

**A Christian
and
How not to backslide**

Fredrick G. Omondi

All Scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible, King
James Version

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INTRODUCTION

The Lord God by His grace and mercy has enabled me to come up with this book that touches at length the subject on backsliding. Backsliding is not a fiction but a fact and for that matter it is an important subject that need some consideration on the part of any believer in Christ Jesus in one's walk with Him and should not be shunned away lest one stumbles. It is true some Christians on their walk with the Lord have backslidden at some point and unfortunately some have been lost in the process because they left the world (died) before returning back to the Lord through repentance. Other Christians have backslidden and have not made an effort to go back to the Lord although the Lord has given them grace to go back as they are still alive. The issue of backsliding is not a light matter in Christianity as we are going to see in the Holy Scriptures. I myself fell victim to backsliding somehow and I know how it feels and I am going to share some of my experience in this book. It was only by the grace of the Lord God that I found myself restored back to the Lord and can testify to His faithfulness, grace and mercy. It is only the Lord Himself

who can restore back a backslidden Christian back to salvation, one who really wants the Lord and is truly repentant and requests for forgiveness from the Lord (Psalm 51, Hosea 14).

In this book we are going to learn what it is to backslide how it feels to backslide, how the Lord views backsliding, what factors lead to backsliding and how one can avoid altogether to backslide and what God can do to a backslider depending on what the backslider has decided for sure after one's backsliding. I do believe that the book will be a resourceful one to the reader on the issue at and.

May the Lord God keep you, guide you and sustain you and me in salvation in this long journey of faith (1 Thessalonians 5: 22-24, Philippians 1:6, Jude 24-25).

In this book and in all my other books, I have endeavored to restrict myself in King James version of the Holy Bible in quotations and the subsequent texts, as it is the best ever translation in English and in case you are uncomfortable with of don't despair, as all is well and not lost. Whenever you find I have given a scripture quotation, just go to your

Bible (whatever version it is) and read and you will be in the same page with me in your reading.

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CHAPTER 1

What is to backslide?

To backslide as the name implies is to slide back to where you were before you advanced to another level. The word is synonymous to apostasy (Greek) meaning a 'fall away'. Usually it is to go back to one's earlier bad behaviour/state/condition, to stray away from the path of salvation, to make a backward step in salvation. Backsliding is a setback in a Christian's walk and is detestable and for that reason, the LORD God has talked much on it both in the Old and the New Testaments of the Bible. Backsliding is the exit point from salvation. I have keenly looked at the issue of backsliding and have found that it is very important for every Christian to live a careful life and to quickly note any tell tale signs in one's life of backsliding e.g. any act or speech showing the going back to the old self by one and to do the necessary to rectify by repenting and asking the Lord to give one the power to overcome sin again and also to fully surrender oneself to the Lord, as it has been said 'A stitch in time saves nine'.

I have also noticed that it is easy for one to be saved and even easier for a believer to backslide. As a believer if one can only look back and go back to the old life backsliding has taken place already. That could be the reason why the Scripture says that one need not despise one's salvation but need to highly esteem it taking real good care of it by living a holy and righteous life which is the way to work on one's salvation and remain in it (Revelation 2:25; 3:11, Philippians 2:12).

Remember Lot and his family were saved by God's angels from Sodom and Gomorrah but Lot's wife just by looking back at those cities and she was done as her status totally changed (Genesis 19:15-26). Also remember the case of Esau (Hebrews 12:14-17) and Samson (Judges 16:4-21).

Backsliding can also be described as the drifting away from the spiritual life to the physical life drifting from living in the Spirit to living in the flesh (Galatians 3:1-7) it is a faith factor. To begin to live without faith in the Lord is to backslide as it is only faith that holds one in the Lord and make one remain a child of God (1 John 5:1-5).

When one is saved one has become a new creature and one has no business with one's old life to go back there (2

Corinthians 5:17). The Israelites looked back and that was their undoing as most of them died in the wilderness and never reached the Promised Land. (Exodus 14:1-12; 16:1-3, Numbers 14:20-35).

We are going to read some of the scriptures and also see some examples of those who one way or the other backslide in their Christian life. To me to some extent it seems that backsliding is gradual than instantaneous and leads to a complete fall where there may be no remedy at all (Hebrews 6:4-6, 10:26-31).

For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tested of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,

And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,

If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.

Hebrews 6: 4-6.

For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins.

But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. He that despised Moses's law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:

Of how much surer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

For we know him who hath said, vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord.

And again, the Lord shall judge his people.

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Hebrews 10: 26-31

Now let us go to the various Scriptures where the Lord God has talked on backsliding of His people.

And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord and served Ba'-a-lim:

And they forsook the Lord God of their fathers, which brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, of the gods of the people that were round about them, and bowed themselves unto them and provoked the Lord to anger.

And they forsook the Lord, and served Ba'-al and Ash'-ta-roth.

And the anger of the Lord was hot against Israel, and he delivered them into the hands of spoilers that spoiled them, and he sold them into the hands of their enemies round about, so that they could not any longer stand before their enemies.

Withersoever they went out, the hand of the Lord was against them for evil as the Lord had said, and as the Lord had sworn unto them: and they were greatly distressed.

Nevertheless the Lord raised up Judges, which delivered them out of the hand of those that spoiled them.

And yet they would not hearken unto their judges, but they went a whoring after other gods, and bowed themselves unto them: they turned quickly out of the way which their

fathers walked in, obeying the commandments of the LORD, but they did not so.

Judges 2:11-17

For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father.

For Solomon went after Ash'-to-reth the goddess of the Zido'-ni-ans, and after Mil'-com the abomination of the Am'-monites.

And Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and went not fully after the LORD, as did David his father.

Then did Solomon build a high place for Che'-mosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon.

And likewise did he for all his strange wives, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods.

And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the Lord God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice.

And had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods: but he kept not that which the LORD commanded.

Wherefore the LORD said unto Solomon, Forasmuch as this is done of thee and thou hast not kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded thee, I will surely rend the kingdom from thee, and will give it to thy servant.

Notwithstanding in thy days I will not do it for David thy father's sake: but I will rend it out of the hand of thy son.

1 Kings 11: 4-12

AM-A-ZI'-AH was twenty and five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned twenty and nine years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Je-ho'-ad-dan of Jerusalem.

And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, but not with a perfect heart.

Now it came to pass, after that Am-a-zi'-ah was come from the slaughter of the E'-dom-ites, that he brought the gods of the children of Se'-ir, and set them up to be his gods, and

bowed down himself before them, and burned incense unto them.

Wherefore the anger of the LORD was kindled against Am-a-zi'-ah, and he sent unto him a prophet, which said unto him, why hast thou sought after the gods of the people, which could not deliver their own people out of thine hand? And it came to pass as he talked with him, that the king said unto him, Art thou made of the King's counsel? forbear; why shouldn't thou be smitten? Then the prophet forbear, and said, I know that God hath determined to destroy thee, because thou hast done this, and hast not hearkened unto my counsel.

2 Chronicles 25:1-2, 14-16

Nevertheless, they were disobedient, and rebelled against thee, and cast thy law behind their backs, and slew thy prophets which testified against them to turn them to thee, and they wrought great provocations.

Nehemiah 9:26

THE vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uz-zi'-ah, Jo'-tham, Ahaz, and Hez-e-ki'-ah, kings of Judah.

Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the LORD hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me.

The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider.

Ah sinful nation, people laden with iniquity, a seed of evil doers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel into anger, they are gone away backward.

Isaiah 1: 1-4

The LORD said also unto me in the days of Jo-si'-ah the king, Hast thou seen that which backsliding Israel hath done? She is gone up upon every high mountain and under every green tree, and there hath played the harlot.

And I said after she had done all these things, Turn thou unto me. But she returned not. And her treacherous sister Judah saw it.

And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah not, but went and played the harlot also.

Go and proclaim these words towards the north, and say, Return, thou backsliding Israel, saith the LORD; and I will not cause mine anger to fall upon you: for I am merciful, saith the LORD, and I will not keep anger for ever.

Only acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the LORD thy GOD, and has scattered thy ways to the strangers under every green tree, and ye have not obeyed my voice, saith the LORD.

Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family and I will bring you to zion:

And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.

Jeremiah 3:6-8, 12-15

What a wonderful text, what else does a backslider need from God and God has gone that far in order to win a backslider back to him. When you backslide, the Lord puts

you away (quarantine) with a bill of divorce, to see if you are going to change (amend) your ways by true repentance, but he will not do it indefinitely- forever, therefore be quick to repent and be restored back to him. Just acknowledge your sins, remember He is your husband from the time He saved you, and confess your unfaithfulness, why should he continue to plead with you?

And my people are bent to backsliding from me: though they called them to the Most High, none at all would exalt him.

Hosea 11: 7

Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return?

Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.

Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.

Malachi 3:7-9

If one moves away from God one becomes cursed and things will not be good for one, rather they will be against one, until one returns back to the Lord and restored and then and only then will things begin to be on one's side-blessings.

Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, that ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by Spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first,

.....

2 Thessalonians 2:1-3a

It is a most dangerous thing to turn away (reject) God's truth and to follow (embrace) false teachings as we are going to see in the scriptures.

NOW the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;
Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.

2 Timothy 4:1-3

We are now living in those latter times spoken of in the above Scriptures as it is evidenced in many churches in the world. Wrong doctrines, lies and hypocrisy are the order of the day. Pray fervently for the Lord to show you where exactly you need to fellowship and grow into maturity and if the Lord reveals to you a different fellowship, come out very fast, if he has confirmed to you, as time is running out at a faster rate than one can envisage. Look at the next scriptures.

THIS know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy.

Without natural affection, truce breakers, false accusers, incontinent fierce, despisers of those that are good,

Traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

2 Timothy 3: 1-5

Eh, Eh, Eh, it is already happening right before our eyes, may the Lord help us to see for those who are not seeing and to act right before it is too late to do anything. Let us look at another scripture my reader.

I CHARGE thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine.

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

But watch them in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

Timothy 4:1-5

What!!?

For De'-mas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thess-a-lo-ni'-ca;.....

1 Timothy 4:10a

Ooh! Finally,

Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

Revelation 2: 4-5

The above Scripture is addressed to the Church of Jesus Christ here on earth. We need to repent and turn away from playing games and seriously serve the Master. Let us now look at the Scriptures and see some examples.

- **Adam and eve (Genesis 3:1-24)**

We all know the story of Adam and Eve who did go against the commandment of God with disastrous results which has affected the whole mankind.

- **Cain (Genesis 4:1-16)**

Cain rejected God's fatherly advice and ended a murderer and lived away from the presence of God as happened to his parents.

- **Esau (Genesis 25:29-34)**

Esau gave more importance to the things of the flesh than to the Spiritual and thereby sold his birthright to his brother Jacob.

- **Samson (Judges 14, 15 and 16)**

Like Esau, Samson acted foolishly and paid dearly.

- **David (2 Samuel 11-12:25)**

David's idleness led him to serious trouble (Sin).

- **Balaam (Numbers 22 & 23)**

Balaam's greediness for rewards resulted in him being useless in service.

- **Jonah (Jonah 1, 2, 3 & 4).**

Jonah although commissioned by God to go to Nineveh to proclaim God's judgment and warn them, decided to do the opposite and was forced to do God's will by delivering the message.

- **Judas Iscariot (Matthew 26:14-16, 47 - 49)**

Judas Iscariot offered to betray Jesus so that he can be arrested.

- **Simeon Peter (Mark 14:27-31, 66-72)**

Although he told Jesus that he will not deny him, Peter did just that after the Lord's arrest.

- **Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11)**

Ananias and Sapphira thought that lying was a part in the Church, but it was too bad and too late for them. They played with fire and died instantly. This is likely to be repeated (such scenario) in the Church of Jesus Christ as it has entered deeper and deeper into sin and the Master is just about to appear is the rapture of His holy Church.

Sin results in backsliding. In the initial stages one may not notice but much later can notice and realize that one has gone astray already from the Christian faith. Sin bogs one down/wears one Spiritually as it is a load in one's life and affects one's life. One does what one used not to do and one doesn't do what one used to do. Sin is unnecessary baggage in the Christian walk. Sin is a yoke of the enemy

on a Christian and unless one makes a total commitment to return back to the Lord in total surrender and in the true repentance, it becomes extremely difficult to come out of the situation unless God himself intervenes by his love, grace and mercy and bring deliverance. One's personal efforts by one's strength (flesh and blood) will prove futile unless the above happens because one has become bound somehow spiritually by the Devil. Matthew 11:28-30 - life is unbearable without Jesus Christ. In the Scripture the Lord Jesus Christ is inviting a sinner to repent and come back to him so that one is relieved in life by sins being taken away and is able to live a normal good life (without sin) – a load.

Backsliding turns one's salvation upside down and empties God's goodness in one and fills Satan's badness in one. One becomes a victim of the devil and easy target, more and more demons to tempt one to sin more and more to make one sink in SIN, as one is now weak in the Spirit and hence will likely end up doing the things of the flesh and go against the Spirit of God. Backsliding brings restlessness in life removing the peace and making one

become unsteady and results in Spiritual hypocrisy as one is neither here nor there and one's words are betrayed by one's actions. One becomes less and less resistant to evil (James 4:7-8, Matthew 23:23-28).

Submit yourselves therefore to God.

Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

James 4:7-8

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not leave the other undone.

Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat and swallow a camel.

Woe unto you Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess.

Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also.

Woe unto you Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchers, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness.

Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.

Matthew 23:23-28

Backsliding is a gradual process as we see that Peter a disciple of Jesus Christ denied him three times (Matthew 26:69-75). Samson involved himself in immorality and other evil acts before falling out completely (Judges 16:1-21). Balaam was stubborn for quite some time and had an ill motive before he fell finally from being a prophet to being a soothsayer (Numbers 22:1-24:1). The children of Israel kept on being disobedient to God to an extent the Lord God could not tolerate them any longer (Numbers 14:26-35). God is very faithful to his people. Jesus Christ knew Peter was going to backslide and he prayed for him

in advance. (Luke 22:31-34). Don't underestimate any sin as all are disastrous and must be dealt with quickly before they lead one to backsliding. All sin must be repented of and the need to begin living differently free from sin (1 Thessalonians 5:21-22, Luke 13:1-5, Acts 17: 30-31). Another example is the case of king Saul whose life was characterized with one sin after another with no regrets by genuine repentance and ended being judged (1 Samuel 13:8-14; 15:1-23; 16:14; 18:1-11; 19:1-12, 28:1-18) in all the above he did not repent and at times had only excuses and his end was very bad (1 Samuel 31:1-6). It follows therefore that backsliding is deadly as one is disconnected from God (Isaiah 59:1-2, John 9:31) and one is on his own or her own and anything can happen as one has no divine protection then.

I know Jesus Christ had prayed for me as he knew Satan was going to fix me and put me at a tight corner. I did pass the bitter experience but do thank the Lord God for restoring me back on my feet by his grace and mercy. (Hebrews 7:21-25, Psalms 18:1-2; 23: 1-4; 62:1-2). I have come to love the word of God the more because I have found it to be very, very, very true, very, very, very

accurate, very, very, very dependable, very, very, very
good, very, very, very right,

.....

.....

(2 Samuel 22:31, Psalms 12:6; 19:7-11, Revelation 22:6).
The word of God is God's breadth and is God himself (2
Timothy 3:16, John 1:1-2).

Now Peter sat without in the palace: and a damsel came
unto him, saying, Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee.

But he denied before them all, saying, I know not what
thou sayest.

And when he was gone out into the porch, another maid
saw him, and said unto them that were there, This fellow
was also with Jesus of Nazareth.

And again he denied with an oath, I do not know the man.

And after a while came unto him they that stood by, and
said to Peter, surely thou also art one of them; for thy
speech betrayeth thee.

Then began he to curse and swear, saying, I know not the
man. And immediately the cock crew.

And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly.

Matthew 26:69-75

And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:

But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

And he said unto him, Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death.

And he said, I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me.

Luke 22:31-34

(For those priests were made without an oath; but this with an oath by him that said unto him, the Lord sware and will not repent, thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchiz'-ed-ek

By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament?

And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death:

But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood.

Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

Hebrews 7:21-25

I WILL love thee, O LORD, my strength.

The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer: my God, my strength, in whom I will trust, my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.

Psalms 18:1-2

THE LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Psalm 23:1-4

TRULY my soul waiteth upon God: from him cometh my salvation.

He only is my rock and my salvation; he is my defense; I shall not be greatly moved.

Psalm 62:1-2

As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all them that trust in him.

2 Samuel 22:31

The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.

Psalm 12:6

The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.

The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honey comb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.

Psalm 19:7-11

And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord.

God of the holy prophets sent his angel to show unto his servants the things which must shortly be done.

Revelation 22:6

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

2 Timothy 3:16

CHAPTER 2

The state of a backslider

In my introduction I stated that somehow that I had backslidden at some point in my Christian walk and that I was going to share my experience in the book. What I can say is that I have tasted it and found it to be a bitter pill. It is a real bad experience. It is a pitiable and miserable life to backslide, it is the opposite or bad end of salvation, and it is a nightmare. When one backslides, one loses the joy of salvation. That is why King David had to request the Lord to restore it back to him, as it was no longer there, after he had backslidden by sinning with Bathsheba, Uriah's wife. (Psalm 51:8, 12).

Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.

Restore unto me the joy of salvation: and uphold me with thy free Spirit.

Psalm 51:8, 12

You can see in verse 12 above, that even David's Spirit life was affected - no peace, just as his physical life (his bones)

in verse 8 above. In actual sense, it affects one's whole being Spirit, soul and body (1 Thessalonians 5:22-23).

When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he saith, I will return unto my house whence I came out.

And when he cometh, he findeth it swept and garnished.

Then goeth he, and taketh to him seven other spirits more wicked than himself; and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first.

Luke 11:24 - 26

The above is the state that one can find oneself in if not careful with sin and fall away from the true faith which is in Christ Jesus. It is that bad and therefore one needs to avoid it at all cost by always shunning evil and resisting the devil in his endeavors. Let us now turn to the following scripture.

AFTER these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples at the sea of Ti-be'-ri-as; and on this wise showed he himself.

There were together Simon Peter and Thomas called Did'-y-mus, and Na-than'-a-el of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zeb'-e-dee, and two other of his disciples.

Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing. They say unto him,

We also go with thee. They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing.

But when the morning was now come, Jesus stood on the shore: but the disciples knew not that it was Jesus.

Then Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye any meat? they answered him, No.

And he said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes.

Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved saith unto Peter, It is the Lord. Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he girt his fisher's coat unto him, (for he was naked,) and did cast himself into the sea.

John 21:1-7

In verse 1 above we are told that Jesus showed himself again to the disciples and this time round at the sea of

Tiberius. Why? I believe to assure them that he is no longer dead but alive and to remind them to be steadfast in their faith in Him (sort of to reinstate / restore back their faith in Him).

In verses 2 and 3 above we see these seven disciples backsliding by going back to their old lifestyle/profession where Jesus first found them in and told them to follow him and be rather now be fishers of men and not fish (Matthew 4:18-22) they had now exchanged Christianity with fishing. Because they were without Jesus, they were unsuccessful in their venture, moreover they were in the wrong business altogether at the time (John 15:4, Luke 5:4-6).

In verse 4 above we see Jesus caught His disciples in the very act he removed them from and was waiting for them at the sea shore. Because the disciples were off track (out of Christianity) they had become spiritually blind (spiritually insensitive) and therefore they could not recognize their Master!

