

Take Heed Lest Ye Fall

I. Introduction

- A. 1 Corinthians 10 speaks of the exodus generation of Israelites, who, as God's special people, were delivered by Him from bondage. Yet, because of their disobedience, these Israelites fell in the wilderness. After noting *their* downfall, the Holy Spirit through Paul exhorts Christians to take heed lest *we* fall. **1 Corinthians 10:12**
- B. Consider some things that can lead to our downfall if we allow them to, and some things God says about overcoming them.

II. Pride

- A. Scripture repeatedly affirms that pride comes before a fall (cf. **Prov. 16:18**). Examples abound that demonstrate this principle (Uzziah, Nebuchadnezzar, Haman, Herod, etc.). **1 Timothy 3:6**
- B. Pride can hinder one from seeing the depth of his or her need for God. **1 Timothy 6:17; Matthew 5:3**
- C. If a Christian is not careful, he or she can be too proud to see sin in self, or too proud to admit when wrong or change as needed. Pride could also lead to over-confidence that opposes the vigilance needed to avoid sin. All of this is overcome by humbling ourselves as we should. **Luke 18:9-14**

III. Trials

- A. Satan can also use trials to tempt us to fall. The seed that fell in the stony places in Jesus' "Parable of the Sower" demonstrates that many allow trials to be their downfall. **Matthew 13:21**
- B. This was Satan's intention with the trials he placed before Job. While Job's wife showed the attitude of many toward trials, Job demonstrated the deep faith God demands of us, which is not contingent on things always going our way. As Job came to learn, trials are a time to lean more heavily on God, rather than turning against Him. **Job 2:9-10**

IV. Stumbling Blocks

- A. Job's wife exemplifies how others can tempt us to fall. Scripture affirms that sinful influences create stumbling blocks for others. **Luke 17:1-2**
- B. Part of the cause given for church discipline is to avoid a situation in which a brother is a stumbling block for others. Promoting false teachings in particular creates a stumbling block that often leads others to fall. **Romans 16:17**
- C. The destructiveness of false teaching makes it imperative to guard against accepting teachings that contradict the truth God's given. **1 John 4:1**

V. Worldliness

- A. Another cause of falling is turning to worldliness, as Demas did. **2 Timothy 4:10**
- B. Temporal pursuits, pleasures, cares, etc., must be kept in their proper place. When these things get in the way of our service to God, they hinder the Word of God from affecting our lives as it should. **Matthew 13:22; Luke 8:14**

VI. Greed

- A. Part of the "thorns of life" that Jesus' parable show can get in the way are earthly riches. **Luke 8:14**
- B. While riches aren't wrong in themselves, a wrong attitude toward riches is a recipe for a fall. **1 Timothy 6:9-10**

VII. Conclusion

- A. Because of God's faithfulness, we *need* not fall (cf. **1 Cor. 10:13**), but to avoid falling, we must be vigilant. As the Spirit exhorts, may we each take heed lest we fall. **1 Corinthians 10:12**