

The How's of Falling from Grace

The scriptures indicate that the child of God can fall from grace and be eternally separated from God. Peter verified this fact, when he said, "For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein and overcome, the last state is become worse with them than the first. For it were better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after knowing it, to turn back from the holy commandment delivered unto them. It has happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog turning to his own vomit again, and the sow that had washed to wallowing in the mire" (2 Peter 2:20-22). Such being the case, what conditions arise in the Christian's life that lead to drifting and falling away?

Materialism: The Lord said, "Take heed, and keep yourselves from all covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth. And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: and he reasoned within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have not where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, be merry. But God said unto him, Thou foolish one, this night is thy soul required of thee; and the things which thou hast prepared, whose shall they be? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God" (Luke 12:15-21). Materialism is a result of a worldly attitude. We can often get so wrapped up in day-to-day living that we are willing to sacrifice the eternal on the altar of the immediate. The lusts of the flesh want to be satisfied and we acquiesce. When that happens, the material things become more important, and we drift away from God.

Evil Companionship: The apostle Paul was plain when he said that avoiding the fornicators, covetous and extortioners of this world would require going "out of the world" (1 Corinthians 5:9-10) to do so. Therefore, the godly must be aware of the environment in which they live. Paul said, "Be not deceived: Evil companionships corrupt good morals" (1 Corinthians 15:33).

The apostle Paul leaves this warning: “Be not unequally yoked with unbelievers: for what fellowship have righteousness and iniquity? or what communion hath light with darkness?” (2 Corinthians 6:14).