In verse 5 above we see Jesus addressing them 'Children' as for sure they had been God's children and now behaving

also as children who are fond of going back to what they have been told not to do.

In verse 6 above we see Jesus giving them direction in what they were up to (as the Master of the Universe) and who is above every thing. The disciples obeyed Him once again, though in their business and once again they were successful (with Jesus as Commander, of course)

In verse 7 above we see the disciple whom Jesus loved (John) beginning to be alive and alert spiritually as it has dawned on him who the man was and confided to Simon Peter that it was the Lord.

It is only then that Simon Peter realizes that he was naked. This same Simon Peter is the one that suggested the option of going back to fishing and the other disciples accented to it. It was sheer love on the part of the disciples for Jesus to show himself again to them prior to His ascension and prior to the rapture of the Church or else it would have been too late for them and they would have missed entering Heaven. (Revelation 16:15). Genesis 3:6-10 – one becomes uncovered/naked when enter into sin as God's glory leaves one and one becomes a stranger to God and also fear dawns on one and one feel ashamed.

Only Jesus can cover our nakedness once again and remove our shame (Genesis 3:21). In order for one to keep one's garment (the wedding garment given by Christ) clean, maintaining its condition spotless, one need to repent and stay away from all sin for it to be so (Revelation 22:10-14). Please note that backsliding is a temporary state of a Christian as long as still lives and the rapture of the Church has not taken place, as one has a chance to repent and go back to the Lord for one's restoration. But get to know it is dangerous. Remember the case of Simon Peter (Matthew 26:31-34; 69-75, Luke 22:31-34; 54-62) and which prompted Jesus to ask him three times if he really loved Him and to follow him and to take care of His flock which he had led astray (away from Him) (John 21:15-19; 1-3) and the case of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-24) and God's warnings to the Church now (Revelation 2:1-5, 3:1-3; 14-16) and Samson (Judges 16, Hebrews 11:31-32) and David (2 Samuel 11:1-12:35, Ezekiel 33:12-16, Psalm 51, Hebrews 11:31-32). But immediately the rapture takes place, the backsliding state of any Christian becomes permanent and sealed forever as the case is irreversible and

no amount of repentance can save the situation for any backslidden Christian then. (Hebrews 12:16-17).

Some of the permanent state of backsliding I can recall recorded in the scriptures are the case of Adam and Eve as they repented not of their sin (Genesis 3:1-24, Romans 5:12), Lot's wife as she turned into a pillar of salt and could not repent at all and Judas Iscariot as had accepted to betray Jesus and went ahead to do so and resulted in Jesus' arrest and judgment and Judas Iscariot sealing his fate himself by committing suicide. Moreover prior to that he repented not to Jesus but to Jesus' accusers which was a misplaced act altogether (Matthew 27:1-5).

Abstain from all appearance of evil. And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray your whole Spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 5:22-23

The Holy Spirit has whispered to me to advise us that Jesus Christ is about to come in glory to rapture a holy and

mature Church and therefore one can't afford to backslide at this critical time in one's life. Let us all sober up NOW.

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

But the Lord of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

To whom be glory and dominion for ever and ever. A'-men.

1 Peter 5:8-11

This is the time and the hour to be steadfast in the faith and to stand to be counted, to stand up with Jesus. I know things are not easy for Christians in the world today and in actual fact they are going to be tougher and tougher. (Ephesians 6:10-11).

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Ephesians 6:10-11

As I have said earlier, this is a time to stand. It is not a time to sit, to relax. We are in a fierce battle in the Spirit world. We must do something to win or do nothing and lose. Time is not on our side, or on anybody's side, including the enemy. (Ephesians 5:15-17, Revelation 12:12).

See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,

Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

Ephesians 5:15-17

Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! For the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.

Revelation 12:12

It is up to you if you think the time is long, the devil will hit you so hard you will not know what hit you. This is the time one must submit one's life to God.

Submit yourselves therefore to God.

Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners, and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

James 4:7-8

The world is not safe. We need to draw near to God (Proverbs 18:10) but we must remember that he is a holy God and therefore need to cleanse our hands which are dirty brought about by the giving of bribes and the receiving of bribes in addition to doing all sorts of sin with them – we are sinners and as we come to him we must acknowledge our sins and make a commitment to serve him and follow him. (1 Kings 18:20-21).

So Ahab sent unto all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together unto Mount Carmel.

And E-li'-jah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? If the LORD be God, follow him: but if Ba'-al, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.

1 Kings 18:20-21

Are you tongue-tied? Say something, say something. As for me, the God who saved me and later gave me a big deliverance when I stumbled (backslid), he is God-the God of fire, fire, fire. I salute my loving, gracious, merciful, faithful and just God, praise be to his holy name, Jehovah El-Gibor - a mighty God. Let us now look at a Scripture to see the status of a backslider further, as I have already touched on it to some extent, and do remain with only a few examples including a summary of my experience and how I got delivered.

For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.

For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.

But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, the dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.

2 Peter 2:20-22

That is the true state of a backslider. It is that serious. It is ugly and shocking. The world is fully polluted with all forms of sin and to come out costs the grace of God and the love of God. The moment we are converted to Christ (saved), is the moment of reckoning the seriousness of sin and coming to the hatred of this thing (monster) called SIN. Sin has serious consequences that is why it must be taken very seriously. Many may have backslidden because they did not take sin seriously after their conversion (new birth). Sin is not a toy to play about with as it will destroy you in a minute. Sin is something to run away from and not to entertain it (have it) near you. It is both contagious and infectious and very cancerous and leprous.

I want to say this. Because backsliding is a fact, Satan has used it so much over and over as his tool on the unsaved to convince them that it is not worth it to be saved-reason, that if one is saved he/she will definitely backslide (a big lie) – he is a liar and the father of it all (John 8:44), will backslide like so and so (pointing to anyone he knows has backslidden around) and hence many have fallen for this and have shunned the salvation of the Lord, which is a gift from heaven (Romans 6:23).

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 6:23

Beautiful, beautiful gift this, my reader, unfortunately to say many prefer the status quo (to remain unsaved- a sinner) many are used to paying to get things in this commercial world and for God to say he is giving a gift to them, sounds like a joke. But my God, the creator of heaven and earth and the things therein (seen and unseen) is not a jester, but a holy, loving and a righteous God take God at his word, as he does not mince his words and says

what he means and means what he says. In my personal evangelism I have come across many who have been brain-washed by the devil and however much I try to witness to them, they say they are better off as they are. I normally talk to them that Satan is a liar and uses the fact of backsliding to discourage and scare them from getting saved and that God is powerful, more powerful than Satan and will protect them in salvation, only they have to be obedient children of God. Further I have told them that on the judgment day, God will not spare anyone with such flimsy excuse- refusing to accept Christ, that one was going to backslide when saved and that judgment is individually on one's life and not based on other individuals lives. I advise them why not get salvation and make an effort not to backslide and live to obey and please God as he will enable you, than to refuse to accept the Lord and in the end in that state be lost forever!?

God is not careless and expects his children not to be careless in their lives. It is common sense in life that carelessness results in a disaster of some sort. Careless Christian living can also result in backsliding (just like carelessness in using a road can result in an accident or

carelessness in personal hygiene may result in infection by germs or viruses and one falls sick (Galatians 6:7-8).

Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap.

For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

Galatians 6:7-8

Well, it cannot be simpler, as God is true to his word as he is truth. Therefore these out there and not yet made a decision for Christ to save them and be their Lord don't be fooled by Satan in refusing to accept our dear Lord, don't fear, fear is also from Satan to hinder your effort to be saved. It is a fact that only a minority of Christians sometimes do backslide and also many of those who are truly willing to go back to the Lord and are ready and repent God restores them back to himself by forgiving them and cleansing them once again. Don't be a coward and refuse to be saved, be bold enough to say "Jesus here I am a sinner save my life". Be saved and be strong in the

Lord. Otherwise for your information, cowards will not inherit the Kingdom of God. Being strong in the Lord makes you an entry into the Kingdom of God in heaven (the New Jerusalem) (Revelation 21:7-8, Ephesians 6:10-12, 2 Timothy 2:1-7, 1John 4:4, Luke 10:17-20, 1 Corinthians 10:13).

He that overcometh shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be my son.

But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Revelation 21: 7-8

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the

darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Ephesians 6:10-12

THOU therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

And if a man also strive for masteries yet he is not crowned, except he strive lawfully.

The husbandman that laboureth must be first partaker of the fruits.

Consider what I say and the Lord give thee understanding in all things.

2 Timothy 2:1-7

Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

1 John 4:4

And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.

And he said unto them, I behold Satan as lighting fall from heaven.

Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.

Luke 10:17-20

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

1 Corinthians 10:13

I know the enemy is quite tricky, if he does not scare you away from salvation that you will backslide, on the other hand he can convince you that there is no salvation for mankind and that what is said in the Bible is just people's views and imaginations. In summarizing the state of a backslider let me bring you the following scriptures:

AND I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.

I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.

For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of A-pol'-los; are ye not carnal?

1 Corinthians 3:1-4

Such is the state of a backslider, having a low understanding of the things of God and walking as mere

men with all kinds of faults in life, and also lacking the true desire to read and study the Holy Bible and to pray as well as to fast.

JUDGE not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgement ye judge, you shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?

Or how will thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye?

Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

Matthew 7:1-5

Such is the state of a backslider, who is very critical of the other people forgetting their own many shortcomings in life. We are told that such are but hypocrites. They are quick to notice a fault in others, and not in themselves.

They don't see the need of repentance on their part and hence will not go far/be helped. (Proverbs 28:13)

And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, where art thou?

And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.

And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?

And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.

And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

Genesis 3:8-13

Such is the state of a backslider. Always playing the blame game by giving excuses instead of admitting a fault and requesting for forgiveness and also are fearful (Proverbs 28:1)

Go to now, ye that say, Today or tomorrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain:

Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanishes away.

For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that

But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil.

Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

James 4:13-17

Such is the state of a backslider.....One that does not depend on God and does his or her own things excluding

God and hence becomes a habitual sinner (Romans 3: 11-12, Psalm 37:3-5).

Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;

And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;

Called of God a high priest after the order of Mel-chiz'-ed-ek.

Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing.

For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.

For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.

But strong meat belongeth to them that are full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern good and evil.

Hebrews 5:8-14

Such is the state of a backslider. Although a child of God by the new birth (spiritual birth by the Holy Spirit) continue in disobedience instead of obedience and therefore lacking growth and cannot discern both good and evil.

Has now even forgotten the first principles of the oracles of God which had received at conversion. Such does not desire to advance to the next level to maturity, No wonder is just for milk and not for strong meat.

Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.

Psalm 51:12-13

Such is the state of a backslider. Lacking the true joy of salvation and not free in the spirit as is back in bondage/in sin which weigh on one. Such cannot witness for the Lord as has no guts to do so as not in the Spirit until repents sincerely to the Lord ready to be obedient to Him and be restored back in salvation.

Do thy diligence to come shortly unto me:

For De'-mus hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thess-a-lo-ni'-ca; Cres'-cens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.

Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry.

And Tych'-i-cus have I sent to Eph'-e-sus.

2 Timothy 4:9-12

Such is the state of a backslider. Forsaking the work of ministry for the world not associating with fellow Christians and thereby becoming useless/not profitable. (James 4:4-5, 1 John 2:15-17).

Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without waving; (for he is faithful that promised;)

And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Hebrews 10:23-25

Such is the state of a backslider. Not holding fast the profession of faith and not doing good works. Forsaking the assembly of the brethren and missing Christian fellowships hence a lone ranger which is a dangerous thing in the Christian Walk- a departure/a falling away from the true faith; as in such fellowships Christians get the doctrines of Christ and encourage each other and witness of the goodness of God and so on and so forth for Christian growth.

In my backslidden state I used to try to avoid meeting a brethren in the Lord as much as I could, why? Because I would not be in a position to witness or witness faithfully. Attended church service or Christian fellowship as a formality with no interest in heart but to show my attendance that I was with them and in the Walk but painful in heart of my state and hoping for God to intervene.

I now come to my personal experience before I close the chapter. I cannot for sure know exactly when I started backsliding but what I do know is that it was a span of time not less than five years as it was gradual and initially I could not notice but with time, it became evident, I could see that I was backsliding and many efforts on my part in

trying (by my own strength) to remedy (change) the situation proved futile. I began to worry a lot and fear crept in, worsening the already bad situation. I felt pathetic, tired spiritually and physically. My health (bodily) began to deteriorate as time went by and at some point I thought I had been infected by HIV virus (I don't know how, probably through injections in hospital whenever I fell sick) and I imagined this and that, though I knew I was faithful to my spouse from day one of our marriage, as I was already saved and stayed away from sexual immorality from the time of my conversion when I was still single. I decided to visit a private hospital when I found out I had lost so much weight on my body, from around 70kilograms to about 55kilograms. The result for the HIV test, Elisa test was negative. My health continued to worsen and I continued to lose weight such that I feared and stopped all together to have my weight taken – I was scared silly. With the fear in my life, I started feeling hopeless and confused and finding difficulty in making decisions even at place of work and whenever I made one, it took me a longer time than is necessary. I became double-minded and at sometime I remember vividly, I would wake up as early as

6.30am and try to prepare to go to work and would do this, do that, put on this shirt and later decide to remove it and put on another one for no any apparent reason, sometimes decide to go to work and reach outside the door and stand there thinking and imagining things and decide later to go back to the house and sad enough leave the house late and arrive at 8.00am or minutes later at my place of work although it is just about a five minutes' walk from the Organization's housing quarters.

The enemy had put a lot of fear in my life and I felt helpless. At one time I was outside the house near the door and my spouse saw me through the kitchen window and came and asked me "What is wrong with you, why don't you go to work?" I answered, "Nothing". I found out that I was getting somehow careless in whatever I did and I began to have frequent night dreams, really bad dreams like being attacked by animals, falling from tall buildings, walking in slippery paths, drowning in a lake or sea, sleeping with strange women, talking or eating with dead people whom I knew both saved and unsaved alike. I used to have sleepless nights and would wake from a dream screaming and my spouse would pray. At church services I

became monotonous in asking to be prayed for. At some point I used to dream almost on a daily basis, bad dreams, I would pray and my spouse also pray for me. In a week, I would have an average of four to five nights with bad dreams. When prayed for in the church I would sleep without a bad dream for only a day or two and the problem is back again in high gear.

I remember at one time I used not to sleep at night for about a month or so, as I was coughing at short intervals of time, sometimes as short as five to ten minutes most of the nights. It was a dry cough. I went to hospital suspecting I contracted TB and my cough sample in saliva form was taken and the result for TB was negative. At my place of work my performances was below average and at one time I received a letter from my boss it reads “the report on performance monitoring for staff shows that you have not submitted the following:

Annual performance contract Second quarter reports Annual reports for the yearThere have been complaints by staff about delays in procurement which have seriously affected implementation ofmost of these

have been brought to your notice. It has therefore been difficult to address these issues without the relevant reports. Please note that the PCs of staff working under your direct supervision have also not been received to date. These reports should reachoffice within a period of seven (7) days from the date of this letter, failure of which disciplinary action will be taken against you". Also on the same day I received yet another letter from the organization's headquarters and it reads "it had been decided that you should be and are hereby transferred to.....with immediate effect. Please arrange to hand over your duties and report to your new duty station as soon as you are released but not later than..... By copy of this letter, theis requested to inform this office the date you report. He is also informed that you are a.....for deployment and record purposes.

From the above letter you can see clearly that as the head of my division, I was under performing and it was just by God's grace I missed by a whisker from being dismissed from the service and thank the Lord for he knew my predicament and did not leave me completely in the hands

of the enemy to finish me even financially as I had a family to fend for. Glory to the King of kings.

I have not divulged the full contents of the letter intentionally to mask the originator of the letter and the Organization as was an official Government communication to me and not for public consumption as such. The letter extract is just to underscore the danger in backsliding (I was unable to perform as I used to, as things turned against me then). When one has backslidden, one becomes gloomy and one may think even of committing suicide, as Satan wants to find a way to finish him or her, thereby complete his mission on him or her. I was finding it difficulty to discharge my duties effectively as is required and many files would pile up in the office. At one time I went back to hospital (A National one) for HIV test yet again, and it turned negative. Later also invited my spouse to a hospital and the results for both of us was negative. On my health in fact I only got convinced that my problem was purely Spiritual and not physical when I received these negative HIV tests, and kept on praying and requesting God to remove me from all these. I even repented to him to forgive me for any sin I may have committed that has

brought me in that awkward situation. Because I used to have a bad time at night, on all weekends or on weekdays from work, I would be on bed most of the time the whole day, save if I had gone say to Christian fellowship. I found I now rarely witnessed on my salvation and I was a quiet man. When things seemed not to work on my side at one point I told God, “God, if I have to remain in this condition in my lifetime then better take my life now, than to be helpless before my spouse and children and moreover this life does not glorify your name and can only bring shame”. Later after I left my family and reported to my new duty station, about one and a half years later, I was turning on my radio set on FM station and I reached a station where it is all worship songs, teachings on the word of God, testimonies on God’s goodness and requests for prayers.

This radio station I heard was being called ***Jesus is Lord Radio***, stationed at Njoro near Nakuru. I got very much interested and started to listen to the station whenever I was from work. At one time, I heard an announcement that there was going to be a repentance meeting at Eldama Ravine from 18th to 20th of October 2008 and the Prophet of the Lord Dr. David Edward Owuor will be ministering.

It was a month or two before the meeting date and the Holy Spirit I believe whispered to me “you have been complaining of your situation, why not try to attend this meeting, you never know, just try” it was something like that, I heeded immediately and budgeted to go to the meeting. When the day for the meeting came I left very early for the meeting. Earlier I had asked how I can reach there on public means of transport and how much it may cost to and fro and I was told (mind you, I had never gone there in my life as I can remember).

I found the meeting had already began, I did arrive between 10 and 11am and it was on a Friday at that stadium and it was filled with so many people and such crowds I have seen only on National Holidays where we are addressed by the Head of State. Come Saturday, the crowd was even bigger and the stadium covered a very big area indeed and it was fully packed and you could only see heads and heads of people from all ends and even the environs. The whole of Friday night I prayed and worshipped the Lord. On this Saturday is when the prophet of the Lord came to the grounds in the morning and prayed and ministered the word of God and I could see so many people being healed.

The blind, the deaf, the lame on wheelchairs and crutches and so forth and are directed to the altar at the centre to witness of God's doings in their lives. In fact, it took the prophet hours and hours taking witnesses from morning to afternoon and I wondered, so God can do so much within a short time in a meeting? In the evening it started to rain in a very slow note and began to increase momentum and the Prophet of the Lord told the crowd not to use an umbrella to cover their heads as the rain was not an ordinary one but of the Holy Spirit. We were rained on and at night at some point we had another rainfall and I was completely wet from the head to the toe, all my clothes – the long trouser, the shirt, the coat, the underwear and the socks included were wet as if they were dipped in a sea of water, the Prophet of the Lord ministered at night also, he also did not cover his head with an umbrella.

