

The Book of 1 Timothy

Chapter 4

“I Don’t Want To Fall Away”

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One night while putting her 4 year old daughter to bed, a young mother read to her, the story of the Prodigal son.

After the story was read, they talked for a few moments about how the Prodigal son had taken all of his inheritance and left home with it, living it up until all of his money was gone.

Finally when he was eating with the pigs, the young man came to his senses and decided to return home.

After she finished the story, her and her daughter began to discuss the story, when they were finished, the mother asked her young daughter, “Sweetie, what did you learn from this story?”

After thinking for a moment, she answered, “Never leave home with out your credit card!”

Sadly, today we live in a generation of people who no longer rely upon the Lord in their life.

We have departed from a trust in God, as a nation and a people, and even the Church that Jesus died for, has departed from a simple trust in the Word of God and a reliance totally upon the Lord for everything.

Paul wrote:

2 Timothy 3:1-5

1 But know this, that **in the last days perilous times will come:**

2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good,

4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

5 having a form of godliness but denying its power

Peter said:

2 Peter 3:3

knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts

Even Jesus told us:

Luke 18:8

I tell you ... Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, **will He really find faith on the earth?**

As the day of Jesus return for us grows closer, we will see a marked and overwhelming change in the faith of people towards believing in Jesus.

Even those who have claimed to know Jesus and have confessed Him as Lord and Savior of their life, will “*Depart from their Faith in Jesus*”.

It is with this thought of many falling away from Jesus in the last days, that Paul begins our study this morning in 1 Timothy chapter 4:

1 Timothy 4

1 Now **the Spirit expressly says** that in latter times **some will depart from the faith**, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,

Whenever we are studying the Word of God, it is important to remember that we are studying an English translation of the Original Greek language.

- **The word used** for “**Departure**” here is “**Aphistemi**”, in the Greek language. Literally it means “To stand away from” or “To distance oneself from”.
- **The idea here is that in the last days before Jesus returns**, people will begin to distance themselves more and more from a sincere faith and trust in Jesus and His Cross.
- **What I consider most important** about this, is that indication here is that the distancing of a person from a trust in Jesus will happen gradually over a period of time.
- **I do not believe that any person** that has come into a personal relationship with Jesus and has believed that He died for them on the Cross and paid for all of their sins, can just wake up suddenly one morning and decide, “**I no longer want to follow Jesus any longer...**”
- **I believe it begins very subtly**, and over a period of weeks, months or years, they begin, over time, to fall away from the Lord.

Well, the question we should be asking is, “How does this happen, how does it begin?”

Luke 22:28

“But you are those who have **continued with Me** in My trials.

Acts 1:14

These all **continued with one accord in prayer and supplication**, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

Acts 2:42

And they (The New Believers) continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Matthew 10:22

And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. **But he who endures to the end will be saved.**

John 15:4-6

4 **Abide in Me**, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.

1. **The first thing** we have to do to guard our self from falling away from Jesus is we have to make an active daily effort to stay close to Jesus.
2. **The Church that Jesus began**, those that were a part of His church, it says in **Acts 1:14** that they "*They all Continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.*"
3. **Acts 2:42**, "*They continued Steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.*"
 - **They all continued together**, they knew how important it was to gather together every day if possible.
 - **They continued** in The Apostles Doctrine, that is, The Study of the Word of God, in Fellowship, Breaking Bread, eating together (Eating Together, Now that;s what I'm talking about!) and in Prayers.
 - **The key here** is "**They Continued Steadfastly**", these things.

The Word "Steadfastly" is defined as:

1. "*Firm and unwavering in purpose, loyalty, or resolve*"
2. *firmly fixed or constant.*

Acts 2:46

So continuing **daily** with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,

So how consistently did the members of Jesus first church continue in the Study of the Word of God, Fellowship together, Eating Together and Praying Together? EVERYDAY!

- **If we do not have fellowship** with other believers everyday, we immediately can begin to fall away from Jesus.
- **If we don't partake of the Word of God everyday**, we can immediately begin to fall away,
- **So how does it start**, "**FALLING AWAY** from Jesus, A DEPARTURE FROM THE FAITH?"

Just miss church once
Miss an opportunity to fellowship with other believers.
Don't go to Mid week Bible Study

Most of us won't even realize that our falling away has already began.

Hey, trust me on this, it begins exactly the way I have just described it for you this morning.

