

IF I FALL, WHAT THEN?

Introduction

- 1) We are warned: ***“Let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall”*** (1 Cor. 10:12)
 - a) All Christians face the danger of **falling away** – Satan seeks our souls (1 Pet. 5:8; Heb. 6:6)
- 2) This danger can begin with committing one sin and end in complete rebellion against God
 - a) **Simon** – committed one sin (Acts 8:18-21)
 - b) **Demas** – left the Lord for the world (2 Tim. 4:10)
- 3) If a Christian sins, what should he/she do? Can he please God again? If so, how?

I) Why a Christian Falls

- A) Temptation (Jas. 1:14-15; Gal. 6:1)
- B) Lack of Faith/Endurance (Mk. 4:16-17; Lk. 8:13)
- C) False Doctrine (1 Tim. 4:1; 2 Pet. 3:17)
- D) Rebellion (Heb. 3:12; 2 Thess. 2:3)

II) What the Christian Should NOT Do

- A) Excuse your sin: “Everybody does it,” “I’m not perfect,” “I’m only human,” etc.
- B) Think that God will never forgive (Lk. 17:3-4)
- C) Give up and throw away faith (Matt. 27:3-5)
- D) Continue to rebel and reject the truth (Heb. 6:4-6; 10:26; 1 Jn. 5:16)
 - 1) Danger of “searing” the conscience with evil (1 Tim. 4:2; Heb. 3:13)

III) What the Christian Should Do

- A) Understand the serious nature of sin
 - 1) Affront to the holiness of God (Psa. 51:3-4; 1 Jn. 1:5-6)
 - 2) Unrepented sin will separate us from God (Isa. 59:1-2)
- B) Hear the love, rebuke, and tender leading back of God and brethren
 - 1) Listen to God’s call to turn back to Him with all your heart (Joel 2:12-13)
 - 2) Brethren want to restore you and turn you back to the truth (Jas. 5:19-20; Gal. 6:1-2)
- C) Repent and confess sin (Psa. 51:1-4, 17)
 - 1) We will confess our sins when we are willing to **repent** and **change**
 - 2) We will confess our sins if we are striving to walk in the light (1 Jn. 1:7, 9)
 - 3) Example of Simon (Acts 8:22-24)
 - 4) Be willing to forgive those who repent of sin against us (Matt. 6:12; Eph. 4:32)
- D) Maintain faith (Lk. 22:31-32)
 - 1) Peter would fall to temptation and deny His Lord (vv. 54-62)
 - 2) If his faith in Jesus would not fail, he would return (repent) and strengthen others

IV) What God Will Do

- A) Forgive (1 Jn. 1:7, 9)
 - 1) A promise we should never doubt
- B) Cleanse the conscience (Heb. 9:14; 10:17, 22)
 - 1) Blessing for God’s people (Rom. 4:7-8; 5:1-2)
- C) Give strength and help to press on to the end (1 Cor. 10:13; Rev. 2:10)

Conclusion

*“My little children, these things I write to you, **that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world**”* (1 Jn. 2:1-2).