At one time in the middle of the night after rainfall one sister saw me and commented “You have been really rained on” I think she saw how wet I was even water kept on flowing from my head to my cheeks and eyes and so on. I think I replied back, “You also have been rained on”, and

she replied, “Yes but not as you, you have really been blessed”, I think referring to what we had been told by the servant of the Lord. Come Sunday morning around 6.00am or so I felt very cold from the coldness of the night and evening rainfall and I had no extra clothing to replace wet ones, I decided to leave the meeting and boarded a public vehicle back to my house. In the meeting I remember repenting and requesting God to remember me and heal me also most of the time sung those worship songs as we were being led and took each word the Prophet of the Lord uttered, very seriously. I did realize I had peace of mind, could now think clearly and begin to make decisions faster, I felt I had more physical strength and double-mindedness had disappeared, also had good sound sleep, no those bad dreams and later, within a very short time, my countenance and my health had improved dramatically.

When I was in my earlier state, the photograph I took, my countenance, one could read by looks only sickness, sickness and maybe death. But later my countenance changed completely and one could read health, health, life. I was back to normal and even when I visited my boss later, I sat at the reception lounge at the main entrance to

administration block early before 8.00am; I was found there by the boss and remarked after seeing me immediately, “Mr. Omondi, you look very nice”, in a nutshell that is how I got God’s deliverance and healing and now can testify of His goodness and give Him all the glory for his marvelous work. I have decided to live for this God for there is no such God who can deliver (Daniel 3:28-30). Lets meet in the next chapter, but before we meet there, here is something else (Isaiah 57:20-21).

But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up, mire and dirt.

There is no peace, saith the Lord to the wicked.

Isaiah 57:20-21

I can remember another sad case on the condition of my backslidden state which I also now do share. I would like to say this: There seems to be a relationship/connection however small in the spiritual realm between a backslider and the person he or she had preached to such that the backslidden preacher’s life in a way do affect negatively the person he or she preached to and got converted. Now I

present my case. There was a lady who got saved through my preaching in the church I fellow shipped on a Sunday service and the women leader who was not only a prayerful woman but a powerful preacher and worshipper led this lady to Christ after she willingly had heeded my altar call to the congregation. This new convert went on very well with her salvation on but things only changed at the time I had backslidden and I looked weak, sickly and confused and fearful and was not the once strong, healthy and energetic preacher. This is what transpired. At one time I attended a Christian fellowship on a Saturday afternoon and what I heard after preaching and at prayer request time, the sister I had preached to and was wonderfully saved before church congregation utter these words: I thought I was saved but was not I now want to be saved, pray for me.” I was shocked as it looked like a day dream to me and could hardly believe my ears what I heard- but that was a fact, she had truly said so. I was really pierced in my heart and felt grieved inside. To me I think that was not a mere coincidence in the spiritual realm. My fellow preachers let us watch and be very careful with over walk and relationship with the Lord lest we negatively spoil the fruit

of our labors in our ministry. Apostle Paul was categorical in advising the church at Corinth and Philippi that they follow his example as he closely followed the footsteps of Christ (he was far from the state of backsliding) (1 Corinthians 11:1, Philippians 3:17). Apostle Peter once backslide and heed the saying once bitten, twice shy”, and had to remind the church to be vigilant and steadfast in the faith (Luke 22:31-32; 54-62, 1 Peter 5:8-11; 2 Peter 1:12-13).

Let me also say this at this juncture. Nothing happens in heaven or on earth without the knowledge of God as he knows everything as he is omniscient and he is the beginning and the end (psalm 139:2, Revelation 22:12-13) and he knew very well that I will backslide at some point in my Christian Walk. I know it now because I can remember there is a time prior to me backsliding that I dreamt that I was facing some hardship and I heard these words ‘unto death’ and when I woke at that very time I found I was sweating all over. At the time I did not make anything out of that dream only much later after my restoration I read the following scripture and it now made sense to me.

And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;

I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.

Fear none of these things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; he that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

Revelation 2:8 -11

I know am part of the body of Christ, the Church and that message was addressed to the Church. The enemy, the Devil had surely made me to suffer in the prison of Fear and Nightmares until the Lord delivered me. In that dream God I strongly believed he encouraged me to remain steadfast in the faith and to persevere whatever the

circumstances, but I did not grasp it then. Now touching on the promise, it is quite sweet.

A crown of life and no second death!!! Now I also know that I have to continue in perseverance as I am assured of something that is sweeter than honey. The promise is not for a selected few but for all of us who are the body of Christ (Christians). So let us all persevere unto the end as there is for sure light at the end of it all when the Lord takes us to be with him eternally in heaven (John 14:1-3, Revelation 21:1-7, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18, 1 Corinthians 15:52-58). Perseverance is a sign of some maturity in the Christian Walk and for sure pays dividends in this walk if we remain steadfast in the faith in Christ.

From the above account you can see that I missed getting a dismissal letter from my employer by a whisker as I was surely underperforming to a great extent and just by the grace and mercy of God instead I was transferred from the large establishment I was working to a smaller one with less work load in the same Organization.

Now before I had backslidden I was working and performing extremely well and I had at least three letters of annual performance appraisal where I was rated as

excellent; but after backsliding things turned for the worse as I became fearful and lacked concentration and was confused and became double-minded such that I could not make the right decision in the discharge of my duties. The work I used to do now looked strange/unfamiliar to me and quite complicated such that I could hardly attempt to tackle them. That is how backsliding is bad, it is very bad and cost you a lot in life.

BE, ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.

1 Corinthians 11:1

Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an example.

Philippians 3:17

And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:

But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

Luke 22:31-32

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

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

But a certain man beheld him as he sat by the fire, and earnestly looked upon him, and said,

This man was also with him.

And he denied him, saying, Woman, I know him not.

And after a little while another saw him and said, Thou art also of them. And Peter said, Man, I am not.

And about the space of one hour after another confidently affirmed, saying, Of a truth this fellow also was with him: for he is a Galilean.

And Peter said, Man, I know not what thou sayest. And immediately, while he yet spake, the cock crew.

And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice.

And Peter went out, and wept bitterly.

Luke 22:54-62

The above scripture explains clearly how one backslides and fall out of salvation and as I said in the earlier chapter, backsliding is a process. It all started in verse 54 and ended in verse 60 where Peter had already fallen but thanks to the Lord's prayer Peter did the needful by quickly repenting in turning back to the Lord who restored him (verse 62) in verse 61 the Lord wanted Peter to recall back what he had told him back. In verse 55 Peter was already cold for the Lord and had to be near a fire to be at least warm - that is true as Peter could not now follow the Lord closely but afar off (verse 54). In verses 56 to 59 people could still remember that Peter was a saved man (a follower of Jesus Christ). Even today, the people around know you are saved and if you backslide Christ is surely ashamed again just as he was ashamed on the cross at Calvary for you and me and that calls for great care for our salvation. Apostle Peter remembered his sad story and strengthened his brethren reminding them of the words of Jesus (the truth of God) Read on.

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. A'-men

1 Peter 5:8-11

Wherefore I will not neglect to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth.

Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance;

2 Peter 1:12-13

Yes, it is true there is no peace to a sinner (backslider) and King David felt it (Psalm 51:12). In such a state one's life things seems to go haywire. Sea water hardly rests as the above verse suggests (Isaiah 57:20).

CHAPTER 3

Reason # 1: Lack of being Spirit - filled

It is of utmost importance for a Christian to be filled with the Holy Spirit of God who only can help him to live a life that is pleasing to the Lord and also to be more useful in serving the Lord in whatever area of calling – ministry. When one is saved one receives the Holy Spirit that serves as a seal that one belongs to Christ, but one need to be filled fully within one. It is when one is filled fully that has power and boldness to serve the Lord effectively and to face the hostile world. We are going to see various scriptures to get the true picture of the one who is filled with the Holy Spirit. When one is not so filled, one may be timid and this cowardly act may not stand against fierce opposition and one may begin to backslide slowly, but surely.

When talking on this topic, I wish to say that the holy scriptures talks of levels of anointing (infillings) in Ezekiel 47: 1-5, and it seems that when one is saved and receives the holy Spirit, the anointing is first level-ankle deep, but one need to yearn for the next levels and that is why God

commands in Ephesians 5:18 to be filled with the Holy Spirit and the Lord Jesus told his disciples that they need to be filled to have the power to witness for him throughout the world (Luke 24: 49, Acts 1:8) Scriptures touching on receiving / having the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 1:21-22, 2 Corinthians 5:5, Galatians 3:2, Ephesians 4: 30, Romans 8:23).

AFTERWARD he brought me again unto the door of the house; and, behold, waters issued out under the threshold of the house eastward: for the forefront of the house stood toward the east, and the waters came down from under, from the right side of the house, at the south side of the altar.

Then brought he me out of the way of the gate northward, and led me about the way without unto the outer gate by the way that looketh east ward, and, behold, there ran out waters on the right side.

And when the man that had the line in his hand went forth eastward, he measured a thousand cubits, and he brought me through the waters; the waters were to the ankles.

Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through the waters; the waters were to the knees. Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through; the waters were to the loins.

Afterward he measured a thousand; and it was a river that I could not pass over: for the waters were risen, waters to swim in, a river that could not be passed over.

Ezekiel 47: 1-5

Please do remember that Jesus Christ said he can give living water to those who ask (John 4:10) and also in John 7: 37-39 still, Jesus talks of this living water. The Lord God still speaks of the living waters by the prophet Jeremiah in Jeremiah 2: 13 and 17: 13.

For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.

Jeremiah 2: 13

Turning back to the Scripture in Ezekiel 47: 1-5, I do realize that the ankles are normally just next to the sole of

one's foot and that the foot's sole is the one that steps on the earth. In the natural when one is standing and suddenly you see his whole body down, it means he has fallen. In the supernatural (spiritual) to have an ankle-deep anointing may mean or let me say this, it means your falling down is easy, hence little (ankle - deep) anointing (may result in one to be more vulnerable to back-sliding).

And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess, but be filled with the Spirit;

Ephesians 5: 18

The ideal thing is to be filled and filled to the level where one is swimming in the Holy Spirit (verse 5) of Ezekiel 47. Other wise the initial ankle-deep experience at one's conversion is not so good enough, we need more. Unfortunately for many believers have remained in this first level of anointing for too long. What the Lord promised in Luke 24: 49 and Acts 1:8 came to pass on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2:1-4 and we see now the disciples had power to witness for Christ as can be seen by the boldness of Peter in Acts 2: 5 – 42 and also Peter and John

in Acts 4:13, 18-30. Things became a bit tough and the church went into prayer when threatened in Acts 4: 23-31 and that is why we need infilling of the Holy Spirit should be a continuous one and not a one-time experience. Compare Apostle Peter before receiving the infilling at Pentecost, he was not bold then (Matthew 26: 31-35, 69 – 75) and note how he had been changed in Acts 2, 4 and others. Please be reminded that it is not by one's might or power but by the Holy Spirit that things happen.

Then he answered and spoke unto me, saying, this is the word of the LORD unto Ze-rub'-ba-bel, saying,
Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

Zechariah 4:6

We need more of the Holy Spirit (infilling). Now look at the life of Philip one of those who was filled with the Holy Spirit how the Lord used him.

Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.

But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.

And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Proch'-o-rus, and Ni-ca'-nor, and Ti'-mon, and Par'-me-nas, and Nicolas a proselyte of An'-ti-och:

Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them.

Acts 6:3-6

Then Philip went down to the city of Sa-mar'-i-a, and preached Christ unto them.

And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing miracles which he did.

For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed.

And there was great joy in that city.

Acts 8:5-8

And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Ga'-za, which is desert.

And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of E-thi-o'-pi-a, a eunuch of great authority under Can-da'-ce queen of the E-thi-o'-pi-ans, who had all the charge of her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship,

Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Isai'-ah the prophet.

Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot. And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Isai'-ah, and said, understandeth thou what thou readest?

And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.

The place of the Scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: in his humiliation

his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth.

And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? Of himself, or of some other man?

Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same Scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.

And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?

And Philip said, if thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest.

And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.

And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.

But Philip was found at A-zo'-tus: and passing through he preached in all the cities till he came to Cae-sa-re'a.

Ooh, what a wonderful experience, well done the Holy Spirit, and well done brother Philip for hearkening to the voice of the Lord from within. Stephen was also among the seven chosen with Philip and the others and it was reported he had full faith with full Spirit, what happened? (Acts 6:8 - 15).

And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.

Then there arose certain of the synagogue, which is called the synagogue of the Li'-ber-tines, and Cy-re'-ni-ans, and Al-ex-an'-dri-ans, and of them of Ci-li'-ci-a and of Asia, disputing with Stephen.

And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spake.

Then they suborned men, which said,

We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses, and against God.

And they stirred up the people, and the elders, and the scribes, and came upon him, and caught him, and brought him, to the council,

And set up false witnesses, which said, This man ceaseth not to speak blasphemous words against this holy place, and the law:

For we have heard him say, that this Jesus of Nazareth shall destroy this place, and shall change the customs which Moses delivered us.

An all that sat in the council, looking steadfastly on him, saw his face as it had been the face of an angel.

Acts 7: 8 – 15

Please read further the book of Acts chapter 7 and especially from verse 51 through to 60 how bold this saint was unto his death. You cannot go through that and do what he did and say what he said with an ankle-deep anointing, can you? Now let's go to Apostle Paul (Acts 13: 1-12).

And when they had gone through the isle unto Pa'-phos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Bar-je'-sus:

Which was with the deputy of country Ser'-gi-us Paulus, a prudent man; who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God.

But El'-y-mas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith.

Then Saul (who also is called Paul) filled the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him,

And Said, O full of all subtilty and mischief, thou child of the devil, thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?

And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand.

Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord.

Acts 13: 6-12

From the above account we can see that it is good to use the authority we have in Christ Jesus to counter and thwart the works of darkness (of the devil), we need not play “gentleman” with Satan and his servants. I am sure that was the best remedy, otherwise, the deputy of country a Mr. Paulus would have never have believed, he realized that what Paul and Barnabas were doing was serious business (was true and of God), the miracle did the trick so that he is fully persuaded by the words of Paul and Barnabas and come to know for sure that for Elymas (Barjesus) - was a FAKE.

In the epistles of apostle Paul, especially to Timothy and Titus he told them to rebuke things that are contrary to sound doctrine brought by whoever they come across. Most pastors and members of their congregation stopped to rebuke long time ago, both in and out of church – the result is what we see in the churches and in public places, all types of sin committed in broad daylight. The Holy Spirit has never and will never be friendly to sin, any sin. Let us ask ourselves why we condone sin.

And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God.

But when divers were hardened, and believed not, but spake evil of that way before the multitude, he departed from them, and separated the disciples, disputing daily in the school of one Ty-ran'-nus.

And this continued by the space of two years; so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.

And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul:
So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil Spirits went out of them.

Acts 19: 8 – 12

CHAPTER 4

Reason # 2: Lack of follow-ups

Follow-ups are the initial most important activities that should follow a young convert to Jesus Christ (a person who has just been saved / regenerated). If this is not done, it may cause much damage to the new believer's life and affect his/her walk with the Lord. A large or a fairly big number of those who have backslidden may be found to fall under this group. Follow-ups should not be left only to the pastor but should be done by all other members of the church who themselves are already believers. That can relieve the pastor to do other work for the Lord, as a pastor has many roles to play on the church one is pasturing, in addition to one's own life to attend to and also to one's family, friends, relatives and so forth. Don't say if you are a member of a church "that is the work of a pastor or church elder and so on". Pastors have very heavy responsibilities on their shoulders in and out of the church. It is in a follow-up where a new believer is encouraged by sharing the word of God, praying for the believer, getting to know how the believer, is fairing on. Asking the believer

if they have any fear or any problem, reassuring the believer in the faith and advising accordingly.

There is something which I have noticed and which should not happen in a church and which does not augur well which is: Looking down upon others and bullying. I do recall when I was a spiritual babe another sister told me ‘Don’t be a lukewarm Christian; after I had prayed to another Christian who was sick and we had visited and as if that is not enough; another brother and sister when we were fellowshiping together told another brother and I ‘The kind of faith you two have you cannot survive’. Now all the above are quite discouraging remarks indeed!

God has called us all regardless of our race, tribe, or any status in life to be his children in Christ Jesus as one body and one family and we don’t need to discriminate or bully others but to help each other in love as God is love and do command us to love one another (1 John 4:7-12, John 13:34-35). Also to note is that all Christians go through more or less the same experience in their walk with the Lord and therefore the young converts need a good induction. Now for the above reasons, I do remind us by the following scriptures on the same.

For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty, only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.

This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

Galatians 5:13-16

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

Not of works, lest any man should boast.

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;

That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;

Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;

And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.

For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto a holy temple in the Lord:

In whom ye also are builded together for a habitation of God through the Spirit.

Ephesians 2:8-21

Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering;

Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

Let the word of God dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

Colossians 3:12-17

We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.

Let everyone of us please his neighbor for his good to edification.

For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written,

The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me.

For whatsoever things were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another accordingly to Christ Jesus:

That ye may be with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God.

Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers:

And that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy; as it is written, For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name.

And again he saith, Rejoice, ye Gentiles; with his people.

And again, Praise the Lord, all ye Gentiles, and laud him, all ye people.

And again, Isaiah saith,

There shall be a root of Jesse, and he that shall rise to reign over the Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles trust.

Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

Romans 15:1-13

The follow-ups should be as frequent as possible and as long as is deemed necessary not too short and not too long. Too short may leave the believer still a bit shaky and not firmly grounded to be left alone and too long may not be necessary if they can stand on their own and continue in the

walk as there can be many other new believers needing the same treatment in addition to many other church commitments. The new converts should be encouraged in the follow-ups to be open so as to get maximum spiritual help from the older believers who pay them a visit now and then and to treat them as brothers and sisters in the Lord (as part of him or her) and free to share experiences and so on in the walk.

Those paying them visits should encourage them by witnessing to them how God has dealt with them and seen them taken care of through many hard times and so on. The new converts can be helped not only spiritually but also materially where they lack and so on. An important item they must be helped to obtain if they lack is a complete Holy Bible with both the old and New Testaments. As we are going to see in the next chapters, reasons that may result in one to backslide can be grouped into two: the first one the follow-ups necessary to new believers and is the sole responsibility of the entire church membership inclusive of the Pastor and the second one is grouped under other factors and are the sole responsibility of the new convert.

Follow-ups are for encouragements of all sorts and to give comfort and assurance to the new believer and old believers alike and are good Christian fellowships in addition to other church fellowships. Let us now look at some scriptures touching on this aspect.

Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled far as Phoenicia, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only. And some of them were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians, preaching the Lord Jesus.

And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned unto the Lord.

Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the Church which was in Jerusalem: and they set forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch.

Who, when he came, that he should and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord.

In the above scripture we can see that the church in Jerusalem knew the importance of follow-ups and took the initiative to send Barnabas to An'-ti-och just for that one purpose to encourage the new converts. Barnabas on arrival was glad and exhorted the new believers (all of them), as all needed encouragement. If all heaven rejoice when even one soul only receives the Lord, why not you and I and furthermore that only is not enough- encourage your sister and brother in the Lord and tell them “welcome in the family of God, the royal family, please do feel at home, feel at Jesus feet” (Luke 10:38-42).

Now it came to pass, as they went that he entered into a certain village: and certain woman named Martha received him into her house.

And she had a sister called Mary which also sat at Jesus' feet and heard his word.

But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? Bid her therefore that she helps me.

And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha thou art careful and troubled about many things:

But one thing is needful; and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

Luke 10:38-42

And there came thither certain Jews from An'-ti-och and I-co'-ni-um, who persuaded the people, and having stoned Paul, drew him out of the city, supposing he had been dead. Howbeit, as the disciples stood round about him, he rose up and came into the city: and the next day he departed with Barnabas to Der'-be.