- **I have observed this with my own eyes**, many times over the last 27 years that I have know Jesus.
- **A person** is gone once from church once, then a couple times, pretty soon you don't see them for weeks or months.
- **Pretty soon** you call them and ask them "**How are You?**" and they tell you "**Everything is OK, I am just really busy right now...**"
- **Some of these, I have observed it**, they eventually just stop believing completely and go totally back into the world.

If you are saying "No way, that will never happen to me..."

Right!, I have heard that so many times!

- **You and I need** to be in church every time the doors are opened.
- **We need constant, uninterrupted fellowship** and teaching in our life or we will fall away.

Why does the Holy Spirit say that this will be a Characteristic of the "Last Days".

- **Because this generation** has more free time than any previous generation.
- **This generation** has More financial resources.
- **Our generation** Is busier Than any generation of people ever to have lived on the Earth.

It is very easy to fall away in these last days, just start missing a few times and then tell me how you feel...

- **I have never seen someone** who begins to miss church and fellowship and the teaching of the Word of God, after several months tell me, "**I am doing the best I ever have with the Lord**"
- **When you can get them to be honest with you**, they always will tell you they feel "Empty, Dry, like they don't even know if they are saved any more."

To "Fall Away from the Lord" is a very serious thing, well, who's responsibility is it to watch out for those that are slowly falling away?

- **"Hey man, it's your responsibility** Pastor Rob, your the pastor man!
- **Well OK, I agree it is my responsibility**, but notice what Paul wrote to the Galatians:

Galatians 6:1

Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, **you who are spiritual** restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

The word “Trespass” here is the “**Paraptoma**” (par-ap’-to-mah) A side slip or a slight lapse or deviation.

- **If a man or woman** is overtaken by just **any lapse or deviation** in their faith or their walk, “*You who are spiritual*” restore such a one...
- **Who** are those Spiritual?
- **Well guess what?** Any person who has accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior is “*Spiritual*”, you are Born Again by the Spirit of God, you are a brand new Creation, you are able to Discern all things...

It is you too Man! It is your responsibility to watch for people that begin to miss church or Bible study or other events we do together.

- **It is your responsibility** to call them up or go and see them and get them back into fellowship.
- **It only takes 1 week away** and we will all begin to fall away.

Now let’s be balanced here, we don’t want to start calling people after one week and hassling them.

- **Just call them up and say** “Hi, how are you, didn’t see you Sunday, are you doing OK. Missed you, see you next week alright”
- **Don’t call them up and say** “Man I’m calling you because you weren’t here last week so you are now in a backslidden position and I just called you up to restore you man!”

No, Paul said that WE ARE TO CALL THEM, but in what attitude? Galatians 6:1: “**...restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness...**”

Back to 1 Timothy 4, Verse 1, notice the rest of that verse...

1 Timothy 4

1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, **giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons**

“Giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons”

- **The Holy Spirit** is telling us the source of this departure from the faith, Demonic influence.

You have heard the story of satan asking his generals to come up with a plan to destroy mankind.

The first general approached satan and told him “I will Tell them there is no God”, satan replied, “No they won’t believe that, every person was created with a knowledge of God in their heart...”

The second general approached with his plan...”I will tell them there is no satan, no hell, you can live any way you want to, it doesn’t matter” “No satan shot back his reply, people were also created with a conscience, they know that there is wrong and that there is a judgment coming...”

The Third general came forward from the back of the room... “I will tell them there is NO HURRY”

“YES shouted satan, that is it. We will convince man that there is a God, that I exist, that there is a judgment ahead, **but we will tell them not to worry about it, they have plenty of time...**

Jesus brother, James said:

James 4:14

whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? **It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.**

The spirit that is upon people that live on the earth today is that there is no hurry to get your life right with God, we have plenty of time, spend all of that time accumulating and buying...don’t worry, THERE IS NO HURRY...

Matthew 24:37-39 NLT

37 “When I, Jesus return, it will be like it was in Noah’s day.

38 In those days before the Flood, the people were enjoying banquets and parties and weddings right up to the time Noah entered his boat.

39 **People didn’t realize what was going to happen until the Flood came and swept them all away.** That is the way it will be when the Son of Man comes.

I will guarantee you that if we had the capacity to see into the future and could see how close the return of Jesus is, it would shake us to our core...He could come at any moment...

