

How To Know When You Are Backslidden

Scripture: Heb. 10:35-39

(Doctrine Baptists believe in and practice. "Backslide" mentioned once in Proverbs, three times in Hos., fourteen times in Jer.)

Intro: The word "Backslide" is totally an O.T. word used in a N.T. sense. This word is defined in the N.T. as "carnal" or "draw back" or a "Brother sin". Webster defines it, "to fall off", one who neglects his vows of obedience and falls into sin. To turn gradually from the faith. (Pr. 14:14; Jer. 2:19; 8:5)

1. Backslider compared to a heifer (Hos. 4:16) Stubborn – will not go where owner wants it to go. Stands back when it should go forward. Turns aside when it ought to move straight on. Wiggles and twists in protest. Chafed by the yoke and resents the puncture of the goad.
2. Bitterness can bring hardness. (Heb. 12:15; 3::12-13; Pr. 28:13-14) Go through the motions by wrong motives or by ritualism.

I. When You Are Unhappy In Service (Jn. 16:24; Ps. 144:15) (happy is the people whose God is the Lord)

A. Complain about serving God = church, Christians. (Pr. 16:20) (Who so trusteth in the Lord, happy is he)

1. Demand too much. (Pr. 29:18; 14:21) (He that hath mercy on the poor, happy is he)
2. Deprived too much = more interested in what you get from church than what you put into it. (conviction instead of comfort)

B. Complacent in service of God = satisfied, indifferent. (Jer. 4:18; 5:25)

1. Softening heart = Sensitive
2. Hardening heart = Crystallize. (Pr. 28:13-14)
 - a) Declining from the point reached = "draw back". (Heb. 10:39)
 - b) Destiny is always down or away from God = great injury to self, God's cause.

II. When You Are Unforgiving In Spirit (Mt. 6:14-15)

A. Bitter attitude toward someone. (Heb. 12:15)

1. At work because you're not paid enough or promoted or bonused.
2. At friends because you're not appreciated, treated right.
3. At home because family (wife, kids) rebellious or husband doesn't notice your work, looks. (misery instead of mercy)

B. Bad attitude toward sin. (Jn. 3:19)

1. Unembarrassed when committing it.
2. Unnoticing of your's while criticizing other for it.

III. When You Are Unfaithful In Stewardship (I Cor. 4:2; Eph. 4:28)

- A. Uncommitted to the church = Not neglectful, but simple uncommitted.
 - 1. Its purposes = none greater in which to involve self. Greatest use of life.
 - 2. Its pursuits = none greater in which to include self. Great use of energies.
- B. Unconcerned about the Christless. (Ps. 126:5-6) (Not indifferent but simply wont go)
 - 1. Give no witness. (Eccl. 11:6)
 - 2. Give no invitation. (II Pet. 3:9)
 - 3. Give no prayer. (Ro. 10:1-2)

Selfish instead of Spiritual