

# Directional Devo

## Backsliding

Deuteronomy 4:23-31

2/25/16

According to Webster's Dictionary, to backslide is to relapse into bad habits, sinful behavior, or undesirable activities.

### Introduction

I want to ask and answer two questions concerning backsliding.

What is it and who is it?

First, what is it?

It is not losing your salvation.

John 5:24 *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.*

John 1:11-13 *He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*

So, my relationship to God is based on birth and is therefore permanent.

More correctly, backsliding is simply breaking fellowship with God.

And my fellowship is based on my behavior.

I John 1:7 *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*

You see, sin breaks one's fellowship with God, but not his relationship to God.

Jesus said in John 10:28-30 *And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one.*

Nothing can sever the relationship.

God said to backsliding Israel in Jeremiah 3:14 *Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion:*

Second, who is it?

Simply put, it is a saved person who has fallen into sin.

I think of Noah, Moses, Abraham, Lot, and Sampson.

Each of them had times in their lives in which they fell into sin.

It is anyone who is out of the directive will of God.

That means, you know God's will, but you refuse to do it.

It is a Christian who is filled with his own way.

Pro 14:12 *There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.*

A recent study show that most Christians live in a backslidden condition two-thirds of their lives.

Why? - Because we seem to think that as long as we do not commit murder, adultery, steal or get drunk on a regular basis that we are living right.

But, Jesus said in Proverbs 24:9 that even *the thought of foolishness is sin.*

Yes, even the thought of doing something crazy is sinful.

And in Matt 5:27-28 Jesus said *Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.*

Maybe you're not guilty of these?

How about Romans 14:23 which says that *he that doubteth is damned.*

And James 4:17 *Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.*

What many fail to see is that backsliding is a gradual thing.

The Prodigal Son did not arrive in the hog pen the first day he left home.

Sampson did not go straight to Delilah's house.

Lot did not move in the Sodom immediately.

It is a process that occurs over time.

So the message today is:

1. to you who may be a long distance from God,
2. to you who cannot seem to find your way back and
3. to you who have just lost your first love.

You may still have the externals, but you have lost the thrill, fire, compassion and devotion that you first had.

First of all, what causes backsliding? I submit to you five things and they all begin with the letter "F" because if you do them you will fail.