And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lys'-tra, and to I-co-ni-um and An'-ti-och confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith and that we must through much tribulation enter into the Kingdom of God.

Acts 14:19-22

Here also we see Apostles Paul and Barnabas confirming the souls of the disciples and exhorting them to continue in

the faith and that they must pass through much suffering before finally resting with the Lord.

And Judas and Silas, being prophet also themselves, exhorted the brethren with many words and confirmed them.

And some days after Paul said unto Barnabas, Let us go again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they do.

Acts 15:32, 36

Here we see that Prophet Judas and Silas also exhorted brethren in Jerusalem and also the apostles Paul and Barnabas made a wise decision to go and visit every city where they had preached the Lord, to see how their brethren are doing, why? Because that is very important, even the parents of Jesus Christ had to check and see if still they were walking home with the boy Jesus. The Christian walk is a long one and we need to see our colleagues how they are doing maybe they got tired and were resting or given up the walk completely. We need to be concerned of our brethren's well being as we are our brothers and sisters

keepers, unless we have become the likes of Cain (Genesis 4: 9).

AND after the uproar was ceased, Paul called unto him the disciples, and embraced them and departed for to go into Mac-e-do'-ni-a. And when he had gone over those parts and given them much exhortation, he came to Greece,

Acts 20:1-2

Still here we see Apostle Paul still busy as usual exhorting the brethren, and not only exhorting but much at it. The early church I strongly believe had very few backsliders if any because of their concern to their fellow brethren everywhere and took time in exhorting and comforting each other, which seems to be lacking in many churches today, in that it is in a smaller scale where it exists, no wonder the writer of Hebrews encouraged and emphasized on these issues in Hebrews chapter 10 and verses 19 through to 25.

I now give a word of advice to the new converts. If you find that nobody is following your case- you are not being visited by an old Christian to fellowship with you, to

encourage and pray with you, take a personal initiative yourself. If you are a brother, go to a brother and fellowship together. If you are a sister, go to a sister and fellowship together. This should be in addition to you making sure you don't miss other home or church Christian fellowships. If visited on a Sunday morning as it has happened to many Christians, ask the visitor to accompany you to the church service, or to wait for you until the church service is over, so as to be with you again. Another thing is that some Christians have had the habit of getting advice from those who are still unregenerate. This is not wise on their part because the unregenerate are still under the power of Satan who uses them as often as he wants and hence can only mislead one as also they don't have the Holy Spirit and can only give one human wisdom (worldly wisdom) and the wisdom of Satan. As a young convert who is still gullible to the things of God, don't get and use advices from the unsaved but rather enquire for anything you are not sure of or you don't know from your brother or sister in the Lord around (nearby), enquire from the Lord (pray), after all He is your Father, feel free and talk to Him

to give you direction. Avoid advices from the unsaved as can be misleading. (1 Corinthians 2:12-15, Proverbs 9:10).

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing Spiritual things with Spiritual.

But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.

1 Corinthians 2: 12-15

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the Holy is understanding.

Proverbs 9:10

From the above one can see that the unsaved does not fear the Lord and does not have the knowledge of God and

therefore cannot understand anything as lacks wisdom which only comes from God.

As new converts, they need to break away from old ties and habits which they had before conversion. I was surprised at one time, when a new convert confessed he still keeps some Congolese songs (secular) and listen to them. All this can be ignorance of the spiritual walk (Christian life) one has entered into at conversion. If one has love letters from former friends before conversion, burn them and also break the relationship. If one has secular music in any form – audio cassette, CD and so on destroy them. If one has pornographic magazines burn them, if one has books on crime, the occult or pornography burn them, if one has photographs or gift article of any sort from former friends (boyfriends and girlfriends) burn them. If one was a football fan, disco fan, a drunkard, stop being one and don't be found in football sports grounds on the same. Avoid such useless networks in life. If was a frequent visitor of movie theatres, stop except a Christian movie. Don't keep posters on the wall of your house of nude or semi-nude people, music or sports stars and so on and don't put on or keep t-shirts bearing a picture of any star,

politician or wild animal or serpent/s. don't associate with fools to involve in their talks and acts- be wise (Acts 19:18-20, 1 Corinthians 15:33-34, 2 Corinthians 6:14-18, Psalm 1:1-3, proverbs 13:20; 27: 17)

And many that believed came and confessed, and showed their deeds.

Many of them also which used various art books brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver.

So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.

Acts 19:18-20

Do away with anything you got from a witchdoctor- burn the item/s or pay back on all ill gotten items (Luke 19:8).

Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

Awake to righteousness, and sin not for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame.

1 Corinthians 15:33-34

Be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness?

2 Corinthians 6:14-18

BLESSED is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

Psalms 1:1-3

He that walketh with wise men shall be wise, but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.

Proverbs 13:20

Don't walk with fools lest you are destroyed.

Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.

Proverbs 27:17

Your friend must be sharp for you to be sharp. Walk with the wise to be wise. The ungodly are very blunt and will remove your sharpness so that you become useless before the Lord. Don't be timid but bold and courageous. (Joshua 1:9, 2 Timothy 1:6-7, Titus 1:10-14).

Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee withersoever thou goest.

Joshua 1:9

Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands. For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power and of love, and of a sound mind.

2 Timothy 1:6-7

For there are many unruly and vain takers and deceivers, especially they of the circumcision: Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake.

One of themselves, even a prophet of their own, said the Cretians are always liars, evil beasts, slow bellies.

This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith.

Not giving heed to Jewish fables and commandments of men, that turn from the truth.

Titus 1:10-14

We continue to see follow-ups by Apostle Paul in the Thessalonian church by his epistle to the church (1 Thessalonians 2: 10-12; 3:5-10).

Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe:

As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children.

That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.

1 Thessalonians 2: 10-12

For this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter have tempted you, and our labor be in vain.

But now when timothy come from you unto us, and brought us good tidings of your faith and charity, and that ye have good remembrance of us always, desiring greatly to see us, as we also to see you:

Therefore, brethren, we were comforted over you in all our affliction and distress by your faith.

For now we live, if ye stand fast in the Lord.

For what thanks can we render to God again for you, for all the joy wherewith we joy for your sakes before our God.

Night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your face, and might perfect that which is lacking in your faith?

1 Thessalonians 3:5-10

We can see on the above that although at the time the apostle was unable to visit that church, nevertheless he

didn't just sit back but rather sent somebody else, a fellow worker, no other than his son in the faith, Timothy, who brought a good report to him which comforted him in his affliction and distress. It is of absolute necessity that follow-ups be done to new converts lest the tempter tempt them and they succumb and go back into their old self (backslidden) and the work of those who preached to them become to nought.

It need be known the status of their faith and also in the follow-ups, they can be fed with whatever seem to be lacking in their faith so as they are perfected. When they were saved they were just babies and far away from maturity and hence imperfect. Follow-ups is what makes them to grow, stand and mature up.

Apart from follow-ups, another factor which may be contributing to some Christians' backsliding is the lack of counting the cost in the Christian walk from the out-set. The Lord Jesus Christ talked on the subject (Luke 14:25-35).

And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them,

If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.

For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?

Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him,

Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish.

Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand?

Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace.

So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his savor, wherewith shall it be seasoned?

It is neither fit for the land, nor yet for the dunghill; but men cast it out. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Luke 14:25-35

Please also read the following account in Luke 9:57-62.

And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain man said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest.

And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.

And he said unto another, Follow me.

But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father.

Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God.

And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house.

And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

Luke 9:57-62

You can see for yourself that this Christian Walk was never and will never be a half - hearted affair but a full-hearted

and whole-hearted affair and there are no reservations or going back. Salvation is a final decision once made. We have many brethren in the Lord who had made a final decision going by their lives. Christianity is a final ‘Yes’ for the Lord and not a ‘Yes and a ‘No’. (2 Corinthians 1:18-22). Please read the following scriptures: Daniel 3:1-18; 6:1-10, Joshua 24:13-15, Ruth 1:1-17, Job 1, Acts 4:13-20.

CHAPTER 5

Reason # 3: Lack of Bible reading and studying

As true believers in Christ Jesus (when we have received the salvation of the Lord), we need not only to be reading the Holy Bible daily, but also to take much time to study the word of God therein, as it is for our own good, ; it is for our growth (1 Peter 2: 2).

As new born babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

1 Peter 2: 2

Babies naturally start with milk as their food for their growth. One who has been converted to Christ Jesus has had a new birth, a spiritual birth and is a baby spiritually and need spiritual food which happens to be none other than the word of God. One must feed on the word of God immediately after regeneration onwards for one to grow from a baby status to a fully grown adult (spiritually mature). Reading the word of God then, is not optional but a must in this spiritual walk (much I have said in my first

book “The Christian walk”), which has much to say on the various aspects of Christianity. Before going on to many other scriptures on this subject let me share with you some verses in Luke 11:24-26.

When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he saith, I will return unto my house whence I came out.

And when he cometh, he findeth it swept and garnished.

Then goeth he, and taketh to him seven other spirits more wicked than himself; and they enter in, and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first.

Luke 11: 24 – 26

The Lord Jesus spoke the above words to some people who claimed that Jesus had cast out a demon through Be-el'-ze-bub the chief of the demons. There is a lesson here to be learned. When one repents of sin and accept Jesus to be one's Lord and Savior, one is forgiven sins committed and is cleansed by the blood of Jesus that was shed at Calvary on the cross and the evil spirit/s that had resided in one leaves and goes to look for an alternative place to stay and

finds none. But, mean while, the man need not remain that way in his heart, but need to fill the vacuum with the word of God. The old tenant (evil Spirit) was but a gate crusher and a thief as that actually was not his home as it is meant as the abode of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is on the other hand, a gentleman and need to be with the word of God, who is Christ. Remember also that the word of God is the sword of the Spirit and is sharper than a two-edged sword. If that does not happen, the demon / unclean spirit will have an easier time and enter into the man, and to be assured of a good stay, we see that he comes with seven more wicked (definitely more powerful) spirits for his defense against attacks and the end result the man will not remain the same. This has been evidenced in life and you find some who professed Christ and later fell from the grace of God becoming more wicked and if he was a drunkard or an immoral man before conversion, he now drinks and gets so drunk and sleeps on road ditches and so forth and an immoral man say being too immoral and if had never visited brothels, now frequent the place. From the above account we can see the importance of the word of God to dwell richly in a believer's life.

Come out of remaining a spiritual baby by feeding on God's word daily which is a whole some spiritual food for your soul and is a balanced diet with all the necessary nutrients to enable you to grow pretty fast and become a youth in Christ Jesus and begin to be more established in your faith and now able to fight spiritually in defending your faith. In the physical a baby is defenseless against any attack but a youth at least can do anything to defend himself or herself such as throwing a stone, biting by the teeth, using any weapon around him or her and even running away fast when seems overwhelmed. But you need not do all that in the spiritual but just use the most powerful weapon on earth which is the word of God which is the sword of the spirit to fight back the enemy (Satan and his demons and his servants) and utterly defeat them.

Satan tries to fight spiritual babies to make them fall and even to kill them completely for obvious reasons - they are easier targets and at the same time now and tries to fight adults (the mature) as well and does not leave or spare them.

In the book of Exodus the king of Egypt (Pharaoh) saw that the children of Israel were more and mighty than the people of Egypt and he came up with a scheme to kill all born babies (sons) of the children of Israel and Moses was born at that time but God miraculously preserved his life and when he became an adult he was now a threat and Pharaoh could do very little about it and Moses become an overcomer (Exodus 1:1-2:1-25; 3:1-22; 7:1-12 also read chapter 8 up to chapter 12 also chapter 14 (the big victory). Likewise, the baby Jesus when he was born king Herod tried to kill him but God preserved his life (Matthew 2) but when Jesus grew up into adulthood he become the conqueror of Satan (a real big spiritual King) through Christ's death on the cross after earlier defeating him in the wilderness (Colossians 2:4-15, Revelation 1:9-18). We too are more than conquerors in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:28-39). Let us look at the following scriptures:

THEN was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungered.

And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command these stones be made bread.

But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple,

And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

Jesus said unto him, it is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;

And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

Matthew 4:1-11

Christians are dealing daily with the devil who keeps tempting them to sin against God and he knows the scriptures as he was with God in heaven at one time with the name Lucifer. So we must be quite knowledgeable in the scriptures to be able to fight him and tell him off, commanding him to leave us alone.

And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

Revelation 12:10-11

Do you know what Satan does? He comes daily to tempt us Christians and when we fall into sin he goes back to God to accuse us of the sin we have committed. But if we realize we have sinned we need to immediately genuinely repent to God asking for forgiveness and cleansing by the blood of his dear Son. We must overcome Satan by the blood of Jesus and by the word of our testimony- the word of God.

NOW I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you:

But I beseech you, that I may not be bold when I am present with that confidence, wherewith I think to be bold against some, which think of us as if we walked according to the flesh.

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds;)

Casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

2 Corinthians 10:1-5

Christians have spiritual authority in Christ Jesus through the word of God to finish any opposing force and to be obedient to Christ Jesus. The word of God is not carnal but a spiritual weapon to wage spiritual warfare.

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

Ephesians 6:10-17

We can be strong as Christians when we have the truth (the word of God) with us and walk righteously (live righteous lives) and by faith apply the word of God in our life situations. Satan on many occasions inject bad (evil) thoughts in our minds as well as giving us bad dreams but we must fight back using the weapon of the word of God at our disposal and therefore we must be full of the truth (the word of God) and applying it appropriately (correctly) in life situations. We either have the word and use it and stand or don't have it and fall. Let us read more on the importance of the word of God in a Christian's life.

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for

then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Joshua 1:8

When you have the word of God in your heart it is a big treasure which put into use, makes one succeed in one's Christian Walk with the Lord. That was God's advice to the young Joshua and it is both to you and me who are born - again Christians.

Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Blessed art thou, O LORD: teach me thy statutes.

Psalms 119:11-12

The psalmist says he has hidden God's word in his heart that he might not sin against God. He goes further and shows his desire to know more of God's statutes. It is sin that leads one slowly but surely to backsliding. Let your desire be to know more of God's word and to keep it in your heart to help you to say no to any sin.

O how love I thy law! It is my meditation all the day.
Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than
mine enemies: for they are ever with me.
I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy
testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the
ancients, because I keep thy precepts.
I have refrained my feet from every evil way, that I might
keep thy word.
I have not departed from thy judgments: for thou hast
taught me.
How sweet are thy words unto my taste! Yea, sweeter than
honey to my mouth.
Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate
every false way.
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Psalms 119:97-105

Love the word of God and let it be sweet in your mouth.
Meditate on it so that your mind is saturated with it and that
is life (real good life) and your mind will have no room for
evil and dirty thoughts from the enemy. Let the word guide
you in life until you enter heaven to be with the Lord.

Without the word of God (which is like a map, a spiritual map) you can be sure you will miss heaven and will be lost only to find yourself in hell instead.

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

Philippians 4:8-9

That was the advice of Apostle Paul to the church at Philippi and it is also for you and me now. All the things mentioned above the only thing that fits their description is the Truth - the word of God and which we need think of more than anything else as Christians. Apostle Paul was a no nonsense person (Christian) and what he had said or done before the church at Philippi was purely based on the word of God and that is why he told them to do the same,

then the God of peace shall be with them. Very true indeed as God is the word and will only dwell where His word dwells (I hope that is not a surprise to you).

Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.

Revelation 22:7

And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

1 John 2:17

We need to have the word to be able to go by it and to live for ever in heaven with the Lord. If we don't have the word of God we will not know what to do or not to do in life and will live blindly and fall into the ditch, a big ditch (hell). Let me tell you some other things as well. If you happen to have a Bible commentary with you, believe and trust more your Holy Bible depending on it than that as it is only the Holy Bible which has the word of God and which is infallible as God has inspired it and God too, is the only true source of all truth.

God is truth and is all wise and His wisdom is infinite (John 14:6, Psalm 147:5).

A born-again Christian need to read good inspirational books rather than motivational books why? Inspirational books are addressing the heart but motivational books are addressing the mind but it is the heart which is the source of life (Proverbs 4:23) and not the mind. But first of all, get to know more of the word of God in the Holy Scripture and understand them pretty well, before you start reading inspirational books by Christian authors. I have read some inspirational books and find them less inspiring as some authors write so much of their mind and very little of the holy scriptures related to what they are saying, so be very carefully at choosing the book you want to buy and read about the Author first (if born – again, where fellowship, what does in serving the Lord and how long has been at it and so on) then the title and the contents and if possible briefly look keenly and read part of a chapter and also gauge the importance of the subject matter to your Christian life if at all it can add some value. As it has been said ‘Do not judge a book by its cover’. The cover may be bad looking but the contents are worth in life, also the

cover may be good looking but the contents are not good enough and may not add anything of real value in life. Also, now on the issue of Street preachers and Tele evangelists watch out! I have witnessed all these and I can say they are not the right source of receiving the true word of God for a Christian for many reasons. Better be in a local church service and listen to the teaching or preaching there than in the streets or via your television set.

Many of those street preachers (including those preaching in long distance buses) have wrong motives and even are ill-informed on the word of God and therefore are more likely to give wrong teachings and wrong preaching of the gospel of the stomach and not the true gospel of Jesus Christ - the gospel of the cross and the blood of Jesus Christ. Both street preachers and Tele Evangelists (most of them) have two big agendas to entertain people (their audience) and to get something from them (some 'love offering', some 'seed' some 'special offering' and so on).

The Tele evangelists many of them teach or preach on irrelevancies and are there to please the Audience than God and some bragging about their life and teaching how to have a good life here on earth instead of heaven and most

of them hardly touch on very important issues like repenting of all sins committed and endeavoring to always live a holy and righteous life here on earth and which counts most for those to enter heaven.

On the street preachers I have heard some wasting so much time dwelling on circumcision (which does not count in going to heaven). Only the spiritual circumcision of the heart (a spiritual birth counts) (John 3:1-6, Galatians 5:1-6, Colossians 2:8-15). I have also heard some street preachers either criticize other preachers or some churches. Now if I may ask, ‘How does all the above preaching and teaching of Street preachers and Tele-evangelists help any Christian? or even the heathen? All these are useless before the Lord of glory. I now and then switch to another TV channel when I hear some of the words the Tele-Evangelists utter in the pulpit. As a Christian don’t just listen to all teachings and preaching of people but weigh them against the word of God and any deviation from it stop wasting your time with such (1 Corinthians 14:26-32, 1 John 4:1-6).

I CHARGE thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine.

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

2 Timothy 4:1-5

The Holy Spirit led Apostle Paul to tell Timothy his spiritual son of what was to come in the last days (which is now). Many now want to hear only what pleases them and unfortunately even Christians. I was invited to some church to minister the word of God and I think I preached on repentance, holiness and such like topics to them and later the report I received was that some disapproved my

sermons. But I thank God I did not accept that invitation to please anybody in that church but my Lord.

So brethren, you cannot do what the apostle charged young Timothy to do if you are not well grounded in the word of God – never. Preaching and rebuking sin as well as encouraging others one must understand the scriptures pretty well in addition to living it. If you fail to do that, you have failed to stand and therefore can easily fall (backslide). Learn to love the truth and the truth alone, however bitter it may be to your ears and stop having any itchy ear and which want to hear only good things - no.

