

EMPLOYERS FOR CHRIST: BACKSLIDING

The Old Testament in the Bible uses the term backsliding/fall away to speak of those who have been near to God but have allowed sin to take them away from Him. Backsliding may manifest itself in several ways, e.g. dropping out of church, losing fervor for the Lord, walking away from a ministry or falling back into old habits. Backsliding may have two meanings:

1. The person is saved but experiencing a temporary period of questioning that we could call a “crisis of faith.”
2. The person was never saved at all but only temporarily behaving as a saved person would. We will call this taking Christianity for a “test drive.”

KEY POINT: BACKSLIDING IS ALWAYS SEEN AS A VERY SERIOUS MATTER

Jeremia 2:19 / Ujeremiya 2:19 / Jeremiah 2:19 “Your wickedness will punish you; your backsliding will rebuke you. Consider then and realize how evil and bitter it is for you when you forsake the Lord your God and have no awe of me,” declares the Lord, the Lord Almighty.”

KEY POINT: WHEN YOU HAVE BACKSLIDED DEAL WITH YOUR SIN IMMEDIATELY

1 Johane 1:9 / 1 kaJohane 1:9 / 1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

KEY POINT: EVEN WHEN YOU HAVE BACKSLIDED HE PROMISES TO FORGIVE

Hosea 14:4 / Hoseya 14:4 / Hosea 14:4 “I will heal their waywardness and love them freely, for My anger has turned away from them.”

KEY POINT: GOD CAN RESTORE YOU WHEN YOU HAVE BACKSLIDED

Jeremia 3:22 / Ujeremiya 3:22 / Jeremiah 3:22 ““Return, faithless people; I will cure you of backsliding.” “Yes, we will come to you, for you are the Lord our God.”

KEY POINT: PRACTICAL WAYS TO DEAL WITH YOUR OWN BACKSLIDING

1. Ask your difficult questions to God rather than using them as excuses to live in rebellion.
2. Study the Word of God with all seriousness.
3. Pray with persistence, openness and honesty.
4. Surround yourself with those whose faith is strong.

REMEMBER:

1. Backsliding is always seen as a very serious matter
2. When you have backslided deal with your sin immediately
3. Even when you have backslided He promises to forgive
4. God can restore you when you have backslided
5. Practical ways to deal with your own backsliding