And people are still not saved...people who have believed are falling away...

The only security that any of us have is to “Abide, that is stay close and attached to Jesus and each other...”

1 Timothy 4

2 speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,

3 forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.

“Having your conscience seared...”

One of the Medical after effects of a severe 3rd degree burn to a persons hands, is the destruction of the nerves in the hands that allow a person to feel things.

Once the nerves are dead, it is impossible to feel anything.

- **A person can reject** the voice of the Holy Spirit so many times that you are no longer sensitive to Him speak to you.
- **Your Conscience becomes seared** and you are past feeling, past caring, you are completely lost.

Being “Past Feeling” is exactly what Paul warned the Ephesian Christians to watch out for, that once you give yourself over to any lifestyle apart from the Lord, you can become **“Past Feeling”** the Holy spirit any longer...

Ephesians 4:17-19

17 This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, **that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk**, in the futility of their mind,

18 having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;

19 who, **being past feeling**, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

1 Timothy 4

3 forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.

4 For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving;

5 for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

Today, in the church that claims to believe in Jesus, they must not have studied the Word of God because the church has taught for several hundred years that ministers should not marry...

Paul clearly here says that this is one of the things that will happen, those who teach the forbidding of marriage...

2 Monks were in the church archives studying the ancient records of the churches history when one cried out in a loud voice from the back of the room...

“Celebrate, the word is Celebrate”

1 Timothy 4

...and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.

4 For **every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving;**

5 for **it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.**

What does it say? “Every creature of God is good, and NOTHING is to be refused...IF WHAT?

“...it is received with thanksgiving...”

- **So just in case you were wondering** if it was Ok to eat that “Carnitas” or that “Rockzilla Lobster tail at Red Lobster”, Hey GO FOR IT!
- “Every creature of God is good and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving...”

Mark 7:14-15 Jesus Said:

14 When He had called all the multitude to Himself, He said to them, “**Hear Me, everyone, and understand:**

15 **There is nothing that enters a man from outside which can defile him;** but the things which come out of him, those are the things that defile a man.

Jesus showed this same principle that all things are OK to eat, to Peter in a dream. Peter saw a great sheet descend out of heaven, and in it were all of the animals that were forbidden to eat in the Old Testament, that now Jesus was telling Peter to go ahead and eat...

Acts 10:11-15

and saw heaven opened and an object like a great sheet bound at the four corners, descending to him and let down to the earth.

12 **In it were all kinds of four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air.**

13 And a voice came to him, “**Rise, Peter; kill and eat.**”

14 But Peter said, “Not so, Lord! For I have never eaten anything common or unclean.”

15 And a voice spoke to him again the second time, “**What God has cleansed you must not call common.**”

Ever wonder where the tradition of praying to “Bless the Food’ at the beginning of a meal came from? This is it.

“For it is SANCTIFIED, “**Hagiazo**” in Greek, set apart by THE WORD OF GOD and PRAYER...”
It is not declared to be Holy, it is MADE holy by the Lord, through your prayer...

Food in itself has no Moral qualities, but it is Made a Holy quality when you pray and consecrate it to the Lord

The first place you see food being prayed over in the OT is where the people are waiting for Samuel to come and pray over the food before they will eat it...

1 Samuel 9:13

As soon as you come into the city, you will surely find Samuel before he goes up to the high place to eat. **For the people will not eat until he comes, because he must bless the sacrifice; afterward those who are invited will eat.**

Of course in Matthew 14:19 and 15:36, Jesus prays over the loaves and fish before He feeds the people...

The key to this verse is: “If you can return to the Lord, THANKS” for the food you are eating, then it is sanctified. I personally could never be THANKFUL for LIVER, so if I ate it anyway, it would not be sanctified.

Now this doesn't mean you can ask the Lord to Sanctify that big ole plate of Pie and ice cream...and remove all the fat and calories...

1 Timothy 4

6 If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed.

So Paul instruct Timothy who is the pastor of this church that if he teaches the people these principles, he will be a “**Good Minister of Jesus Christ**”

This is what Jesus calls pastors to principally do, they are to teach the people the Word of God

1 Timothy 4

7 But reject profane and old wives' fables, and exercise yourself toward godliness.

8 For **bodily exercise profits a little,** but **godliness is profitable for all things,** having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.