Once you begin to hear and accept any teaching or preaching without carefully confirming with the word of God you have allowed/opened a door for Satan's servants to lead you astray from the truth - the doctrines of Christ and for sure soon you will hit the dust (will fall) into apostasy and later fall further into hell. Be like the Bereans now, if you are a Christian (Acts 17:10-11). We also read in Ephesians 4: 11-13 as follows:

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

Ephesians 4:11-13

From the above scriptures we see the need to grow and mature in the Spirit, which is only possible by feeding on the word of God and being fed by God's ministers as listed above and not some Christians only, a selected few, but all Christians (verse 13). We will never reach the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ by anything other than the word of God. I hope we are in agreement. Let's continue.

Another very important thing is to prepare our hearts very well before we are ministered to by God's servants or before we take time and begin to read / study the word of God.

We need to have a receptive heart like a magnet. It is not easy to pull away something from a magnet, a metallic object, as it sticks firmly to the magnet.

And when much people were gathered together, and were come to him out of every city, he spake by a parable:

A sower went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it.

And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture.

And some fell among the thorns; and the thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it.

And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit a hundredfold. And when he had said these things, he cried, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear. And his disciples asked him, saying, what might this parable be?

And he said, unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to the others in parables; That seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand.

Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.

Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.

They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.

And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection.

But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.

Luke 8: 4-15

From the above we see that the word of God need to stick in our heart and take root and abide for it to bear fruit with time. In our Bible reading or studying one need to make the habit of praying before starting for the Lord to open one's spiritual eyes and give understanding and so on and to be also in addition at a quiet environment with least disturbance if possible and at your free time, free from doing other things at the same time and concentrating only on what is at hand.

Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.

And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymeneus and Philetus;

Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.

2 Timothy 2:15 - 18

Only by studying the word of God diligently will make us separate truth from falsehood (dividing the word of truth rightly). If we don't study the word of God Satan will wrongly divide it for us and lead us astray. Moreover we will do more harm to others as seen in the above Scripture.

But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou has learned them;

And that from a child thou hast known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

2 Timothy 3: 14-17

We need to continue with what we have learned from the Scriptures as it is profitable in our walk with God and leads into our being perfected through acquisition of all good works. Look also at the following Scripture.

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ;

Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself and peculiar people, zealous of good works.

Titus 2: 11-14

Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.

But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever. A'-men.

2 Peter 3: 17-18

If you don't want to err and fall (backslide) grow in grace in the word of God knowing it more and more and practicing it and you will remain firm in your faith and in your walk with the Lord of glory - Jesus Christ.

I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you,

young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.

1 John 2: 14

We are strong only when the word of God abides in us and this makes us overcomers. (Remember the lesson in Luke 11: 24-26). See also Ephesians 6:17 and Hebrews 4: 12a. Let us look again for yet another very important Scripture that is associated with the word of God.

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

Hosea 4:6

We are told that God's people are destroyed for lacking the knowledge of God – his laws, but why? Because of neglecting the word of God. The word of God gives us knowledge which when we apply (act on) helps us to live as God intended us to live and if we reject it as the Scripture says, God will also reject us, as we will have

gone astray from him and his ways. We need to heed to the word of God by reading and studying it and acting on it on a daily basis for our own good or else we are doomed – if you are rejected by God the sustainer of life where will you be?

CHAPTER 6

Reason # 4: Lack of Prayer and Fasting

Prayer and fasting is of paramount importance to a Christian without which one cannot succeed (make it) in life. We find it in the scriptures both Jesus Christ and Christians before us were praying and also fasting, how about us? We are no exception and we have nothing but to follow their footsteps by doing exactly what they did, mind you it was not for fun for them to have involved themselves in such activities, it was necessary for them to do so. If we fail in these activities, we are prone to backslide and fall out of Christianity. For a new believer one can start with short simple prayer or the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6: 9-13.

After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever. Amen.

Matthew 6: 9-13

And from there one need to advance further in prayer as the Spirit of God leads one. The next thing is for the believer to start to learn to go for a fast. This can be started on a low note say for half a day for a start, at another time go for a day's fast (24 hours), next time say 2 days fast and so on. By fasting one avoids food and stays without food or drink throughout the determined fasting period. In the process (act) of fasting the flesh (body) is weakened but the Spirit is at the same time strengthened and one is likely to live a spiritual life controlled more by God's Spirit in one. If one does not fast at all, one is likely to do things of the flesh than of the Spirit, which is not beneficial to one's Christian walk (life in salvation). Prayer is very good by it we speak to God and also get our requests answered but fasting is better and especially when things get really tough in us and seem to overwhelm us and we realize even prayer seem not to bring an answer. Fasting is the high gear we have to apply to re-enforce our prayers. Both of these are important

only each has its rightful place (role) to play at a particular time, based on the weight of the matter at hand. We are now going to look at several Scriptures touching first on prayer and later followed by those touching on fasting.

And when thou prayest, thou shall not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily, I say unto you, they have their reward.

But though when thou prayest, enter into thy closet and thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of before ye ask him.

Matthew 6: 5-8

From the above scripture we see clearly that as Christians, we need to be praying “And when thou prayest,

Prayer becomes part and parcel of a Christian's life. There is no limit to the number of times one can pray in a day- that is open to each individual, but prayer is a must. If hypocrites also pray, how about you a true Christian (a disciple, a follower of Jesus Christ)?

And when he had sent the multitudes away he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and then the evening was come, he was there alone.

Matthew 14:23

We find in the above Scripture that Jesus Christ went up into a mountain to be alone there for only one thing to pray.

Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Geth-sem'-a-ne, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here while I go and pray yonder.

Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the Spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Matthew 26: 36, 41

Still we seek that Jesus went to Gethsemane for the sole purpose of prayer and the disciples slept while the Lord was busy in prayer. Christians need to sleep, yes, but have a good time to pray. We should not love sleep so much that we leave little or no time for prayer. Make it a habit to wake early in the morning to pray, as early as 3.00am and something like 6.00am is late, if one is yet to pray. Learn to discipline your body by forcing yourself to wake early to pray, and the Holy Spirit also will be much willing to ring for you a bell, that it is time to talk to the Lord. If you are alert in the Spirit you will hear the bell ringing, if not alert, you may not hear, or hear something like it and ignore and embrace your sweet sleep and wake up late, sometimes so late that you forget to pray all together and begin by thinking only of what tasks you were to do that day and rush or prepare to go for the task.

AND he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint; Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, avenge me of mine adversary.

And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, though I fear not God, no regard man;
Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.
And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith.
And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?
I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?

Luke 18: 1-8

We are going to find a scripture that encourages and supports the above. Jesus is saying that we need not stop praying – need not be discouraged too soon, as our answer could be at the dispatch office and about to be acted upon. He is also saying that he is a just God and cannot be compared with men. The big question he has for you and me is, if we have faith that pleases God, otherwise our letter or parcel might stay longer at God's dispatch office before it is finally sent to us.
Pray without ceasing.

1 Thessalonians 5:17

There it is Apostle Paul inspired by the Holy Spirit had that to tell the church at Thessalonica. But it is applicable to all churches around the world, today. But one may say, “This is quite tough, we need to do other things in life?” Well, the Lord has not stopped any Christian from involving in daily activities, but in between them, one need to take time to pray to God the Father now and then on different issues to intervene or come to his/her rescue or to just thank Him and so on. The activities need not stop us from setting time to pray. Similar scriptures we are going to read in Ephesians 6: 18a and Colossians 4: 2-4.

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit,.....

Ephesians 6:18a

Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with the thanksgiving;

Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds:

That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.

Colossians 4: 2-4

As we continue to pray, we need also include the needs of other people.

Is any among you afflicted? Let him pray. Is any merry? Let him sing psalms. Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing with oil in the name of the Lord:

And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. Eli'-jah was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.

And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.

James 5: 13-18

We should pray when we are in trouble or sick, but also when we are okay. We are told that the prayer of faith shall save us, remember Jesus what he said in Luke 18:8b. In prayer, faith becomes the denominator. As we have read above, sin is a stumbling block before our prayers and affects prayer and need to be removed on our way, hence confession to the Lord is necessary and sometimes also to interested parties, for our breakthrough. Brethren, it is all prayer and prayer and prayer as we have read the epistle to the church of Christ by James the brother of the Lord.

If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another comforter, that he may abide with you for ever.

I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine.

John 14: 15 - 16, 17: 9

Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a Sabbath day's journey.

And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Al'-phe-us, and Simon Zelo'-tes and Judas the brother of James.

These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.

Acts 1:12-14

We can see that the above Christians numbering (120 assembled together in an upper room at Jerusalem for just one thing, to prayer. And the Lord God rewarded them richly within a span of 10 days, when the day of Pentecost reached and they were ALL filled with the Holy Spirit. Wonderful, wonderful, wonderful, thank you Lord, thank you Jesus.

AND in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against

the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration.

Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, it is no reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables.

Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.

Acts 6:1-4

We see that whenever there is a problem, we need wisdom to help us come out with a solution, as the initial twelve disciples did and also not to stop praying (verses 5-7). We will now take time to look at a few verses touching on fasting.

THEN was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungered.

Matthew 4: 1-2

From the above we see our Lord had fasted for 40 days and 40 nights and after that is when he felt hungry. This he did before beginning his ministry and when the devil came to tempt him, he was ready for him and the devil was no match to him, he defeated the devil badly, and the devil left him (verses 3-11). Fasting is very important in ministry in addition to prayers.

And they said unto him, why do the disciples of John fast often and make prayers, and likewise the disciples of the Pharisees; but thine eat and drink?

And he said unto them, can ye make the children of the bride chamber fast, while the bridegroom is with them?

But the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken away from them, and then shall they fast in those days.

Luke 5: 33-35

We find that Jesus was talking to the scribes and Pharisees who asked him why his disciples were not fasting as other

disciples were doing. Jesus answered that because he was still with them, it was not necessary as everything was under control, but when he shall leave, they will be alone and will need to fast like the rest. That is true as we are going to read in the book of Acts.

NOW there was in the church that was at An'-ti-och certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Ni'-ger, and Lu-ci-us of Cy'-re-ne, and Man'-a-en, which had been brought up with Herod the te'-trarch, and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

Acts 13: 1-3

Here we see the ministers of the Lord ministering and fasting. Through fasting, they came to know of what God had in store for Barnabas and Saul – God talked to them. You can see here that sometimes we may not know

something, unless we go fasting. In fasting much may be revealed to us by the Holy Spirit.

And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.

Acts 14: 23

The way we normally eat and drink, the same should be normal for Christians to be praying and fasting, it should not be a strange thing at all to a true believer.

CHAPTER 7

Reason # 5: Compromising / Disobedience

To compromise is to stoop low and go against one's standards or principles and in itself is sin and in another way is refuse to do what you should have done in the first place. All this may lead one to a backslidden state where one is no longer what one used to be. One such act which has gained much prominence the world over, is in the form of giving and taking of bribes sometimes referred to as kick backs and is done either to evade the law (not to be punished) for wrong doing – breaking the law) or to get illegal financial gain in a transaction e.g. in a tendering process or in awarding of a contract, among other ways. People have also compromised in business by reducing their weight or measuring equipment tools in order to get more profit in sales by defrauding the buyers and it is sin in God's sight. Yet another is in compromising in quality of one's product but maintain the buying price, this mostly done by manufacturers. Unfortunately it happens that those, who are to oversee standards maintained sometimes

are also compromised and consumers suffer unnecessarily (Deuteronomy 25: 13 - 16, Proverbs 20:10).

Thou shalt not have in thy bag divers weights, a great and a small.

Thou shalt not have in thine house divers measurers, a great and a small.

But thou shalt have a perfect and just weight, a perfect and just measure shalt thou have; that thy days may be lengthened in the land which the LORD thy giveth thee.

For all that do such things, and all that do unrighteously, are an abomination unto the LORD thy God.

Deuteronomy 25: 13 – 16

Divers weights, and divers measures, both of them are alike abomination to the LORD.

Proverbs 20: 10

And thou shalt not take no gift: for the gift blindeth the wise, and perverteth the words of the righteous.

Exodus 23:8

Thou shalt not wrest judgement; thou shalt not respect persons, neither take a gift: for a gift doth blind the eyes of the wise, and pervert the words of the righteous.

Deuteronomy 16: 19

We need to be constant on the word of God and not variable. There is no middle ground (Joshua 1:7).

Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper withersoever thou goest.

Joshua 1: 7

Many a times in life, many of us have played the chameleon and the bat. We are neither here or there. But with God there is no such thing (Hebrews 13: 8).

Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever.

Hebrews 13: 8

In this country our new constitution allows dual citizenship, not with God. For now all of us are here on earth temporally but God expects us to have (choose) our permanent citizenship here and now. We are either in God's government or Satan's government. God is a God of justice and will definitely place each one of us where we chose to be if everything in our life remains constant. (Revelation 3: 15 – 22, Revelation 20: 11 – 15, Revelation 22: 12 – 13, 1 Corinthians 3: 11 – 15, Romans 14: 12).

A few examples of backsliding are such as the case of King Saul (1 Samuel 15: 1 – 23, 18: 6 – 19, 19: 1 – 24, 28: 1 – 25 & 31: 1-13 and Samson (Judges 14, 15 & 16) and Balaam (numbers 22 & 23, Joshua 13:22). Other ills under this topic (chapter) is rationalization based on mere reasoning and so forth regardless of revealed truth of God. Peer pressure can be included here as well as mob psychology, which results in mob justice and secludes those in authority. In some instance it turns out that the victim is innocent. These days evil people in order to avoid arrest or punishment, may point a finger to an innocent person.

Unnecessary siding with the majority or a wrong doer and so on and so forth is not right, is sin.

THOU shalt not raise a false report: put not thine hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness.

Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil; neither shalt thou speak in a cause to decline after many to wrest judgement;

Thou shalt not wrest the judgement of thy poor in his cause.

Keep thee far from a false matter; and the innocent and righteous slay thou not: for I will not justify the wicked.

Also thou shalt not oppress a stranger: for ye know the heart of a stranger, seeing ye were strangers in the land of Egypt.

Exodus 23: 1 – 2, 6 – 7, 9

A Christian need to be wary of the old habits one had before conversion as by allowing them can easily make one to backslide in life.

The litmus paper of checking if one is still on tract in one's faith in Christ Jesus or not is to examine and see if one is

still found practising the old habits or is no longer in them. If one finds he or she is in the old habits then he or she has lost his or her saltiness and has backslidden (Matthew 5:13).

There are serious warnings touching on backsliding such as the following: Hebrews 6:4-8, 2 Peter 2:20-23. Now look at the life of Simon Peter before conversion (Matthew 4:18-20) and after conversion (John 21:1-3). Simon Peter had left fishing as a way of life to earn a living and followed Jesus but went back again later and made others to follow suit.

In the book of Daniel chapter 1 we find that Daniel refused to compromise his faith by not taking meat and drinks from the pagan king.

IN the third year of the reign on Je-hoi'-a-kim king of Judah came Neb-u-chad-nez'-zah king of Babylon into Jerusalem, and besieged it.

And the Lord gave Je-hoi-a-kim king of Judah into his hand, with part of the vessels of the house of God: which he carried into the land of Shi'-nar to the house of his god;

and he brought the vessels into the treasure house of his god.

And the king spake unto Ash'-pe-naz the master of his eunuchs, that he should bring certain of the children of Israel, and of the king's seed, and of the princes;

Children in whom was no blemish, but well favored, and skillful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as had ability in them to stand in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the learning and the tongue of the Chal-de-ans.

And the king appointed them a daily provision of the king's meat, and of the wine which he drank: so nourishing them three years, that at the end thereof they might stand before the king.

Now among these were the children of Judah, Daniel, Han-a-ni'-ah, Mish'-a-el and Az-a-ri'-ah: Unto whom the prince of the eunuchs gave names: for he gave unto Daniel the name of Bel-te-shaz'-zah; and to Han-a-ni'-ah, of Sha'-drack; and to Mish'-a-el, of Me'-shack; and to Az-a-ri'-ah, of A-bed'-ne-go.

But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the

wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

Now God had brought Daniel into favor and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs.

And the prince of the eunuchs said unto Daniel, I fear my Lord the king, who hath appointed your meat and your drink: for why should he see your faces worse liking than the children which are of your sort? Then shall ye make me endanger my head to the king.

Then said Daniel to Mel'-zah, whom the prince of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Han-a-ni'-ah, Mish'-a-el, and Az-a-ri'-ah,

Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink.

Then let our countenances be looked upon before thee, and the countenance of the children that eat of the portion of the king's meat: and as thou seest, deal with thy servants.

So he consented to them in this matter, and proved them ten days.

And at the end of ten days their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king's meat.

Thus Mel'-zah took away the portion of their meat, and the wine that they should drink; and gave them pulse.

As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

Now at the end of the days that the king had said he should bring them in, then the prince of the eunuchs brought them in before Neb-u-chad-nez'-zah.

And the king communed with them; and among them all was found none like Daniel, Han-a-ni'-ah, Mish'-a-el and Az-a-ri'-ah: therefore stood they before the king.

And in all the matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm.

Daniel 1:1 – 20

It is along story but I wanted us to go through it all so as to learn some lessons. Here is a pagan king and the children of Judah born from God's people the Israelites. The king was worshipping an idol (a god), but these children of Judah were worshippers of the God of their fathers –

Jehovah Yahweh (the true and only God) who is the Creator and has majesty and power and is to be feared and revered. These children of Judah don't want to be defiled and want to be holy as the God of their fathers is holy (Leviticus 11: 44 – 45) and for that reason they excuse themselves and abstain from unholy food and drink and God continues to be with them and gives favor (verses 8 – 9 of Daniel) (James 4: 7 – 8, 1 Peter 1: 13 – 16; 5: 8 – 9). Because these children of Judah (youths) did not compromise their faith in the true God, God had to see them, through. Their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than the other children, why? Of course they had God, and God is the fairest of all. (Verses 15 – 16 of Daniel), Now the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom and to depart from evil is understanding. (Proverbs 1: 7 Job 28: 28) God so it fit to give His children knowledge, wisdom and understanding (verses 17 – 20). Yes, they were better ten times than all the magicians and Astrologers in Babylon. That is how great it is to be with the Lord, on his side, not compromising but only obeying. They had nothing to lose but everything to gain in Christ Jesus. Let

the Lord help us to stand for him and refuse to compromise.

Many have feared and compromised in life. In Christianity courage is required as well as boldness, otherwise one may end up compromising into hell. We also find in the same book of Daniel in chapter 3, the three children of Judah refused to substitute their God with an idol (a god made from the hands of men – an image made of gold) and God – Jehovah Nisi was with them. They could not be burned by fire in the fiery furnace. They were safe in the Lord's hands (Psalm 91: 1 – 10, Proverbs 18: 10). It is only those who are on God's side (camp) who are safe. In chapter 6 of the same book of Daniel we find Daniel praying to his God and thanking him as he had done before, because He alone was Jehovah - Jire and provides not kings of this earth. (Genesis 22: 8, 22, Exodus 16: 32, Job 38: 41, Psalms 68: 9 – 10, 147: 8 – 9, Philippians 4: 19).

