

Falling Away?

by Wayne Goff

With our inability to worship publicly these days one cannot help but worry about the spiritual stability of the brethren. It takes a toll emotionally on all of us to be restricted from worship, from work, and from social contact. So this led me to think back to some of the reasons that brethren have given up their faith and fallen away from the Lord.

1. **Demas loved this present world, 2 Timothy 4:10.** He had formerly been a faithful servant of the Lord and was even an associate of Luke and Paul (**Col. 4:14**)! But Jesus warns us that *“If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him”* (**1 John 2:15**). We have to watch out for that.
2. **The deceitfulness of riches, Matthew 13:22.** The *“love of money”* causes some to *“stray from the faith in their greediness”* (**1 Tim. 6:10**). One cannot love God and his neighbor as himself and love money too. The love of money causes many people to run over anyone who gets in their way! But notice also the word *“deceitfulness.”* Riches do not provide what they *seem* to offer – security, satisfaction, and comfort. Any treasure on earth is just that – **treasure on earth**. Because of that *“moth and rust destroy”* and *“thieves break in and steal”* (**Matt. 6:19**). Then when we die, we leave it behind anyway!
3. **False doctrine, 2 Timothy 2:17-18.** *“Profane and idle babblings”* like those of Hymenaeus and Philetus who said *“that the resurrection is already past; and ... overthrow the faith of some”* (**2 Timothy 2:16-18**). It matters what one believes, and believing a lie can cause one to lose his/her soul!
4. **Weariness while doing good, Galatians 6:9.** Some just get tired of not receiving the reward yet. And Satan is there to encourage your faintheartedness! So watch out for that negative thinking. If need be, get a “check up from the neck up”! There’s more good reasons to remain faithful than to quit. So **don’t** *“lose heart”* (NKJV), *“grow weary”* (NASB), *“give up”* (ESV), or *“faint”* (KJV)! God will reward you greatly if you learn patient endurance! **Hebrews 10:36**

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