

Restoring - cont.

- By engaging in disorderly conduct not according to God's word (2 Thessalonians 3:6,7,11).
- By being seducing with false doctrines (1 Timothy 4:1; 2 Timothy 2:17-18; 2 Peter 2:1ff; Revelation 2:14-15,20).
- Through selfishness or self-centeredness (2 Timothy 3:1-5).
- By drifting from or neglecting Jesus Christ (Hebrews 2:1-2).
- Through bitterness, anger, or strife (Hebrews 12:14-16).
- Through willful disobedience to God's word (Hebrews 10:25-26; 1 Timothy 1:19-20).
- By a lack of spiritual growth (Hebrews 6:4-8; 2 Peter 1:8-9; Revelation 3:1-2).
- By not eating the right spiritual food - God's word (1 Peter 2:1-2).
- By not getting the right spiritual exercise (1 Timothy 4:7; Hebrews 5:14; 12:11; 2 Peter 2:14).

- Chris Reeves -

Sentence Sermons

- Whatever your lot in life, build something worthwhile on it.
- Wondering what to say to the Devil? Just say what Jesus said ... "Go away, Satan!"
- You don't have to count your words before you say them, but it would be good to weigh them first.
- Remember, Satan usually wraps sin in a beautiful and attractive package.

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

My brethren, if any among you err from the truth, and one convert him; let him know, that he who converts a sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall cover a multitude of sins.

- James 5:19-20 -

Can Christians fall from grace?

The answer to the above question will differ depending upon who you ask. If you ask someone who has been influenced by Calvinism, they will answer: “No, Christians cannot fall from grace.” They believe, erroneously, that a person once saved is always saved. However, the Bible does not teach this. The Bible is clear that Christians can fall from grace. Consider the following lines of evidence for this.

First, there are clear examples of Christians falling. Simon the sorcerer is a good example. He was a Christian who soon sinned and Peter said the following to him: “*Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray the Lord, if perhaps the thought of thy heart shall be forgiven thee. For I see that thou art in the gall of bitterness and in the bond of iniquity*” (Acts 8:22-23).

Second, there are plain statements about how Christians can fall. Paul

wrote the following: “*Ye are severed from Christ, ye who would be justified by the law; ye are fallen away from grace*” (Galatians 5:4).

Third, there are certain predictions of Christians falling. Paul wrote the following: “*But the Spirit saith expressly, that in later times some shall fall away from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons, through the hypocrisy of men that speak lies, branded in their own conscience as with a hot iron; forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by them that believe and know the truth*” (1 Timothy 4:1-3).

Finally, there are severe warnings about Christians falling. The following is just one of several in the New Testament: “*looking carefully lest there be any man that falls short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby the many be defiled*” (Hebrews 12:15).

What causes a Christian to err?

So, yes, Christians can fall from grace. A Christian can err from the truth, as James wrote, and be in need of repentance and returning to the Lord. There are a number of things that can cause Christians to err. If we can find out what those things

are, we can avoid them at all cost. A Christian can err...

- By being envious of the wicked (Psalm 73:2-3,17).
- Through pride (Proverbs 16:18; 29:23).
- By feeling wronged (Matthew 5:23-24; 18:15-16).
- Through temptations and tribulations (Luke 8:13; 22:32).
- Because of cares, riches, pleasures, and lusts (Luke 8:14; Acts 1:25; 1 Timothy 5:6; 6:9-10; 2 Timothy 4:9; Revelation 3:17).
- By engaging in worldliness (1 Corinthians 5:11; Ephesians 4:22ff; Colossians 3:5ff; Acts 5:2; 8:19).
- By fearing what men will say or do (Galatians 2:11-14).
- By slipping or lapsing into sin (Galatians 6:1).
- Through discouragement or depression (Galatians 6:9).

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