



WHY DO CHRISTIANS BACKSLIDE?

Joshua 1:2 Fellowship

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Jer. 6:16

Many of us know the story of the prodigal son. He left his father's house and went off into the world and squandered everything his father gave him. **Why did the prodigal son backslide?** (The devil killed the anointing in him and penetrated his heart with the desires of the world.)

Why do Christians Backslide?

BECAUSE THEY BREAK AWAY FROM THE VINE

Jesus said, "*I am the Vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit. FOR APART FROM ME YOU CAN DO NOTHING. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up...*" John 15:5-6.

The Christian that does not take care of his spiritual life will eventually dry up like a branch that has been cut off from the vine. Jesus said, "*he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit.*" This is the Christian who has learned to put God first in everything. He is a praying Christian who spends quality time with God on his knees. He understands that the more he depends on the

Holy Spirit for everything, the presence of God will produce godly fruit in his life. The more time he spends with God the more He changes him and places more thirst and hunger in his heart for more of Him. This Christian knows the importance of denying self and consistently spending time with God in his prayer closet. He takes care of his spiritual life! This praying man knows that if he breaks away from the spiritual things of God he will slowly but surely begin to die spiritually. This happened to the life of Samson! Jesus said, "*If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up...*" When a Christian begins to dry up he is already backsliding in his heart. **This once "man on fire" has now lost the fire of God in his heart.** His convictions are dead and now he begins to compromise his walk with God. His desire for prayer, bible study and church attendance are dried up in his heart. He has lost his hunger and thirst for the things of God and now is hungry for the things of the Flesh, the World, and the devil. He is now just going through the motions in his Christian walk. He goes to church and Bible Studies but his heart is

already thirsty and hungry for the things of the world. The Christian who has broken away from the Vine and has dried up is in danger if he does not repent, to cross over to the devil's kingdom. (The World) Most dried-up Christians end up back in the world. If you are that dried up Christian, repent and come back to Jesus and by faith you will be connected back to Him.

WHY DO CHRISTIANS BACKSLIDE?

BECAUSE THEY DON'T GUARD THEIR MINDS FROM THE FIERY DARTS OF THE DEVIL.



Eph. 6:16 says, "*in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.*" Many Christians have not learned how to guard their minds from the devil's "flaming arrows." Why? They are baby Christians. They are ignorant to the Word of God. But for many Christians they allow the devil to penetrate their minds with those "flaming arrows" because they enjoy entertaining them in their minds. Many Christians entertain lustful thoughts, evil thoughts, impure thoughts, immoral thoughts and sexual thoughts in their minds. When they do this the devil is imparting his evil mind on them. When the devil is able to fill

the Christian's mind with his filth he will be able to penetrate the heart. **When the devil is able to penetrate the heart of the Christian he then puts desire in him.** (The devil has already captured the mind and will and now is working in his emotions.) **The devil is now filling your heart with 'DESIRE'** The desire to smoke crack, commit adultery, to fornicate, to do evil or whatever is sin before God. This Christian if he does not repent will soon backslide and commit the very sin that was in his heart. The shield of Faith will protect you from those "flaming arrows" of the devil. By Faith rebuke those evil thoughts in the Name of Jesus. Paul said, "*We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.*" 2 Cor. 10:5 We have the power by faith to take every thought captive and to destroy and distinguish them. By doing this we can guard our minds from any thoughts that satan throws at us. By faith ask God to place a wall of fire around your mind, your family and the church. Plead the blood of Jesus upon your mind! When we saturate our minds with the Word of God, the Holy Spirit is able to renew our minds and He is also able to impart the mind of Christ in us. We must do our part and God will do His. Satan will everyday throw those flaming arrows at us but if we practice the Word of God we will defeat the devil. Billy Graham once said, "You cannot stop the birds from flying around your head, but don't let them make nests there." (Don't entertain those flaming arrows from the devil) Paul said, "...whatever is true, honorable, right, pure, lovely..., if there is any excellence and if anything, worthy of praise, dwell on these

things." Phil 4:8 According to the Word of God it is up to us to guard our minds. If filth is penetrating your mind it is because you opened the door to the devil.

CONCLUSION:

Many Christians have backslidden because they did not take care of their spiritual life and broke away from the True Vine.

When that happened, satan then was able to penetrate the mind with his evil thoughts and those thoughts then penetrated the heart and became desire. Once desire was in the heart of the Christian it was only a matter of time when he put that desire into action and that Christian backsides all the way to the world and its ways. If you have backslidden in your heart or you went all the way and committed the act, Repent. Jesus will forgive you! Jesus will cleanse you! Jesus will restore you!

Isaiah. 1:18 says, "***Come now, and let us reason together," says the Lord. "Though your sins are as scarlet, they will be as white as snow...***" "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

1John 1:9