

Reading: Jude 1:17-25

Topic: How To Keep From
Spiritual Failure

INTRODUCTION: When we start out to _____ Jesus Christ, our intention is to _____ for Him every day of our lives, but sometimes we fail and fall. How do we prevent this from happening?

I. RECOGNITION OF THE CHALLENGES WE WILL FACE:

A. We Have Enemies:

1. When we have the new birth experience and are filled with the Spirit and _____ of God, we think and feel almost invincible and that _____ can stop us from moving forward.
2. However, reality sets in quite quickly and we find ourselves _____ opposition and difficulties that we did not expect and sometimes we end up _____ down and failing God.
3. We find out that we have enemies that oppose our _____ with God and oppose our spiritual growth and advancement and they will fight us every _____ of the way:
 - a. The Devil – the adversary hates you and will try to make you _____ away from God and go back to serving him again. I Pt. 5:8
 - b. The World – this is the anti-God, anti-Christ system of the age that opposes all that is _____ and godly and promotes all that is _____ and ungodly. I Jn. 2:16
 - c. The Flesh – the devil and the world are both outside of us, but unfortunately we live in the _____ and cannot escape its clutches until the day that we _____ or until the rapture. Rom. 7:23,24

B. Dealing With Our Enemies:

1. Jesus did not leave us helpless and hopeless in the _____ of our adversaries, but gave us the power and the means to overcome them and to _____ from falling:
 - a. The Devil – the only way to deal with the devil is to _____ him and use the Word of God to drive him away. I Pt. 5:9, James 4:7
 - b. The World – the only way to deal with the world system is to lose our _____ for it and to increase our love for the _____. I Jn. 2:15
 - c. The Flesh – the only way to deal with our enemy, the flesh is to strengthen our _____ life through Prayer, the Word of God, and fellowship with the _____ of Christ. Eph. 4:22-24

II. MEASURES TO TAKE TO PREVENT FALLS:

A. The Armor Of God:

1. As much as we have read and studied about the _____ of God, we cannot ignore or neglect the importance of putting it on and _____ it on daily. Eph. 6:10-13
2. The armor of God is not just theory or decoration, it is a necessity for us to _____ from falling into the traps that the adversary sets for us to cause us to _____ and fail God. 2 Cor. 10:4
3. As always, a reminder that is vital to our armor – the weapon of _____, which some people leave out when talking about the armor of God. Eph. 6:18

B. The Importance of Avoidance:

1. The Word of God teaches us that _____ is able to keep us from falling, but it also teaches us that we also have a _____ to play in preventing our falls.
2. Jesus taught that the _____ is willing but the _____ is our weak point, therefore we must be diligent in discipline when it comes to preventing falls. Mt. 26:41, I Cor. 9:27
3. In the Lord's prayer, Jesus put a phrase that has _____ significance – "Lead us not into temptation but _____ us from evil." Lk. 11:4
4. The Word of God teaches us that _____ individual is subject to temptation, and it is important to understand that temptation is not _____ but that it will lead to _____ if we do not take the proper measures to avoid being led to the place of falling. James 1:14
5. All of us have our own _____ points and we should learn to recognize them and take the necessary steps to flee from the place of temptation to avoid falling. 2 Tim. 2:22

III. WHAT TO DO IF A FALL HAPPENS:

A. Repent & Get Back Up:

1. If one falls, the adversary would like to bring guilt and condemnation to the _____ that would make one feel like there is no _____ or forgiveness. Micah 7:8
2. There is always _____ if one still has the desire to keep on serving God and following Him daily, but it requires sincere repentance and _____ to obtain forgiveness. I Jn. 1:9

B. Change Habits & Actions:

1. In order to avoid temptations and traps that we _____ will be a danger to us, we need to change some of our _____ and behaviors that get us into trouble. Pr. 4:14,15
2. Psychologists state that it takes only about five _____ to change from an old habit to a _____ and better behavior pattern so if that is possible for an unsaved individual to do, how much _____ should that be possible for a child of God who has the help of the Spirit of God. Col. 3:8-10

C. Abiding In Him:

1. We must come to the understanding of the teaching of Jesus with regards to the _____ of living and abiding in Him on a _____ basis. Jn. 15:4,5
2. That means being attached to the true _____ who is Jesus through our daily prayer, reading the Word of God and assembling with the _____ of Christ whenever possible.

CONCLUSION: The new birth gives us the new _____ in Christ, but the onus is on us to keep the spiritual life healthy and _____ to avoid falling for temptations and into sin. However, if we do our part, the Lord will surely do His to keep us from falling. Jude 1:24,25