, Peter warned them in II Peter 3:15-17: “Bear in mind that our Lord’s patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.

*Therefore, dear friends, since you already know this, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and **fall from your secure position!**”*

10. YES, YOU CAN FALL FROM GRACE!