

Directional Devo

Backsliding, Part 2

Deuteronomy 4:23-31

2/26/16

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.

1. Forgetfulness

Deuteronomy 4:23a *Take heed unto yourselves, lest ye forget the covenant of the LORD your God, which he made with you.*

- a. We need to remember what we were (BC) before Christ.

James 1:24 says that *he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.*

- b. We need to remember what we had.

No Joy, No Peace with ourselves.

- c. We need to remember to count our blessings.

Eph 1:3-4 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:*

2. False worship causes backsliding.

Again, Deuteronomy 4:23-24 *Take heed unto yourselves, lest ye forget the covenant of the LORD your God, which he made with you, and make you a graven image, or the likeness of any thing, which the LORD thy God hath forbidden thee. For the LORD thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God.*

- a. Forbidden images are sure to appear in the heart and mind of those who forget God.

- b. Man is inherently religious. He will worship something.

Isaiah 44:10-17 *Who would form a god or mold an image That profits him nothing? (11) Surely all his companions would be ashamed; And the workmen, they are mere men. Let them all be gathered together, Let them stand up; Yet they shall fear, They shall be ashamed together. (12) The blacksmith with the tongs works one in the coals, Fashions it with hammers, And works it with the strength of his arms. Even so, he is hungry, and his strength fails; He drinks no water*

and is faint. (13) The craftsman stretches out his rule, He marks one out with chalk; He fashions it with a plane, He marks it out with the compass, And makes it like the figure of a man, According to the beauty of a man, that it may remain in the house. (14) He cuts down cedars for himself, And takes the cypress and the oak; He secures it for himself among the trees of the forest. He plants a pine, and the rain nourishes it. (15) Then it shall be for a man to burn, For he will take some of it and warm himself; Yes, he kindles it and bakes bread; Indeed he makes a god and worships it; He makes it a carved image, and falls down to it. (16) He burns half of it in the fire; With this half he eats meat; He roasts a roast, and is satisfied. He even warms himself and says, "Ah! I am warm, I have seen the fire." (17) And the rest of it he makes into a god, His carved image. He falls down before it and worships it, Prays to it and says, "Deliver me, for you are my god!"

c. Much false worship goes on in our churches.

Matthew 15:8-9 'THESE PEOPLE DRAW NEAR TO ME WITH THEIR MOUTH, AND HONOR ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR FROM ME. (9) AND IN VAIN THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE COMMANDMENTS OF MEN.' "

3. Flesh causes backsliding.

Romans 7:18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.

a. Many allow the eye to cause them to sin.

Mat 5:29 If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.

b. Many allow an unforgiving spirit to destroy them.

Mark 11:25-26 And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.

Bitterness is like acid in that it destroys anything upon which it is poured.

c. Many obey the lust and desires of the flesh over the desire and drive for God.

1 John 2:16-18 For all that is in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world. (17) And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

4. Fashion may cause a person to backslide.

Don't think that fashion is strictly speaking of clothes only like we commonly use today.

It refers not only to dress but a frame of mind that seeks to be a part of the world.

Romans 12:1 *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

- a. Leads many to associate with worldly people.

2Co 6:17 *Therefore "COME OUT FROM AMONG THEM AND BE SEPARATE, SAYS THE LORD. DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN, AND I WILL RECEIVE YOU."*

- b. Leads to many people marrying unbelievers.

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

- 5. Fear may cause a person to backslide.

- a. Fear of what man may say or do.

Mat 10:28 *And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*

- b. Fear of being mocked and ridiculed.

2Ti 3:12 *Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.*

Mat 24:9 *"Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake.*

1Jn 4:18 *There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.*