The source of fear, doubt and unbelief is the Devil. In Genesis chapter 3 we find him bringing doubt and unbelief to Eve in the Garden of Eden by questioning God's word (the truth) and Eve fell. Let us all stop questioning God's

word, lest we fall through doubt and unbelief and act contrary to the word, lest we fall through doubt and unbelief and act contrary to the word of God. Satan is subtle. He can question your salvation if you are truly saved (especially a new convert) because you are naïve and you can fall and begin to doubt. Put such doubts off telling Satan. You are saved as per God's word and not on what you see or feel etc; and continue believing and trusting in God, I can assure you he will leave you alone, as you are wiser than him. Jesus Christ applied the word of God until Satan left him (Matthew 4: 1 – 11).

Now let us go to another episode. In the book on Numbers and in chapter 13 we find that God told Moses to send twelve spies to go and spy the land of Canaan they were to inherit and report back. Moses did as was instructed. When the twelve spies came back after forty days, Satan had already brought doubt and unbelief to ten of them and the way they reported instilled fear into the children of Israel (exactly what Satan wanted) and if it was not for the faith and courage of the remaining two – Joshua and Caleb, Satan would have succeeded in his plan against God's plan. You can read for yourself what impact the ten spies

brought to the camp by their unbelief (although God promised and surely will give the land of Canaan to them) (Numbers 14: 1 – 11, Exodus 3: 1 – 17). We need to be faithful and bold enough like Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephuneh and say that our enemies are bread for us (numbers 14:9). Bread is just food and harmless in the real sense (physical sense). But this case, we are using a metaphor, because spiritually our enemies are quite harmful but we are stronger spiritually (not physically) and can conquer them. (Romans 8: 37, 1 John 4:4, 5:5).

Look at the life of Isaac. At times he became fearful for his life, just as his father Abraham. (Genesis 26: 1 – 10; 20: 1 – 12). Sometimes one may become fearful and end up saying silly things or lies and doing what one ought not to have done. May the Lord help us.

God does not want his children to fear people or things but to fear only Him and hate (stay away) from sin and to have faith and trust in Him. Actually, all people need to fear and revere God, who is all powerful and above all beings and things. When you become fearful not to God but to people and things, you become faithless. But when you become

faithful to God, you become fearless to people and things,
after all, all truth is parallel.

AND there was famine in the land, beside the first famine
that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went unto A-
bim'-e-lech king of the Phil'-is'-tines unto Ge'-rar.

And the LORD appeared unto him, and said, Go not down
into Egypt; dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of:
sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless
thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these
countries, and I will perform the oath which I swear unto
Abraham thy father;

And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven,
and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy
seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed;

Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my
charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.

And Isaac dwelt in Ge'-rar:

And the men of the place asked him of his wife; and he
said, she is my sister: for he feared to say, she is my wife;
lest, said he, the men of the place should kill me for
Rebekah; because she was fair to look upon.

And it come to pass, when he had been there for a long time, that A-bim'-e-lech king of the Phil'-is'-tines looked out at a window, and saw, and, behold, Isaac was sporting with Rebekah his wife.

And A-bim'-e-lech called Isaac, and said, Behold, of a surety she is thy wife: and how saidst thou, she is my sister? And Isaac said unto him, because I said, lest I die for her.

And A-bim'-e-lech said, what is this thou hast done unto us?. One of the people might lightly have lain with thy wife, and thou shouldest have brought guiltiness upon us.

Genesis 26:1-10

AND Abraham journeyed from thence toward the south country, and dwelled between Ka'-desh and Shur, and sojourned in Ge'-rar.

And Abraham said of Sarah his wife, she is my sister: and A-bim'-e-lech king of Ge'-rar sent, and took Sarah.

But God came to A-bim'-e-lech in a dream by night, and said to him,

Behold, thou art but a dead man, for the woman which thou hast taken; for she is a man's wife.

But A-bim'-e-lech had not come near her: and he said, LORD, wilt thou slay also a righteous nation?

Said he not unto me, She is my sister? And she, even she herself said, He is my brother: in the integrity of my heart and innocency of my hands have I done this.

And God said unto him in a dream, Yea, I know that thou didst this in the integrity of thy heart; for I also withheld thee from sinning against me: therefore suffered I thee not to touch her.

Now therefore restore the man his wife; for he is a prophet, and he shall pray for thee, and thou shalt live: and if thou restore her not, know thou that thou shalt surely die, thou, and all that are thine.

Therefore A-bim'-e-lech rose early in the morning, and called all his servants, and told all these things in their ears: and the man were sore afraid.

Then A-bim'-e-lech called Abraham, and said unto him, What has thou done unto us? And what have I offended thee, that thou hast brought on me and on my kingdom a great sin? Thou hast done deeds unto me that ought not to be done.

And A-bim'-e-lech said unto Abraham, What sawest thou, that thou hast done this thing?

And Abraham said, because I thought, surely the fear of God is not in this place, and they will slay me for my wife's sake.

And yet indeed she is my sister; she is the daughter of my father, but not the daughter of my mother; and she became my wife.

Genesis 20:1-12

From the above scripture we see that what we do in life as parents for sure do affect the lives of our children either sooner or later and the scripture is fulfilled in Galatians 6:7-8.

Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

Galatians 6:7-8

Abraham sowed the same through his son Isaac, later in life. Abraham colluded with his wife to say a lie, unlike in the New Testament period he or his wife luckily didn't fall down dead. I think this was because king was not a servant of God like Peter who was an apostle and we see Ananias and Sapphira his wife fell down and died instantly as recorded in Acts of the apostles' book (Acts 5:1-10). Collusion should be discouraged at all costs in the Christian walk, especially to indulge in sin. Try it only at your peril. God brought judgement immediately to preserve the newly born church of Christ from pollution of sin/defilement to discourage improper conduct and to encourage right and proper and pure conduct in His household- Order had to be restored by purging out sin.

In the case of Abraham God intervened only because he was his prophet and had a fairly good record before God (Genesis 26:4-5) and also to save Abraham from defilement through his wife if would have slept with the Phil'-is-tine king. (Mark 10:12).

And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery.

Mark 10:12

The “little” compromises are the seeds that grow and thereby later result in one’s down fall in one’s walk in the Lord. Therefore, no sin should be called/treated as “small sin” as sin is sin however at what angle you look at it. (1 Corinthians 5:6-8).

Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?

Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:

Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

1 Corinthians 5:6-8

Apostle Paul in his epistle above to the Corinthian church is a good example illustrating what I have just said that no-

sin should be called/treated as small because it has a devastating effect in one's life. The apostle is telling the church that a little leaven will leaven the whole lump (that is, the wheat flour mixed with water and other ingredients ready for making bread and so on). Leaven is a symbol of sin and the way a little leaven (yeast) puffs up the lump is the way what some call/treat some sin as small, the sin will badly affect the individual treating it as such. So the apostle advised the church that Christ already has sacrificed his body for their sins and become their Passover and therefore they need to do away completely with their past life and now live a new life in Christ (the bread of life), in sincerity and truth.

The above case can be compared with the case of the Israelites who were also advised to drive away the Canaanites before they settle to live there if not the Canaanites will prove to be a bother (a problem) to them (Numbers 33:50-55).

And the LORD spoke unto Moses in the plains of Moab by Jordan near Jericho, saying;

Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, when ye are passed over Jordan into the land of Canaan;

Then ye shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you, and destroy all their pictures, and destroy all their molten images, and quite pluck down all their high places:

And ye shall dispossess the inhabitants of the land, and dwell therein: for I have given you the land to possess it.

And ye shall divide the land by lot for an inheritance among your families: and to the more ye shall give more inheritance, and to the fewer ye shall give the less inheritance: every man's inheritance shall be in the place which his lot falleth; according to the tribes of your fathers ye shall inherit.

But if ye will not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you, then it shall come to pass, that those which ye let remain of them shall be prickles in your eyes, and thorns in your sides, and shall vex you in the land wherein ye dwell.

Numbers 33:50-55

Please note that the Lord God twice advised/warned the children of Israel on the issue of driving out the inhabitants of Canaan (all) in verse 52 and 55 respectively (advised/directed (verse 52) and followed further to remind and warn them (verse 55).

If a Christian decides to leave some sin/s in his/her life after conversion, one will face a rough time in one's salvation (Christian walk) because of that compromise.

The little compromises in the Christian walk are the very things that bring down a Christian into a backslidden/fallen state. Apostle Paul touching on anger told the Ephesian church not to give the devil a foothold. He knew that just a foothold (a sin) is enough for the devil to create havoc in a Christian's life (Ephesians 4:26-27).

Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil.

Ephesians 4:26-27

By getting angry and staying with it past sundown you have already sinned and given a place (a room, an

opportunity, a platform) from which the devil can stand and work on further in your life.

As a Christian you must avoid careless living and casual living and take your salvation with all the seriousness it deserves as it is too precious to behold and is actually a spiritual birthright for entry into eternal life in heaven and embrace it dearly as its value is more than all the material things on the earth combined. Remember that many out there in the world who are still held in bondage in sin are envying you because of your salvation.

I think the worst regret in life is to be saved and later to backslide and end backslidden. Jesus Christ warned the twelve disciples he sent out to be wise because they were going out to meet all sorts of people and situations and therefore as a Christian you have no option but just to be wise to remain a Christian in a corrupt world with corrupt systems. You can see that only Esau had a birthright in the family of Isaac, as the first-born, but Jacob who was his brother (Esau's) was wiser and envied that birthright and took it from his brother at the earliest opportunity. Don't despise your birthright from God the Father who is seated

in heaven. Let us now look at some of the scriptures touching on the above text.

These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

John 5:13

And one of the company said unto him, Master, speak to my brother, that he divide the inheritance with me.

And he said unto him, Man, who made me a judge or a divider over you?

And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully:

And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?

And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods.

And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?

So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

And he said unto his disciples,

Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on. The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment.

Consider the ravens: for they neither sow or reap; which neither have storehouse nor barn; and God feedeth them: how much more are ye better than the fowls?

And which of you with taking thought can add to his stature one cubit?

If ye then be not able to do that thing which is least, why take ye thought for the rest?

Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

If then God so clothe the grass, which is today in the field, and tomorrow is cast into the oven; how much more will he clothe you, O ye of little faith?

And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind.

For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things

Luke 12: 13-30

Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;

But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

1 Peter 1:18-19

Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;

Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.

For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.

Hebrews 12:15-17

Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

Matthew 10:16

As a Christian you must be wise so as to know how to handle each and every person and situation before you. Out there, there are very cunning creatures-wolves and serpents (whom you can't handle if you are ignorant and careless)

You have already been sent by your Lord and Master to the world and now the ball is in your court so play very well and score as many goals as is possible under the circumstances.

On the story of the two brothers Esau and Jacob the sons of Isaac read the book of Genesis and chapter 27 from verse 1

to verse 40 and see that it is a tricky issue and you need to be trickier (wise) - as Christ said.

By disobeying God King Saul lost his reign as was rejected by God (1 Samuel 13:1-14; 15:1-23). By compromising Esau and Judas lost. Esau valued food (the perishable) more than his birthright (the eternal) same to Judas Iscariot who valued silver (the perishable) than his Lord (salvation-the eternal) (Genesis 25:27-34, Matthew 26:14-16; 47-50, 27:1-5).

CHAPTER 8

Reason # 6: Lack of humility

Humility is a godly behaviour and has been commended by God. Even the Lord Jesus Christ was humble when he walked on this earth. We also see other examples of people who were humble in the Bible like Moses who God witnessed his humility (Numbers 12:3).

(Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth).

Numbers 12:3

Now let us come to some of the scriptures that touch on humility.

The fear of LORD is the instruction of wisdom; and before honor is humility.

Proverbs 15:23

By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, and honor, and life.

Proverbs 22:4

AT the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?

And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them.

And said, verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me.

Matthew 18:1-5

For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbled himself shall be exalted.

Luke 14:11

The next day John seeth Jesus coming into him, and said, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

This is he of whom I said after me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me.

John 1:29-30

But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

James 4:6

From the scripture we can see that humility receives more grace and pride removes grace or lessens grace. Now let's come to the humility of the Lord.

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

But made himself of no reputation, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient into death, even the death of the cross.

Wherefore God hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:5-11

Jesus Christ was the humblest of them all, even unto death. I do sincerely repent on this as I have not been as humble as is required.

The opposite of humility is pride, we come now to pride which also lead to rebellion and finally result into a fall. Let us look at some few scriptures for a start.

When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom.

Proverbs 11:2

Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.

Proverbs 16:18

A man's pride shall bring him low: but honor shall uphold the humble in spirit.

Proverbs 29:23

To humble is to bring oneself low and to esteem the others. Most of the time most of us have failed miserably on this, may the Lord help us to adjust before it is too late. We need to watch out for any sign of pride in our lives especially when we are elevated to high positions in society, get very rich, get very educated, are always in good health, receive much praises from men and so on as these sort of achievements can easily lead one to pride (getting lifted in the heart). We need to have some “check-o-meter” to be checking our status and find out if pride has caught up with us so that we quickly repent before it is too late. Our checks need be frequent enough. Satan was absorbed too much in his pride or rather did not quickly notice and fell suddenly. (Isaiah 14:12-14, Ezekiel 28: 17-19) We are going to look at other Scriptures from the book of Jeremiah, First Samuel, Proverbs and from epistles of Apostle Paul to the Corinthian, Roman and Philippian churches accordingly.

Thus saith the LORD, let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches:

But let him that glorieth glory in this that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise loving-kindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD.

Behold, the days come, saith the LORD that I will punish all of them which are circumcised with the uncircumcised; Egypt and Judah, and E'-dom, and the children of Ammon and Moab and all that are in the uttermost corners, that dwell in the wilderness: for all these nations are uncircumcised, and all the house of Israel are uncircumcised in the heart.

Jeremiah 9:23-26

And the Phil-is'-tine came on and drew near unto David; and man that bare the shield went before him.

And when the Phil-is'-tine looked about, and saw David, he disdained him: for he was but a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance.

And the Phil-is'-tine said unto David, am I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves, and the Phil-is'-tine cursed David by his gods.

And the Phil-is'-tine said to David, come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field.

Then said David to the Phil-is'-tine, Thou come to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou has defied.

This day will the Lord deliver thee into mine hand, and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Phil-is'-tine this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.

And all this assembly shall know that the Lord saveth not with sword and spear: for battle is the LORD'S, and he will give you into our hands.

1 Samuel 17: 41-47

The rest of the above is history. God help us to not look down upon other people.

A man's pride shall bring him low: but honor shall uphold the humble in spirit.

Proverbs 29:23

Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of the world? Hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world.

For after that in wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:

But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks foolishness.

But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called.

But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things that are mighty;

And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:

That no flesh should glory in his presence.

But of him are ye in Christ Jesus who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification and redemption:

That, according as it is written, he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord,

1 Corinthians 1: 20-31

And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree;

Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee.

Thou wilt say then, the branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in well: because of unbelief they were

broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not high-minded, but fear

Romans 11: 17-20

Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, Beware of the concision

For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the Spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.

Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more:

Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews, as touching the law, a Pharisee;

Concerning, zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.

Philippians 3: 2-7

I finish by saying that it is easier to backslide and fall if one is proud (has pride in life), than when one is humble in life. Let us go further and read more on humility.

And when Samuel saw Saul, the LORD said unto him, Behold the man whom I spoke to thee of! This same shall reign over my people.

Then Saul drew near to Samuel in the gate, and said, Tell me, I pray thee, where the seer's house is.

And Samuel answered Saul, and said, I am the seer: go up before me unto the high place; for ye shall eat with me today, and tomorrow I will let thee go, and will tell thee all that is in thine heart.

And as for thine asses that were lost three days ago, set not thy mind on them; for they are found. And on whom is all the desire of Israel?

Is it not on thee, and on all thy father's house? And Saul answered and said, Am not I a Benjamite, of the smallest of the tribes of Israel? And my family the least of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin? Wherefore then speakest thou so to me?

1 Samuel 9:17-21

That was a conversation between Saul and Samuel the servant (prophet) of the Lord God. At this time, Saul had a humble heart and God had chosen him to be the king of Israel then. Later after being anointed by the prophet and Saul become the king of Israel, he became proud and God rejected him and purposed to have David the son of Jesse to be the king of Israel after him. (1 Samuel 15:10-23, 28; 16:1, 13)

Then came the word of the LORD unto Samuel, saying
It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments. And it grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the LORD all night.

And when Samuel rose early to meet Saul in the morning, it was told Samuel, saying, Saul came to Carmel, and behold, he set him up a space, and is gone about, and passed on and gone down to Gil'gal.

And Samuel came to Saul: and Saul said unto him, Blessed be thou of the LORD: I have performed the commandment of the LORD and Samuel said, What meaneth then this

bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?

And Saul said, They have brought them from the A-mal'-ek-ites: for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed.

Then Samuel said unto Saul, stay, and I will tell thee what the LORD hath said to me this night. And he said unto him, say on.

And Samuel said, when thou wast little in thine own sight, wast thou not made the head of the tribes of Israel, and the LORD anointed thee king over Israel?

And the Lord set thee on a journey, and said, Go and utterly destroy the sinners the A-mal'-ek-ites, and fight against them until they be consumed.

Wherefore then didst thou not obey the voice of the LORD, but didst fly upon the spoil, and didst evil in the sight of the LORD?

And Saul said unto Samuel, Yea, I have gone the way which the LORD sent me, and have brought Agag the king of A-mal'-ek-ites have utterly destroyed the A-mal'-ek-ites.

But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God in Gil'-gal.

And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.

For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast also rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

And Samuel said unto him, The LORD hath rent the kingdom of Israel from thee this day, and hath given it to a neighbor of thine, that is better than thou.

1 Samuel 15:10-23, 28

AND the LORD said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? Fill thine horn without, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Beth-lehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons.

Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren and the spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ra'-mah.

1 Samuel 16: 1, 13

Those in high positions in Governments must be very careful because God has enabled them to be in those positions for a purpose: to look at the welfare of the citizenry and to curb/curtail evil by punishing evil men including capital punishment through the appointed Government officials. To be responsible and not do blame-shifting or to be proud. If they fail in this, God is justified to remove them just as he did before to others in positions. (Daniel 4:30-37, Romans 13: 1-4).

For thus saith the high and lofty one that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contractile and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

Isaiah 57:15

No wonder the spirit of the Lord departed from king Saul and instead an evil spirit was upon his life which brought no peace; after all peace is from God (The Prince of Peace).

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

1 Peter 5:6

CHAPTER 9

Reason # 7: Lack of continual repentance

To begin with, repentance is necessary for one to be forgiven at the time of conversion and is not an end but a beginning, meaning that even after this experience, one will still need to repent when fall in to sin and therefore, it is a continual thing, as the title of this chapter reads. If that does not happen and one has sinned, it will just cause an accumulation of sins the result of which leads to one backsliding and ultimately falling out of salvation (1 John 1: 8-9, 1 John 2: 1-2).

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1: 8-9

MY little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

1 John 2: 1-2

The scriptures above is part of the first epistle of apostle John to Christians, that they need to confess their sin to God to be forgiven and cleansed once again.

UNTO the angel of the church of Ephe-sus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; I know thy works, and thy labor, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:

And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast labored, and hast not fainted.

Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou has left thy first love.

Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent and do the first works; or else I will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

Revelation 2: 1-5

That is Christ talking to the church at Ephesus, despite the many efforts she had made for the Lord's sake. Because she was told to repent, God had something against her, which the Lord had not forgotten nor forgiven.

And unto the angel of the church in Thy-a-ti'-ra write, these things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass;

I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works and the last to be more than the first.

Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jez'-e-bel, which called herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.

And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.

Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.

Revelation 2:18-22

Here we see yet again another church Thyatira, though commended for doing many things for the Lord, but the Lord has something against her and that she must repent or else he was going to punish her. So, the churches of God need to re-examine themselves and find a fault to repent as God is not going to spare any church that has gone astray and does not want to repent and turn back to Him.

Usually when one does not repent of sin God never forgets or overlook but give space (time – a grace period) for the one to repent, before he forgives and restores one. We shall just look at a few examples:

1. Adam and Eve – They sinned against God and did not repent and were punished (Genesis 3).
2. Cain – Sinned against God and did not repent and got punished (Genesis 4: 1-12).
3. Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar – Sinned against God and repented and were forgiven (Job 42: 7-9).

4. Jonah – Sinned against God and was restored (Jonah 1 & 2).
5. King David – Sinned against God and repented and was restored (2 Samuel 11- 12: 14, Psalm 51: 1-19).
6. Simon Peter – Sinned against God and repented and was restored (Luke 22: 31-34, 54-62).
7. Judas Iscariot – Sinned against God and repented not and committed suicide – certainly he was not restored (Matthew 26: 14-16, 47 – 50, 27: 3-5, John 17: 12).

In closing, I say that the fact you were saved and cleansed by the blood of Jesus does not guarantee your status of cleansing even after you sin again, but you need to repent and be cleansed again for the sins committed and that is why the Lord is there as a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek to intercede for the saints before God the Father. (Hebrews 7: 25, 1 John 1: 8 – 2: 2).

This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his son cleanseth us from all sin.

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sin, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us

My little children, These things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;

And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for our sins only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

1 John 1:6-2:2

For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God.

And inasmuch as not without an oath he was made priest:

(For those priests were made without an oath; but this with an oath by him that said unto him, the Lord sware and will not repent, thou art a priest for ever after the order or Melchr'-ed-ek).

By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better Testament. And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death:

But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood.

Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

Hebrews 7:19-25

CHAPTER 10

Reason # 8: Lack of spiritual sensibility

Spiritual sensibility is very important in this Christian walk. One may be a Christian and be spiritually blind to some extent. Just as in the natural we have eyes and ears, it is so in the supernatural, but need to be opened all the time to be able to see and to hear. Otherwise one will just bump into a problem (situation), which could have been avoided, had one been seeing and hearing. In my first book “The Christian walk”, under the chapter on various aspects of the Christian walk, there is a topic on hearkening/hearing the voice of God. Many a time Christians because of lack of spiritual sensibility miss to hear / hearken to the voice of God, prompting them to do a thing, or not to do a thing to say a thing or to remain quiet through his spirit, by the Holy Spirit. In the book of Luke chapter 24 verses 13 to 35 we see two disciples of Jesus were unable to recognize him and only came to know him when their eyes were opened when Christ broke bread and gave them after blessing it.

Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.

And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Isaiah, and said, understandest thou what thou readest?

Acts 8: 29-30

Philip was spiritually sensitive and was able to hear what the Holy Spirit was telling him and was obedient and did exactly as he was told, resulting in Philip's preaching to the eunuch and the eunuch receiving his salvation. If Philip was deaf spiritually for lack of sensitivity (tuning in) the eunuch would have reached his home just as he left - unregenerate.

We need to be scrutinizing things in the spirit which is possible when we are tuned in the spirit (to heaven) that way, we may avoid many pitfalls on our walk (pathway). We should scrutinize our dreams, thoughts and so on and not take them for granted or ignore them. Satan the arch enemy of God and his servants are full of subtle and are fond of wrongly dividing the word of God the truth by misapplication and so forth. One need to be on the look

out lest one is misled to believe differently and act differently from the truth. Spiritual sensitivity goes hand in hand with the knowledge and understanding of the word of God. We need to be as wise as the serpents and as harmless as doves (to Satan and to people). We need how to handle each of them appropriately. When to apply the spirit of a lion or the spirit of a lamb (The Spirit of the lion of the tribe of Judah and the Spirit of the Lamb of God), depending on the circumstance at hand.

The enemy is good at persuading, convincing, questioning, substituting, discouraging, distracting, distressing, distorting, disguising, dislodging, discarding and so on and therefore we need spiritual discernment to know which is which and what is what. Let us request the Lord God to give us the gift of discernment of spirits. Spiritual sensibility is not needed just for some time (on some occasions) but most of the time. You may read Matthew 16: 13-17, Acts 5: 1-11, 2 Kings 5:20-27; 6: 15-17, Acts 14: 8-11, 3:1-10.

And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, beholds, a host compassed the city both with horses and chariots.

And his servant said into him, Alas, my master! How shall we do?

And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.

And E-li'sha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about E-li'sha.

2 Kings 6:15-17

Spiritual sensibility

I believe you may have heard in a church service at testimony time a Christian utter such words in testifying “Brethren, yesterday I experienced this and the devil stole me and I fell into this sin”. That kind of statement brings us back to the title of this chapter for more close scrutiny. In the scriptures we find the Lord Jesus Christ warning His disciples severally to be awake and watchful. That can be possible only if one is always in prayer and reading the

word of God, so as to avoid such pitfall or else the enemy will just be too happy to continue to steal from one in tempting one. (Matthew 13:24-26, Luke 22:39-46, 12: 35-38, 1 Peter 1:13-14).

Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened to a man which sowed good seed in his field:

But men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.

But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.

Matthew 13:24-26

And he came out, and went, as he was wont to the Mount of Olives; and his disciples also followed him.

And when he was at the place, he said unto them, Pray that ye enter not into temptation.

And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed,

Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him.

And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

And when he rose up from prayer, and was come to his disciples, he found them sleeping for sorrow,

And said unto them, Why sleep ye? rise and pray, lest ye enter into temptation.

Luke 22:39-46

When one becomes a born-again Christian (saved) one has actually received the food from heaven, the food for the soul, the word of God and one's spirit has been activated/revived. But when the Christian stops praying and reading the word of God, one's spirit go into spiritual slumber and this allows Satan (the enemy) to plant bad seed (evil) into the Christian and the Christian will keep on falling into sin now and then being the fruit of the bad seed. Hence, it is essential for a Christian to thrive always in prayer and reading of the word of God. When a Christian

does that and is obedient to the word too, one's light will continue to burn.

A Christian's mind cannot be in a sober state if is not prayerful and obedient to the word of God. Let us look at the other scriptures as listed earlier.

Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning;
And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their Lord,
when he will return from the wedding; that when he
cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him
immediately.

Blessed are those servants, whom the Lord when he cometh
shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird
himself, and make them sit down to meat and will come
forth and serve them.

And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the
third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants.

Luke 12: 35-38

Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and
hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you
at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance.

1 Peter 1:13-14

You need to gird up the loins of your mind with the word of God and not to be ignorant anymore coupled with prayer for power and watchfulness. Yes, obedience is key, key in your daily doings and talks, in accordance to the word of God.

Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

Ephesians 6:11-14

Many Christians find themselves to have fallen into sin because of lack of spiritual sensibility (spiritual alertness/consciousness) at the time, which is essentially to always walk in faith in the Spirit. Many walk in the flesh in the vanity of their mind (Ephesians 4:17-24). Apostle Paul led by the Holy Spirit had an issue with the churches in Corinth and Galatia (1 Corinthians 3:1-4; 2 Corinthians 5:7, Galatians 5:16-18)

AND I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.

I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.

For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal?

1 Corinthians 3:1-4

(For we walk by faith, not by sight)

2 Corinthians 5:7

This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

Galatians 5:16-18

Let us now look at two examples in the scripture of those who walked in the flesh and one who walked in the Spirit.

Saul

And he tarried seven days, according to the set time that Samuel had appointed: but Samuel came not to Gil'-gal; and the people were scattered from him.

And he offered the burnt offering.

And Saul said, Bring hither a burnt offering to me, and peace offerings.

And it came to pass, that as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might salute him.

And Samuel said, What hast thou done? And Saul said, because I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that thou camest not within the days appointed and that the Phil-is'-tines gathered themselves together at Mich'-mash; Therefore said I, The Phil-is'-tines will come down now upon me to Gil'-gal, and I have not made supplication unto the LORD: I forced myself therefore, and offered a burnt offering.

1 Samuel 13:8-12

Saul was a king and not a priest and Samuel who was a priest of God was to offer the burnt offering on the seventh day. But because the king walked by sight in the flesh and not by faith in the Spirit, he went ahead and made a burnt offering instead, usurping the office of the priest. First he saw the people scattered from him and that the Philistines were about to attack him (he thought) and forced himself to do the act (play the priest). King Saul messed himself up (See verses 13-14).

Eli

So Hannah rose up after they had eaten in Shi'-loh, and after they had drunk. Now E'-li the priest sat upon a seat by a post of the temple of the LORD.

And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the LORD, and wept sore.

And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine hand-maid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.

And it came to pass, as she continued praying before the LORD, that E'-li marked her mouth.

Now Hannah, she spake in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard: therefore E'-li thought she had been drunken.

And E'-li said unto her, How long wilt thou be drunken? Put away thy wine from thee.

And Hannah answered and said,

No, my Lord, I am a woman of a sorrowful spirit: I have drunken neither wine nor strong drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD.

Count not thine handmaid for a daughter of Be'-li-al: for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief have I spoken hitherto

1 Samuel 1:9-16

It is quite disturbing that a priest of the Lord can be so numb spiritually as the priest Eli and fail to see the obvious. Hannah spoke in her heart and her voice was not heard but only her lips moved. How come Eli could not see that this woman was sorrowful and in prayer to God.

The drunk by wine or strong drink don't speak in heart but speak loudly and disorderly (and of course not in a church building, I have not heard even one). Hannah humbly answered Eli the priest the true position about herself, Ooh poor Eli. It is all to do with lack of spiritual consciousness. Eli just thought Hannah was drunk, he was all in the flesh unfortunately at the wrong place at a seat by a post of the temple of the Lord. No wonder, preachers and pastors remind their congregants to be in the church not only

physically but spiritually-To have their heart and mind there not outside.

Let us now see another worse incidence which points to apostasy (backsliding) on the part of the priest Eli and his household.

AND the child Samuel ministered unto the LORD before E'-li.

And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; there was no open vision.

And it came to pass at that time, when E'-li was laid down in his place, and his eyes began to wax dim, that he could not see.

And ere the lamp of God went out in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was and Samuel was laid down to sleep:

That the LORD called Samuel: and he answered, Here am I.

And he ran unto E'-li, and said, Here am I: for thou calledst me.

And he said, I called not; lie down again. And he went and lay down.

And the LORD called yet again, Samuel.

And Samuel arose and went to E'-li, and said, Here am I: for thou didst call me. And he answered, I called not, my son: lie down again.

Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, neither was the word of the LORD yet revealed unto him.

And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to E'-li, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me.

And E'-li perceived that the LORD had called the child.

Therefore E'-li said unto Samuel, Go, lie down; and it shall be if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, LORD, for thy servant heareth. So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

And the LORD came, and stood and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel, Then Samuel answered, Speak: for thy servant heareth

And the LORD said to Samuel, Behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears of every one that heareth it shall tingle.

In that day I will perform against E'-li all things which I have spoken concerning his house: when I begin, I will also make an end.

For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not.

And therefore I have sworn unto the house of E'-li, that the iniquity of E'-li's house shall not be purged with sacrifice nor offering forever.

1 Samuel 3:1-14

Here we find that the priesthood was defiled as sin was rampant in the priesthood and apostasy had crept in. That is why the word of the Lord was precious in those days as there was no open vision. Where there is no vision the people perish. God did not want that to happen and therefore was calling the child Samuel to raise up the priesthood once again as it had fallen apart. The priest Eli was old and had retired from active priesthood into apostasy (dead priesthood). Eli's spiritual lamp was too dim just as his physical eyes and he could not see straight away that if somebody ever called the child Samuel save for himself, it was God, why? Because the child Samuel was sleeping in the temple of the Lord and moreover, where the ark of God was. God had to call the child Samuel

three times and the child had to go to Eli the priest three times to tell him he had called him, for Eli to come to his spiritual senses to know that God is the one who has been calling this child.

It is not bad to grow old physically but it is very bad, too bad to grow old in God, to become a dead wood. We need to be young and active in God throughout our life. Eli's house was judged by God and all that household died in one day (a curse indeed) read verses 10 to 14 then the fourth chapter verses 10 to 18. Let us look at what the apostle Paul had to say regarding work of ministry.

THEREFORE, seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; but have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

In whom the God of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.

For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;

Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;

Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.

For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.

So then death worketh in us, but life in you.

We have the same spirit of faith according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak; knowing that he which raised up the Lord

Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you.

For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many rebound to the glory of God.

For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.

For our light affliction which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and external weight of glory;

While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

2 Corinthians 4

Look keenly at verse 16 on our physical body in comparison to our spiritual body - outward man and inward man. Let us now go to Elisha the prophet of the Lord after Prophet Elijah, how he fared on the issue of spiritual sensibility.

Elisha

AND it came to pass when the LORD would take up E-li'-jah into heaven by a whirlwind, that E-li'-jah went with E-li'-sha from Gil'-gal.

And E-li'-jah said unto E-li'-sha, Tarry here, I pray thee; for the LORD hath sent me to Beth-el. And E-li'-sha said unto him, As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. So they went down to Beth-el.

And the sons of the prophets that were at Beth-el came forth to E-li'-sha, and said unto him, knowest thou that the LORD will take away thy master from thy head today?

And he said, Yea, I know it, hold ye your peace.

And E-li'-jah said unto him, E-li'-sha, tarry here, I pray thee; for the LORD hath sent me to Jericho. And he said, As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. So they came to Jericho.

And the sons of the prophets that were at Jericho came to E-li'-sha, and said unto him, knowest thou that the LORD will take away thy master from thy head today? And he answered, Yea, I know it; hold ye your peace.

And E-li'-jah said unto him, Tarry, I pray thee, here; for the LORD hath sent me to Jordan. And he said, As the LORD

liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee and they two went on.

And fifty men of the sons of the prophets went and stood to view a far off: and they two stood by Jordan.

And E-li'-jah took his mantle, and wrapped it together, and smote the waters, and they were divided hither and thither, so that they two went over on dry ground.

And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that E-li'-jah said unto E-li'-sha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee.

And E-li'-sha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me.

And he said, Thou hast asked for a hard thing: nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so.

And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and E-li'-jah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

And E-li'-sha saw it, and he cried, My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof.

And he saw him no more: and he took hold of his own clothes, and rent them in two pieces.

He took up also the mantle of E-li'-jah that fell from him, and went back, and stood by the bank of Jordan.

And he took the mantle of E-li'-jah that fell from him, and smote the waters and said, Where is the LORD God of E-li'-jah? and when he also had smitten the waters, they parted hither and thither: and E-li'-sha went over.

And when the sons of the prophets which were to view at Jericho saw him, they said, The spirit of E-li'-jah doth rest on E-li'-sha. And they come to meet him, and bowed themselves to the ground before him.

2 Kings 2: 1-15

If we talk of spiritual sensitivity Elisha was. How did he know that his master Elijah would be taken away? He utterly refused the suggestion to part away from him.

He knew very well he deserved to inherit from his master the best-anointing of God in him. He was always alert even in talking and he saw it all happen and inherited from his master and it was now his turn for others to bow before him. I have given him 'excellent' in my report card. Let us

not slumber but be like Elisha unto our Lord Jesus Christ.

Those who walk in the Spirit hardly go wrong.

Let us all value the salvation we received from the word go and give it all the seriousness it deserves. (1 Peter 1:18-19)

Treat your salvation with great care as one holding an egg in one's hand, where a false movement can bring in a disaster. Jesus died a terrible and shameful death for our sins once and for all on the cross and he will never go back to the cross a second time.

Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;

But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

1 Peter 1:18-19

Now in ending this chapter let me say this; to be spiritually sensitive means and includes walking with God by living a separated life (2 Corinthians 6:14-18) in addition to doing other things such as is recorded in Deuteronomy 5:33; 10:12-13, Joshua 22:5, Micah 6:8, Psalm 119:1-8, Romans

8:1, 1 John 1:5-7. Some of those who walked with God were:

- Enoch (Genesis 5:22-24)
- Noah (Genesis 6:9)
- Elijah (2 Kings 2:1-11)

We see from the above accounts that those walked with God on a daily basis but unfortunately for many Christians today some who hardly walk with the Lord and some who walk with the Lord only on an ‘on and off’ basis, which is not helpful as the time of the rapture of Christ’s holy Church is not known (Matthew 24:36-44). It therefore means that Christians must be spiritually sensitive on a daily basis to be led by the Lord walking with him. If one stops being sensitive in the spirit, chances of one’s backsliding becomes extremely high and it is just a matter of time if one continues to remain that way to find that one has backslidden.

Earlier we saw that Enoch walked with God for a record 300 years. It therefore means today that Christians can live a godly life walking with God and finally be ushered into heaven. The sure way of entering heaven is to continuously endeavor to walk with God.

I now take this opportunity to share an experience I did not share earlier in this book. I used to experience many dreams and in them I would see myself falling or sometimes just about to fall from various precarious positions like on top of a tall building or into sea or river. At other times in the dreams I would find myself walking down some stairs or falling in a deep pit and so on. During those periods I was ignorant as I did not take the dreams seriously and go into prayer and fasting to enquire from the Lord to tell me what all this was about as I did not know what it meant in the spiritual realm. For sure, that was my undoing. It is only very much later when harm had been done in my spiritual life and I shared about the dreams with one pastor who told me that the dreams meant a state of backsliding. It is only by the grace of God that I was restored back in my Christian walk as I shared much earlier. My advice to all Christians is that they be careful and watchful with their dreams and not to give them casual treatment. Such dreams as I experienced and many more could be tell-tale signs of one succumbing to trials, some eminent failure or demotion in life, backsliding; and do call for quick and thorough self-examination of one's life and

going into prayer and fasting and of course repenting of one's sins and not excluding rebuking the spirit of failure/ spirit of backsliding (Proverbs 11: 28; 16:18, Psalm 139:23-24)

Sin removes one's spiritual sensitivity so let us be careful and stay away from sin (1 Samuel 2:22, 27-29, 3:1-8). It took the priest Eli long before realizing what was happening that God was the one calling the boy Samuel. Also Eli could not differentiate between serious prayer and drunkenness on the case of the woman Hannah (1 Samuel 1:9 – 16).

CHAPTER 11

Reason # 9: Lack of perseverance in persecutions/opposition

In Christianity there is a lot of persecution on the stand of the Christians in life and therefore without much perseverance on the part of Christians, many find themselves drifting away from the faith and in the process end up backslidden. Because persecution will be there, the only thing for a Christian is to be focused and to persevere and continue in his or her walk of faith without faltering, despite the many challenges, in his or her goal to reach the end of the walk and be with the Lord forever. God our savior will give you and I the grace to move on. If one is not focused, that is, loses focus on Christ Jesus, the Savior, then one is headed to the path of backsliding. We are going to look at some scriptures.

WHEREFORE seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:1-2

God is the one that by grace made us to have faith in his Son Jesus Christ and is the only one who can see us through the end of the race. Jesus Christ saw the joy that was before him which motivated him to endure it all at the cross and cared less about shame than many of us fear and is now seated at the right hand of God in his throne. Other Christians who came before us and have slept saw the joy and glory set before them (at the end of their walk with the Lord) and endured and are just now waiting for the first resurrection/rapture. The next is you and me who are still on the way pressing on, with them they are now witnesses to the race, We therefore need endurance. They, they have done their part. Let's not fear to be ashamed before men, but rather before Christ. To be ashamed before Christ, that is, is to be ashamed beyond words. (Luke 12:8-9).

