

Causes of Backsliding

Jesus left 99 sheep and ministered to one. My motivation is to not see anyone go to hell. I realize it can happen to anyone because some of the best Christians and ministers I know have backslidden.

1. They never really converted:

- Appeared to be born again, but really did not.
- Sometimes we seek quick converts who don't really know what they are doing.
- They don't understand the depravity of their sin.
- Some act like they are doing God a favor.

Q) How can you backslide if you have never slid in?



Compromised preaching produces 1/2 hearted converts.

2. Personal failure:

- Failed marriage.
- Disillusionment, anger with God. Things did not happen the way they wanted.

1 Timothy 1:18-19 This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, 19 having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck,

3. Never disciplined and (developed spiritual disciplines & habits)

1 Corinthians 9:27 (KJS) But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

Any dead fish can swim down stream. It takes a live one to swim upstream.

Castaway definition: To float adrift.

A. Personal devotions has been my sustaining force: Word/Prayer (1 hr)

1 diagnostic question I ask people who struggle in their relationship with the Lord: "How is your devotional life?"

B. Discipleship. Build your life upon the rock

The Church is the avenue of God's salvation. He doesn't operate outside of His church. If you don't like it talk to God. It is His idea.

4. Fellowship not a priority.

Hebrews 10:24-25 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

Some people visit church to church with a shopping list that Jesus couldn't fulfill and take 6 mos – 2 yrs to find one



Hebrew 3:12-13 Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; 13 but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

- Offences-bitterness:

Hebrews 12:14 Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: 15 looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;

- Some people are Jonah's who run away from the ministry and the call God has on them.

5. Wrong association

2 Peter 3:17 You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked;

a. Solomon married woman who served foreign gods and they pulled his heart away so that he too served their gods
Some single Christians today are so desperate to get married they will compromise the standard they know to be from God and develop soul ties with those who will not influence them toward the things of God.

2 Corinthians 6:14-17 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?

15 And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?

16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them and walk among them.

I will be their God, and they shall be My people."

17 Therefore

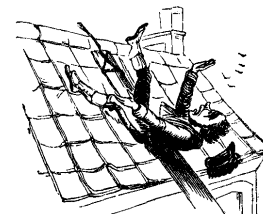
"Come out from among them

And be separate, says the Lord.

Do not touch what is unclean,

And I will receive you."

1 Corinthians 15:33 Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits.



6. Temptation

1 Corinthians 10:8-13 Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell; 9 nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents; 10 nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer. 11 Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. 12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. 13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

A. People stop resisting the devil.

2 Timothy 4:10 for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world

ALLEN'S ALLEY

by Jay Allen

IT BRINGS JOY
TO MY HEART TO
SEE YOU BACK IN
CHURCH WITH
YOUR WIFE,
HIRAM--

WELL, PASTOR- I GOT TO
THINKIN' AND PRAYIN' 'BOUT
IT, AN' I CONCLUDED
THAT I CAN ENDURE YOUR
PREACHIN' MUCH MORE
THAN MY WIFE'S!!



THE BACKSLIDDEN
HUSBAND RETURNS
TO THE FOLD--

10-23

JAY
ALLEN