

## SECOND PETER CHAPTER 1

### Lesson 16 DON'T FALL

21 November, 2014

**“For if ye do these things, ye shall never fall.”**

If the Christian will do the things he is admonished to do (add to your faith...), he is given the promise and the assurance of not falling back to his/her old ways.

**1 Cor. 10:1-9** The example of the Children of Israel. Though they saw God work many wonders on their behalf, that did not prevent them from being **“overthrown in the wilderness.”**

- Their fall started with their inward desire: “they...lusted” (vs. 6).
- They became idolaters (vs. 7). The affection, enthusiasm, time, and dedication that ought to go to God alone were given to something else.
- Fornication became an acceptable practice (vs. 8).
- They tempted Christ (vs. 9), murmured (vs. 10), and were destroyed.
- These things happened to them as an example and warning to us. **“Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall”** (vs. 12).
  - Though we are redeemed, delivered, blood bought Children of God, provided with all the things needed to live a godly life, we can still fall back to our old sinful ways if we’re not diligent about pursuing a godly life on a daily basis.

#### **THINGS THAT WILL LEAD TO YOUR FALL:**

##### **1. YOUR OLD SINS (2 Pet 1:9).**

The things that once had a hold on you will try to pull you back to your old ways.

- Everyone has different weaknesses.
  - If you used to partake of a particular sinful or harmful practice, you are more at risk of being drawn to it again.
  - A practice that you were never interested in before will not likely allure you today.
- The way to avoid doing what is wrong is to stay busy doing what is right. The downfall of Sodom was **“pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness”** (Ezek. 16:49).
- Lack of “these things” (virtue, knowledge, temperance, godliness, etc) will make you “blind” so that you will not consider the consequences of your actions because you can’t “see afar off.”

##### **2. YOU’RE NOT SURE WHAT YOUR CALLING IS (2 Pet 1:10)**

- Believers are called to live a life of glory and honor to the Lord Jesus Christ. You’ve got to make up your mind that that’s what you are going to do with your life.
- If you’re just dabbling or experimenting with the Christian life, you’re headed for a fall. Lukewarm service won’t secure your ability to keep going for Christ.
- **“Whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God”** (1 Cor. 10:31).

### 3. NOT MAKING YOUR CALLING AND ELECTION SURE (2 PET 1:10)

- You are “elect” if you are “in Christ.” If you’re in Christ, you’ll do what Christ likes to do and go where He likes to go.
  - You won’t be one who’s “in Christ” one day and “out of Christ” the next day (in practice)

#### THE POSSIBILITY AND RESULTS OF FALLING:

**2 PETER 2:20-22** They’re worse off. It is possible for a believer to return to “**the pollutions of the world.**” When that happens, that Christian will be “worse” off (in this life) than they were in “the beginning.”

- It will be more difficult to get back to living a life for Christ because you “already tried it.”
- When you re-ingest the very thing that made you sick in the first place (like a dog does), it’s worse the second time.
  - The Christian who returns to “wallowing in the mud” can never enjoy a worldly life like they used to. That’s why it would have been “better for them not to have known the way of righteousness.”

**2 PETER 3:17-18** A Christian can fall; not from salvation, but from “**stedfastness.**” So the warning is to beware that you don’t get “**led away with the error of the wicked.**”

The antidote is to keep growing in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ (vs. 18). Keep studying even though you don’t have to.

- Keep pressing toward the mark (Phil. 3:14), continue to be “**stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord**” (1 Cor. 15:58). Keep walking in Christ, “**stablished in the faith**” and “**abounding therein**” Col. 2:6-7).

#### BLINDNESS

**JOHN 9:39-41** The Pharisees refused to repent because they thought they were okay. They didn’t think they needed to change their ways. They said, “We see,” but they were blind to the fact that they had things in their life that were not right.

**ISAIAH 43:8** “**Blind people that have eyes**” refers to someone who is capable of sight, but chooses not to see because they don’t like what they are being shown.

- People often can’t see the idols that they have set up in their lives, but others can see your idols plainly. When they try to show you, you might choose not to see them.

#### CONCLUSION

**2 Peter 1:10** You don’t ever have to fall! The condition is: “**if ye do these things.**”

- It’s a choice. You can choose to stand. You can choose to fall. Count the benefits. Count the costs. Make a choice.

**Jude 1:24** God is able to keep you from falling. God wants to “**present you faultless.**”