Also I say unto you, whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God:

But he that denied me before men shall be denied before the angels of God.

Luke 12: 8-9

Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.

For the which cause I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

2 Timothy 1:11-12

If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us.

2 Timothy 2:12

Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;

2 Timothy 1:8

We see that apostle Paul was writing to Timothy this second epistle when he was in prison in Rome and he was anticipating his departure (2 Timothy 4: 6-8).

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all **perseverance** and supplication for all saints.

Ephesians 6: 18b

And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lys'-tra and to I-co'-ni-um, and An'-ti-och.

Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

Acts 14: 21-22

But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, long-suffering, charity, patience, persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at An'-ti-och, at I-co'-ni-um, at Lys'-tra, what persecutions

I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.

2 Timothy 3: 10-13

Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange things happened unto you:

But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; but that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.

But let none of you suffer as a murderer or as a thief, or as an evil doer or as a busy body in other men's matters.

Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.

1 Peter 4:12-16

Perseverance is the commitment to finish what one began even in the face of opposition, resistance and discouragement and is a MUST for a Christian in order to finish the race/journey in the Christian walk.

And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come.

Matthew 10:22-23

If one does not endure in the Lord because of what is happening, one will fall back (backslide) and be lost.

They shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.

And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.

Any many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.

And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and there shall the end come.

Matthew 24:9-14

But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses.

In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in watchings, in fastings;

By pureness, by knowledge, by long-suffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned,
By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left;
By honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report: as deceivers, and yet true;
As unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and, behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed;
As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

2 Corinthians 6:4-10

But even after that we had suffered before, and were shamefully entreated, as ye know, at Phil'-ippi, we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention.

1 Thessalonians 2:2

Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God,

2 Timothy 1:8

And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;

I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.

Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, that the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried, and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

Revelation 2:8-11

CHAPTER 12

The only Remedy: Coming back to the Lord

In conclusion and before I go to a few other factors that may contribute to one's backsliding I wish to say that God is a God of restoration and can restore a repentant backslider back to him.

O ISRAEL, return unto the LORD thy God, for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity.

Take with you words, and turn to the LORD: say unto him, Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously: so we will render the calves of our lips.

Assh'-ur shall not save us; we will not ride upon horses; neither will we say more to the work of our hands, ye are our gods: for in thee the fatherless findeth mercy.

I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely; for mine anger is turned away from him.

I will be as the dew unto Israel: he shall grow as the lily and cast forth his roots as Leb'-a-non.

Hosea 14:1-5

There you are. The Lord is gracious, faithful and loving. He restored me and now can share with you in the books he has enabled me to come up with. He gave me the idea, it was not my thought in the beginning when I came up with the first book “The Christian walk” to share Christian experience.

THEN drew near unto him all the publications and sinners for to hear him.

And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them.

And he spake this parable unto them, saying.

What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?

And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing.

And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbors saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost.

I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle and sweep the house and seek diligently till she find it?

And when she hath found it, she calleth her friends and her neighbors to gather, saying rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost.

Likewise I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.

And he said. A certain man had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father,

Father give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living.

And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country and there wasted his substance with riotous living.

And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land, and he began to be in want. And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.

And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat. And no man gave unto him.

And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,

And I am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants

And he arose, and came to his father but when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

And the son said unto him, father I have sinned against heaven and in thy sight and I am no more worthy to be called thy son.

But the father said to his servants, bring forth the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet:

And bring thither the fatted calf, and kill it, and let us eat, and be merry:

For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost,
and is found

And they began to merry.

Now his elder son was in the field: and as he came and
drew nigh to the house, he had music and dancing.

And he called one of the servants, and asked what these
things meant.

And he said unto him, Thy brother is come; and thy father
hath killed the fatted calf, because he hath received him
safe and sound.

And he was angry, and would not go in: therefore came his
father out, and entreated him.

And he answering said to his father, Lo, these many years
do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy
commandment; and yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I
might make merry with my friends:

But as soon as this thy son was come, which hath devoured
thy living with harlots, though hast killed for him the fatted
calf.

And he said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all
that I have is thine.

It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again, and was lost, and is found.

Luke 15

It was quite a long story but it all points to the fact that God will restore a repentant backslider. What one need to do as a backslider is to come back to one's senses and know the facts- you have gone astray and left your walk, you are far from home with members of your family, then go back where you belonged with an apology (repentance) and you will be gladly welcomed to the fold (God's flock- God's family). If you don't, you will be lost wherever you have gone, which is a foreign country where you don't belong and will meet with strange things.

Don't ever listen to the voice of the enemy whispering to you that your sins are too big or too many or that you have committed the unpardonable sin and therefore God will not forgive you.

Come now, and let us reason, together saith the LORD;
though your sins be scarlet, they shall be as white as snow;
though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

If ye willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:
But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the
sword; for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

Isaiah 1:18-20

God has left an open door for a backslider to come and get
in before the door is closed. (Jeremiah 7:22-24, Ezekiel
33:12-20)

And now what hast thou to do in the way of Egypt, to drink
the waters of Si'-har? Or what hast thou to do in the way of
Assyria, to drink the waters of the river?

Thine own wickedness shall correct thee, and thy
backsliding shall reprove thee: know therefore and see that
it is an evil thing and bitter, that thou hast forsaken the
LORD thy God, and that my fear is not in thee, saith the
Lord God of hosts.

Jeremiah 2:18-19

That is the Lord who was talking to the Israelites. He is also talking now from that scripture as well as to you who is his child.

And the LORD said unto me, The backsliding Israel hath justified herself more than treacherous Judah.

Go and proclaim these words toward the north, and say, Return, thou backsliding Israel, saith the LORD; and I will not cause mine anger to fall upon you: for I am merciful, saith the LORD, and I will not keep anger for ever.

Only acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the LORD thy God, and hast scattered thy ways to the strangers under every green tree, and ye have not obeyed my voice, saith the LORD.

Turn, O backslidden children, saith the LORD; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion:

Jeremiah 3:11-14

There is no point in justifying one's sins as that will not help one at all. One has to acknowledge to God that one has sinned. God requires a backslidden Christian (his child)

to turn back to him to be accepted back. Remember in the book of Genesis (Genesis 3:6-13; 16-19) Adam and Eve after falling into sin, they tried to justify their sins but it did not work, rather, they received judgement which the Lord God pronounced on them.

THE word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, Stand in the gate of the LORD'S house, and proclaim there this word, and say, Hear the word of the LORD, all ye of Judah, that enter at these gates to worship the LORD.

Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, Amend your ways and your doings, and I will cause you to dwell in this place.

Trust ye not in lying words, saying, The temple of the LORD, The temple of the LORD, The temple of the LORD, are these.

For if ye thoroughly amend your ways and doings; if ye thoroughly execute judgement between a man and his neighbor;

If ye oppress not the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, and shed not innocent blood in this place, neither walk after other gods to your hurt:

Behold, ye trust in lying words, that cannot profit.

Will ye steal, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely, and burn incense unto Ba'-al, and walk after other gods whom ye know not;

And come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, We are delivered to do all those abominations?

Is this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your eyes? Behold, even I have seen it, saith the LORD.

Jeremiah 7:1-11

Jeremiah the prophet of God was told to go and proclaim those words at the gates of the temple to his people who had backslidden but kept on going to the temple to 'worship' him. That by merely coming to his temple without a total change of heart will not help them at all. They had to be willing and change, otherwise they will not prosper. They must stop living in sin if at all they expect to be safe. I am a witness of God that it is true. I also behaved just like them and it did not help me at all. I thought continuing to attend church service would help me and also

somehow a miracle would take place automatically in my life, without me taking a bold step to come to true repentance and turning away from my sinful life. At the same time, I went there hypocritically to hide my status (that I had backslidden) and not to withdraw by being among the brethren. But my heart was not there and whenever I came out of church I was not any better. I just felt my heart was somehow hard and I could not get anything from the activities that took place there in the church. It is until I repented to God in tears that I finally got restored back to the Lord. So in case you are in a backslidden state, there is and there will be no shortcut but one must genuinely with a willing heart repent to the Lord asking for forgiveness and very ready to start all over a new clean life and its only then, will one get the peace of God and begin to move from one's stagnancy. In a backslidden state, one is completely stagnant, until one will do something tangible throwing away/brushing away the fear the enemy (Satan) keep on bombarding one with and make one believe there is completely no hope and that God, cannot forgive which is a lie.

Moreover thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the LORD;
Shall they fall, and not arise? Shall he turn away, and not
return?

Why then is this people of Jerusalem slidden back by a
perpetual backsliding? they hold fast deceit, they refuse to
return.

I hearkened and heard, but they spake not aright: no man
repented him of his wickedness, saying, What have I done?
Every one turned to his course, as the horse rusheth into the
battle.

Yea, the stork in the heaven knoweth her appointed times;
and the turtle and the crane and the swallow observe the
time of their coming; but my people know not the judgment
of the LORD.

Jeremiah 8:4-7

God is always looking forward and expecting a backslider
to return back to him but unfortunately many are reluctant
to do so not knowing that God will surely judge all
wickedness. God says such a person is foolish and not wise
and the birds in the air and turtle are better than such a
person or such people. God does not expect one to continue

being in that miserable state but to surely take time and turn around and go back to him. Remember the story of the prodigal son in the book of Luke (Luke 15) that son later became wise after being foolish, by not remaining in his desperate state and came to his senses and decided to go back to his father, who warmly welcomed him home. By remaining backslidden, one actually has lost one's inheritance in God (it is that serious) read this again in the book of Jeremiah (Jeremiah 7: 5-7). If the Lord comes in the rapture of the holy Church and one is still in that backslidden state, one has surely missed it – it is that sad. So we should not procrastinate returning back to the Lord once we know we are out of God's way (The highway of holiness) Read the book of Isaiah (Isaiah 35:8-10). You can only have the peace of God and be with joy, when you are walking in the way of holiness and it will be well with you.

Other factors to watch / be careful about.

1. **Faith:** Hebrews 10: 36-39, 2 Corinthians 13:5, 1 Timothy 4:1, 2 Peter 1: 3-11
2. **Looking back:** Genesis 19:1-26, Luke 9: 61-62, Exodus 14:9-14, 16:1-8, 17:1-7

3. **Witnessing:** Revelation 12:10
4. **Lack of trust:** Numbers 13:1-14: 35
5. **Murmuring:** Numbers 16:41-49
6. **Rebellion:** Numbers 16:1-35
7. **Complaining:** Exodus 15:22-26
8. **Jokes:** 1 Timothy 6:20-21, 2 Timothy 2:16-18, Ephesians 5:4, Judges 14:5-20, Proverbs 26:19
9. **Tricks:** 2 Corinthians 4: 2, Acts 13: 9-10, Ephesians 4:14, Isaiah 29:21, 2 Samuel 11-12:23, Genesis 27:1-45, 29: 1-30, 32:3-21, 33:1-17.
10. **Curses:** Deuteronomy 5:1-10
11. **Social issue:** Genesis 39:7-12, 2 Samuel 13:1-14
12. **Wicked / Ignorant mentality:** Psalm 139: 7-12, Jeremiah 23: 23-24, Job 1:6-7, Revelation 12:10, Hebrews 4:13, 12:1
13. **Loving the world:** 2 Timothy 4:9-12, 1 John 2:15-17, James 4:1-10.

Word of advice: I do recommend to you to read detailed book by myself on the Christian life - “The Christian walk” and now in closing, I wish to state some few things, let us be careful on how we treat each other.

JUDGE not, that ye be not judged.

For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged, and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?

Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, let me pull out the more out of thine eye, and behold, a beam in thine own eye?

Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

Matthew 7:1-5

But why dost thou judge thy brother? Or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

For it is written, As I live saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

Let us not therefore judge one another any more, but judge this rather that no man put a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in his brother's way.

Romans 14:10-13

BRETHREN, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such a one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.

But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.

For every man shall bear his own burdens.

Galatians 6: 1-5

Let the Lord help us on the above. I have heard from some preachers that have said that some Christians have a bad mentality and can decide willfully to sin that they will repent later. If the above is true, then I can say it is a very dangerous thing, like walking on a very slippery road, as

you will definitely waver away/fall from the grace of God. We are going to read from Scriptures that warns on such behaviours.

What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?

God forbid.

How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.

Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

Neither yield ye your member as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

What then? Shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.

Romans 6: 1-2, 10-15

And if any soul sin through ignorance, then he shall bring a she goat of the first year for a sin offering.

And the priest shall make an atonement for the soul that sinneth ignorantly, when he sinneth by ignorance before the LORD, to make an atonement for him, and it shall be forgiven him.

Ye shall have one law for him that sinneth through ignorance, both for him that is born among the children of Israel, and for the stranger that sojourned among them.

But the soul that doeth aught presumptuously, whether he be born in the land, or a stranger, the same reproacheth the LORD, and that soul shall be cut off from among his people.

Because he hath despised the word of the LORD, and hath broken his commandment, that soul shall utterly be cut off; his iniquity shall be upon him.

Numbers 15:27-31

The above is serious and verses 27-29 accepts only sin done ignorantly, though now we need not bring a she goat

to a pastor for atonement of our sin and to get forgiveness, rather, we now have a perfect sacrifice in place at the cross and we have a high priest in the order of Melchizedek Jesus Christ, we have to repent to God through Jesus Christ and our sin is forgiven and we are cleansed by the blood of the Lamb of God. Now when we come to verse 30-31 things seems to have changed dramatically. Read further Hebrews 6:4-6 and 10:26-27. Also read Matthew 12:30-32 and 1 John 5: 16-17.

Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.

John 5:14

When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, woman, where are those thine accusers? Hath no man condemned thee?

She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, neither do I condemn thee: go and sin no more.

John 8:10-11

May the Lord God help us. Backsliding is an enemy of salvation.

God hates backsliding in salvation just as he hates divorce in marriage. On the other hand, Satan hates salvation and marriage as these are institutions of God who initiated them and are his will. Therefore Satan will oppose these at all cost to the end. It is him who if finds any loophole in a Christian will try by all efforts to bring the one down and result in backsliding. He will tempt a Christian in all ways in life and also creates havoc, disunity, misunderstanding, lack of trust in each other and steal place and joy in a marriage in order to break it or to make it unpleasant all together. There is therefore the need of being wary of his advances at all times. Remember the enemy did not tire up in his dealings against Job and showed no mercy on him at all, But thanks be to God the creator of heaven and earth and the only Redeemer of mankind. He restored Job again and Job had the last laugh Satan being badly ashamed as he had done zero work on Job.

13. Carnality / Worldliness

Some Christians have continued to live in carnality/worldliness even after their conversion experience instead of living in godliness as is required of them by God and still live in the flesh (body) allowing to be led by it and not by the Holy Spirit in them which they had received. It was a problem in the early church and is still a problem in the Church of Christ today. This bad tendency is a contributing factor in backsliding of Christians and need to be avoided by heeding to the voice and promptings of the Holy Spirit within. Christianity is all about living in faith and not by sight and being led by the Spirit of God and not the flesh (body), listening to and obeying the Holy Spirit in one's life, which is a life well-pleasing to the Lord. God by His grace has promised and gives the Holy Spirit to his children to assist / help them in this life and Christians only need to allow him to lead them to do God's will.

Carnality retards Christian growth resulting in stagnation and finally spiritual death. Let me now take you to the scriptures.

AND I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.

I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.

For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of A-pol'-los; are ye not carnal?

1 Corinthians 3:1- 4

Now that was Apostle Paul addressing the church at Corinth which had many issues to do with the flesh and not the Spirit. He posed questions to them and I think he must have really pitied them as Christians. These believers were literally walking as mere men (ordinary men) who have not been born again. No wonder their focus was on men and not Christ who saved them and they were living in the flesh not allowing the Holy Spirit to take full control of their lives.

For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.

This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.

Galatians 5:13-26

Apostle Paul had to write and send an epistle to the church in Galatia, which also was not walking right by not living in the Spirit. The apostle had to talk to them at length in his epistle explaining to them the difference in Christian life and ordinary life and the consequences of each and reminding them of the same (as he had already told them earlier). He went further to list to them the things of the flesh (works) and the things of the Spirit (fruit) and advised them to live in the Spirit, walking in the Spirit. You can read further the continuation of the apostle's epistle in chapter six (Galatians 6:1-18).

This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,

Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:

Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

But ye have not so learned Christ;

If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:

That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Ephesians 4:17-24

Even the church at Ephesus had an issue and Apostle Paul wrote an epistle to the church to tell them more about the new life in Christ which they need live and not to live as the Gentiles who have no truth and the life of God in them. This, they needed to do by relinquishing (putting off) the old man sinful Adamic nature of the body and embracing (putting on) the new man- Christ who is created in

righteousness and true holiness (he comes from the Father as His Son) and therefore have all the attributes of God.

Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

Philippians 1:27

Apostle Paul wrote to the church at Philippi that they live a life consistent with the gospel of Christ, that is, Christian life, living and walking in the Spirit.

Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:

In the which, ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.

But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.

Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;

And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

Colossians 3:5-10

The church at Colossae also received an epistle from Apostle Paul on the issue of Christian life which they ought to live by mortifying the members of their body (putting off) the sinful tendencies and putting on the new man Christ (through God's Spirit).

For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.

For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

Romans 8:5-8; 12-13

Same thing to the church in Rome, Apostle Paul advised them to live a Christian life for their own good by mortifying the body (its members) with the Holy Spirit in their possession; so as to avoid spiritual death.

Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?

James 4:4-5

Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

1 John 2:15-17

The above two scriptures are addressed to the Church of Christ by both apostle James and Apostle John and all do speak of one thing- worldliness. The opposite of godliness is worldliness, and worldliness is walking in the flesh and not in the Spirit and loving the world (things) than God who is a spirit- (John 4:24).

Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue:
For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

John 12: 42-43

The prophet Isaiah prophesied that many would not believe in the Son of God and that has and continue to be fulfilled but at the same time some believed and still others continue to believe even today, but the former (the chief rulers) of

that time although they believed in Christ, they did not confess him openly because they feared being put out of the synagogue. It is happening even these days. Many want to please fellow men and get their praise and not please God. Better to please God and be praised by him as he is our Creator. Men are mere creatures. God is Great and Mighty.

Now if you are trying to please men and get their praises and not God, too bad for you. Read these two scriptures on the same (Mark 8:34-38, Revelation 12: 10-11).

1. Fellowshiping

The tendency of not going to Christian fellowships also may contribute to one's backsliding as one will have not fire that keeps on burning in one's soul as one keep on missing the exhortation of the brethren as well their witnesses which are some of the things that encourage much and rekindle the fire in one.

In the early Church we find Christians coming together and fellowship and witness to each other as it is the norm and also remind each other of the need to continue in doing the same. (Acts 2: 46-47, Hebrews 10: 23-25).

Notes to the reader

I take this opportunity to congratulate you for reading this book trusting the Lord has helped you a lot from the materials you have received in it. Do feel free to inform me how it has helped you and also if you have a suggestion to make, using the address below:

Inspirational Publications

P.O. Box 14500 – 00400 Nairobi

Kenya East Africa

Email: inspirepublicly@gmail.com

Cell phone: +254722505468 / +254 736140970

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