

Steps Of Backsliding And Repentance

Scripture: Luke 22:54-62

Introduction

Each of us goes through times of spiritual down turns. Peter's experience gives us the indications of how we begin to draw away from the Lord and the only way to return to Him.

I. Not following close to Jesus

Luke 22:54 Then they took him, and led him, and brought into the high priest's house. And Peter followed afar off.

- A. Inadequate consecration
- B. Inadequate commitment
- C. Inadequate communion with God
 - 1. Prayer life
 - 2. Reading and study of the Word
 - 3. Worship

II. Associating with Christ's enemies

Luke 22:55 And when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the hall, and were sat down together, Peter sat down among them.

- A. Evil association
 - 1. Fellowship with an evil crowd
 - 2. Disdaining fellowship with God
- B. Evil identification
 - 1. Sitting with Christ's enemies identifies us with them
 - 2. Not identifying with Christ identifies us with his enemies
- C. Exposure to excessive temptation

1 Corinthians 10:13 There is no temptation taken you but such is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able: but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

III. Sinning rather than fleeing evil

Luke 22:57 And he denied him, saying, Woman, I know him not.

- A. Focusing on temptation
- B. Not looking to God for strength

IV. Repenting to restore fellowship

Luke 22:62 And Peter went out and wept bitterly.

- A. There is a way back to God
- B. The value of tears of repentance

2 Corinthians 7:10 For godly sorrow worketh repentance unto salvation not to be repented of:

- C. Restoration to Christ's fellowship

Mark 16:7 But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you.