

# GUARD AGAINST BACKSLIDING

Text: Heb. 10v38

**B**acksliding is the act of receding gradually from your first love. When an individual accepts Jesus Christ as his Lord and personal savior and begin to walk on the path of righteousness by living in obedience to the word of God such a fellow begins to grow in grace. The Holy spirit begin to lead and guide him/ her in the journey of life. The Christian journey is not a bed of roses as it has its high and low points but the assurance of the Father according to the book of Palm 39v18 which says many are the afflictions of the righteous but the Lord delivereth him out of them all, He keepeth all his bones and none of them is broken'. But if at any stage of the Christian life a child of God begins to recede or withdraw gradually from his first love, Jesus Christ because of one challenge or the other then that situation can be referred to as backsliding. The fact that we are children of God does not mean that all things will move smoothly and easy for us, no, that is not the gospel. The fact is as a child of the kingdom you must go through different trials and temptation. We must go through difficult times as a measure of test for our faith, trust and believe in God. But our father has given us a guarantee and assurance that whatever we are going through HE will be with us and see us through. Isaiah 41v10, 43 v1-2.

Now the just shall live by faith but if any man draw back my soul shall have no pleasure in him. Apostle Paul said in 2 Tim. 4v10 – Demas has forsaken me having loved this present world. Demas who had gone back into the world was once a firebrand believer who sent a heartwarming message to the Colossian church – Col. 4v14. Therefore, let everyone who thinks he stands take heed lest he falls.

1 Corinth 10v12. It should be noted that God is not pleased with backsliders- Heb. 10v38. Therefore, we need to make conscious

against backsliding. What to do to guard against backsliding

1. We must constantly thank God for our salvation whatever we don't appreciate will never appreciate us .2. We must be in constant relationship with the Holy Spirit by refusing to grieve him– Eph 4v30.
3. Growing in faith must be deliberate. Faith comes and grows through the word of God. Rom 10v17.
4. Be watchful and prayerful so that you will not fall into temptation – Matt. 26v41.
5. Daily reading of the word of God and meditation will keep us from falling – Joshua 1v8. We must grow up rather than merely going up. Never take an assignment you are not spiritually prepared for. David came against Goliath because he was spiritually prepared. Goliath cursed David in the name of his god but David was prepared because he intimately knew the God that is superior to Goliath's god.
6. Soul winning is key to retaining our salvation because he that winneth a soul is wise. Isaiah 92v1 Associating with firebrand believers will help us retain our fire because iron sharpens iron. Prov. 27v17. Two are better than one, if one falls the other will raise him up but woe to him that is alone. Eccl 4v9-10.8. Be an encourage to the saints – Gal. 6v7.
9. Refuse the temptation of being judgmental of other believers. it is unscriptural and diversionary. Matt. 7v1.
10. Consistently wait on the Lord for strength renewal.

Isaiah 40v31. Guarding our salvation jealously is the best help we give to our soul because without it we cannot reign with Christ on the last day. If you find yourself in the shoes of a backslider, you can simply bow your head now and speak to your father. Ask for mercy and restoration. Promise that henceforth you will return to your first love. But for you that is still strong in the faith say, Father please keep me from falling that I may reign with you on the last day. Read me again next month. God bless you

