

How To Remain Faithful (1)

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Throughout the Bible, the problem of unfaithfulness is presented as a recurring theme in God's people. Hosea states, *"My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge"* (Hosea 4:6). Jeremiah asks, *"Can a maid forget her ornaments, or a bride her attire? Yet My people have forgotten Me days without number"* (Jeremiah 2:32). Amos spoke of a famine in the land, but *"not a famine of bread, nor a thirst of water, but of hearing the words of the Lord"* (Amos 8:11). Jesus notes how easy it is to become unfaithful, as He says, *"If a man abide not in Me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered..."* (John 15:6). Paul and Barnabas urged Saints to *"continue in the grace of God"* (Acts 13:43). The Corinthians were warned, *"Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall"* (1 Corinthians 10:12). Also, Peter sums up our perpetual problem well in 2 Peter 3:17, as he says, *"You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard lest, being carried away by the error of unprincipled men, you fall from your own steadfastness."* So ask yourself:

- "Am I losing my faith in the business of a hectic life?"
- "Am I not attending as often as I know I should?"
- "Am I making excuses for myself or my family members? Do I allow sports teams, extracurricular activities, overtime at work, or just plain laziness to distract me from serving the God who bled and died on my behalf?"
- "Am I just a shell of what I once was, when first I was baptized?"
- "Am I being worn out, run down, and sucked dry by stress?"
- "How long has it been since I've prayed... really?"

Study The Bible

It is really easy to forget that unfaithfulness begins in the mind when we start believing a concept that is false. The Bible can help us gain the right mental perspective and thus have a proper attitude about religious, spiritual, or emotional matters. Remember Romans 10:17, *"So faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the words of Christ."* If you have neglected your Bible study, then that may be at the center of spiritual troubles in your life right now. *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding"* (Proverbs 9:10).

Your Choices Have Consequences

Many choices are life altering, to the point that their consequences may be felt for the rest of your earthly existence. In fact, a lot of our choices, whether we know it or not, have eternal consequences (Galatians 5:19-23). We remain faithful to God by keeping the right perspective and envisioning how our day to day choices will affect us years down the road. Remember that you are laying the foundation of your future life right now, even in ways that are not so obvious:

- How much time you spend working;

- How much time you spend giving affection to your spouse;
- Every moment that is spent neglecting Bible study;
- Leaving an argument unresolved;
- Choosing one career path over another, without considering how it will affect your spiritual life;
- Missing Wednesday turns into missing Sunday nights, which can very quickly turn into missing church altogether. Giving into Satan for one moment opens up a door that is very hard to get shut again!