by Bill Crews

"Any one" who is a Christian can lose his faith and fall away from God. The book of Hebrews in the New Testament was written to Hebrew Christians. In Hebrews 3:1 the writer calls them "holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling." In 3:12 he writes: "Take heed, brethren, lest haply there shall be in any one of you an evil heart of unbelief, in falling away from the living God." Notice that this could occur in "any one" of them. Hebrews 3:13 also points out that "any one of you" can be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin, and Hebrews 4:1 warns that "any one of you" can fail to enter into the rest that God has promised, and verse 11 tells what to do to prevent this occurring. And this might be a good place to remind of the warning of 1 Corinthians 10:12, "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." (If you are still not convinced that the New Testament teaches that a child of God can fall away from God and be lost, please read the context of this last passage -- 1 Corinthians 10:1-13).

And now, turning this thing around, "any one" who is of a mind to can attempt to lead a Christian astray and cause him to be lost. Colossians 2:8 reads: "Take heed lest there shall be any one that maketh spoil of you through his philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ." Paul warned the Galatian saints, "But though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach unto you any gospel other than that which we have preached unto you, let him be anathema" (Gal. 1:8). "Any one" can fall away, and "any one" can cause another to fall away.

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