9 This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance.

Next Paul instructs Timothy, and us this morning to reject anything that does not line up with what the Bible has already said.

I am amazed that since the Bible warns against adding anything to what God has already said, that so many of the “**New Religions**” of the last 200 years claim that they have “Supplements” or “Another Gospel” to add to the Bible.

Here Paul warns Timothy and us, to reject ANYTHING that is contrary to what the Bible has already said...

AND NOW A SUBJECT THAT IS DEEP IN THE HEARTS OF PEOPLE TODAY... Exercise and that perfect body!

- **Is it Ok to work out** and tone up those flabby stomachs and sagging, muscles?
- **Paul gives us the answer here...No it is the mark of the Beast!**
- **No, he says** that “*Bodily exercise profits A LITTLE*”

- **There is certainly some benefits** to bodily exercise and taking care of the body, but HEY DON'T OBSESS ON TRYING TO GET THE PERFECT BODY.
- **What is PROFITABLE** for all things is what?
- **“Godly Exercise”**, that is exercising, working on getting the flesh under control, the Temper, the things we look at, what we say, how we say it, our Bible study habits, prayer time, relationship with the Lord, EXERCISING THESE is PROFITABLE FOR ALL THINGS...”

Then Paul finalizes this thought with a statement that he makes when he really wants to emphasize the importance of something...

“And it is a Faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance” In other words, Hey guys listen up this is what is really important, **EXERCISE, WORK ON YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE...**

1 Timothy 4

10 For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe.

Who does verse 10 say that Jesus is the Savior of? *“All Men”*, that is because Men need to be saved, the Ladies, well...they are so sweet...

No This verse makes it clear that When Jesus Died, **WHO WAS HE DYING FOR?** “Every person” that has ever, or will ever be born on the earth, not just a chosen group.

1 Timothy 4

11 These things **command** and **teach**.

12 **Let no one despise your youth**, but **be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity**.

Timothy is still a teenager, and yet he is already the pastor of a church, that Paul is writing this “pastoral Epistle” to, teach him what he needs to do as a pastor.

- **How would you feel** about having a pastor that was only 17 or 18 years old?
- **When I first started with Calvary Chapel**, most of the pastors were Teenagers or in their early 20’s.
- **Many of these teenager Pastors** had churches in the THOUSANDS!
- **Here Paul tells Timothy** that his age is not really the important thing to be concerned about, He is to BE THE EXAMPLE.

This is OUR message today to young people, You can Do anything, why would you want to be just like every other kid who is doing all of the same things. Be different, Stand Up for Jesus, Talk and Live like Jesus did, BE THE EXAMPLE to everyone around you.

“In Word, In Conduct, in Love, in spirit, in Faith, in Purity”

1 Timothy 4

13 Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

“Give attention, focus on”, Reading the Word of God to the Congregation, Exhorting the Congregation from the Scriptures, Teach the Congregation the Doctrines of the Word of God...

Nothing has changed, this is still the primary thing that God has called me to do...Teach the Word of God to you, so that you in turn can know how to live for Jesus, and can be equipped with the Word of God, so that you can teach others...

14 **Do not neglect the gift that is in you**, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.

15 **Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them**, that your progress may be evident to all.

16 **Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them**, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

When Rob And Mike Were just little boys we would put them into the bathtub to wash their hair.

As we lathered up the shampoo, they would always sit in the tub with their heads down.

As they did this, the soap from the shampoo would run into their eyes. I would have the hardest time in getting them to trust me and look up into my eyes.

I told them that if they would keep their eyes focused on me while we did the hair washing, that they wouldn't have the pain of soap in their eyes.

As soon as we started the rinsing process, down the little head would go, an into the eyes the soap would run.

Their trust was overcome by their fear. Even though they knew that Daddy loves them, they had a hard time trusting me when things got scary.

I think that we are all just like this many times. We know that the Lord loves us, we know that He gave His life for us.

We know that if we will just keep our eyes on Jesus and not on whatever is scaring or concerning us, He will take care of us.

As soon as it gets scary, we panic and get our eyes off Jesus and right back on the problem at hand.

Is that you this morning, are you hurting or scared or concerned right now, lift your head back up and look into the eyes of your Daddy.

As the water of the world and all that you fears washes over you, don't put your head down. Let the water of worry run down your back, as you keep your eyes open and focused on Jesus.

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