

How to Avoid the Falling Away in the End Time

By Robert I. Adams

When Jesus spoke of the end time, He said, "At that time many will fall away" (Matt. 24:10, NASB)

According to Jesus, many who believe in him will turn away from the faith in the last days. This is not something Jesus wants to happen, but He said it would occur because He knows what the future holds.

What will cause the falling away? The verse before and the verse after reveal two causes:

In verse 9, Jesus said, "Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name." It's then Jesus said, "At that time many will fall away." In other words, persecution will cause some believers to fall away.

Jesus also spoke of falling away due to persecution in Matthew 13 in the parable of the sower. He said of those who receive the Word of God, but develop no firm roots in the faith: "When affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he falls away." Jesus shows here that believers who lack depth in their faith fall away when persecution comes.

For the second cause, let's go back to Matthew 24. When Jesus said, "At that time many will fall away," He went on to say in the next verse, "Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many". Then in verse 24, He said, "False prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders." By these means, they will attempt to deceive those who belong to Jesus. In other words, deception will cause other believers to fall away.

In accordance to the words of Jesus, the apostle Paul predicted that false teaching would deceive believers into falling away from the faith. He wrote, "But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons" (1 Tim. 4:1).

Thus, we see Satan uses two tactics to try to make believers in Christ's church fall away. They are *deception* from within and *persecution* from without.

Let's look at a few exhortations from the Scriptures, which, if we act on them, will help us not fall away in the end time:

Jesus said, "Take heed, keep on the alert" (Mark 13:33). We must stay awake and be vigilant spiritually speaking. He also said, "See to it that no one misleads you" (Mark 13:5). We need to be careful whom we listen to! Don't let anyone draw you away from the message of Jesus. Scripture also says, "We must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it" (Heb. 2:1). Being alert and

paying attention to the teaching of Jesus and His apostles will help us keep the faith in the end time.

After telling us to be alert in Mark 13, Jesus said, "and pray" (NKJV). The apostle Paul follows up by writing that we should be "praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints" (Eph. 6:18). Prayer is the life-breath of a believer. Therefore, keep praying for help, wisdom and strength both for yourself and all the saints. Prayer will help you stand when others fall away in the end time.

Another exhortation is found in 1 John 4:1: "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world." We need to discern what is of God and what is not of Him.

As we draw closer to the return of Christ, we also need to learn to "endure hardship" (2 Tim. 2:3). This is because "all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution" (2 Tim. 3:12). When Jesus talked about persecution in the end time, He said, "But he who endures to the end shall be saved" (Mark 13:13). By the help of the Holy Spirit, we can be strong and endure hardship in the trials of the last days. When persecution comes, we will not fall away.

Thus, the key words we need to act on to not fall away in the end time are:

Watch, pray, discern, and endure.

We are to do all four as we "grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" (2 Pet. 3:18). This will help us not to follow false teachers who cause people to fall away, and when persecution comes, we will be able to stand.

At your service,

[Last Days Detective](#) - with an eye on the end time