

Falling

What can cause a Christian to fall (spiritually)?

Misuse of Scripture

Wicked people will use Scripture to their own destruction, so “beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked.” (2 *Peter 3:17*)

Seeking justification by law

We can fall from grace if we seek justification on the wrong basis (*Galatians 5:4*), and those who reject the good things of God “fall away” and it’s impossible “to renew them again to repentance.” (*Hebrews 6:6*)

Pride and carelessness

An elder must be experienced enough to be humble, “lest he fall into the same condemnation as the devil” and have a good reputation “lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.” 1 *Timothy 3:6-7*

Over-confidence

Temptations are everywhere, as they were for the Israelites in the wilderness. “Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.” (1 *Corinthians 10:12*)

Desire for riches

Those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. (1 *Timothy 6:9*)

Unbridled words

We all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body. (*James 3:2*)

Shallow faith

“Rocky ground” people – those with shallow roots – “fall away in time of temptation.” (*Luke 8:13*)

Lack of diligence

As the Hebrews writer warns, “Be diligent to enter that (heavenly) rest, lest anyone fall after the same example of disobedience.” (*Hebrews 4:11*)

Without due diligence, we can forget that we were purged from our old sins. “Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you do these things, you will never stumble.” (2 *Peter 1:10*)

Invitation:

Revelation 2:5 “Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lamp stand from its place—unless you repent.

Jude 24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,²⁵ To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen.