

THE BIBLE VIEW

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Volume: 704 May 2, 2019

Don't Quit!

Bill Brinkworth

"To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. In the LORD put I my trust: how say ye to my soul, Flee as a bird to your mountain?" Psalm 11:1

Psalm 11 finds David in a situation that many find themselves in today. David was facing trouble and trials, and those around the King urged him to flee to a safer place (vs. 1).

Many fall for the temptation to run from trouble forget one truth. An unsolved problem usually follows one where ever one flees. Often, those that run away from a situation face the consequences from a poor decision or repeat performances much of their lives.

Many times those that give up in a marriage find that they also have problems in the second, third ... marriage. Often a marriage split-up is not just one-sided. Both partners often could do things differently to make the partnership work. Since a problem in the relationship was never

solved, it will be easier to quit on the next attempt in committing with a spouse.

Those that do not do well in school often want to flee its challenges and sometimes do. Rather than staying and improving studying and disciplining themselves to be a better student, they quit. However, they may find themselves wanting to run from a job in the future because the load at work was “too hard.” Once one runs away from a situation, it is easier to do it again.

Perhaps a problem with peers pressures a student to run away from school. At the time it may have seemed like an option to avoid the situation. No matter what one does for a living, they most likely will have problems with those that they work with much of their life. There will usually be someone with whom they do not get along. Staying and working out a people problem when it first occurs may prevent it from happening again in the future. If a situation is dealt with properly the first time, there may not be a second, third ... time.

Some may get frustrated living the Christian life and want to “quit.” Holy Spirit led convicting on discontinuing a sin or changes to one’s lifestyle may seem too overwhelming, so they want to flee the uneasy feeling they are facing. However, if one is saved one cannot get unsaved, so quitting is really not an option. Further backsliding from the Lord may most likely result.

Many find that when there is a problem in life they blame another party. It seems it is never their fault. In their mind, they make another person responsible for what happened and go through life pinning fault on someone else. Again, their lack of solving situations follows them through their life.

Very little is solved by ignoring or fleeing a problem. It must be faced and dealt with, or it most likely will be one's stumbling block the rest of one's life.

“God doesn't give us what we can handle; God helps us handle what we are given.” — *Author Unknown*

Hymn Writer Loses Joy of Salvation

H. Bosch

Robert Robinson, author of the hymn “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing,” lost the happy communion with the Saviour he had once enjoyed, and in his declining years, he wandered into the byways of sin. As a result, he became deeply troubled in spirit. Hoping to relieve his mind, he decided to travel.

In the course of his journeys, he became acquainted with a young woman on spiritual matters, and so she asked him what he thought of a hymn she had just been reading. To his astonishment he found it to be none other than his composition. He tried to evade her questions, but she continued to press him for a response.

Suddenly he began to weep. With tears streaming down his checks, he said, "I am the man who wrote that hymn many years ago. I'd give anything to experience again the joy I knew then." Although greatly surprised, she reassured him that the "streams of mercy" mentioned in his song still flowed. Mr. Robinson was deeply touched. Turning his "wandering heart" to the Lord, he was restored to full fellowship.

Come, Thou Fount *Hymn writer Robert Robinson*

(1) *Come, Thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount —
I'm fixed upon it —
Mount of Thy redeeming love.*

(3) *O to grace how great a debtor,
Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let Thy goodness, like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it;
Seal it for Thy courts above.*

Definition of “Backsliding”

Noah Webster, 1828

Backsliding: The act of apostatizing [*to forsake principles or faith which one has professed*] from faith or practice.

“If you are not as close to God or as “spiritual” as you once were, you are most likely backslidden.”

Causes of Backsliding

W. M. Punshon

- ? Was it the spirit of slothfulness that seized you? Did you shrink from the effort of continued resistance to evil and of prayerful watchfulness against your insidious sin?
- ? Was it self-complacency which took possession of your heart?
- ? Was it anger that seized and shook you in its petulant grasp, because you were not “appreciated” by your friends?
- ? Was it because you envied pre-eminence that was denied you?
- ? Was it the spirit of indifference which exhausted your recent energy?
- ? Was it your rebellion to the godly advice you were given?
- ? Were your convictions superficial things that only touched the surface of your nature, but did not come from your heart?

From these, and similar causes, many have rested in their ease or retreated until they have lost their joy, and usefulness for God's work and cause.

“Sin will always take you lower than you have ever expected to go, and will cost you far more than you would ever have thought you would pay.”

Signs of Backsliding

C. Buck

- Indifference to prayer and self-examination of one's spiritual condition
- Trifling or unprofitable conversation
- Shunning the people of God
- Associating with the world
- Taking the commission of sin lightly
- Neglecting one's Bible-reading
- Immorality

Consequences of Backsliding

C. Buck

- Loss of character
- Loss of comfort
- Loss of usefulness
- Loss of answer to prayer
- Loss of the power of God on one's life
- Loss of being used by God the way He intended to use you

- And as long as any remain in a backslidden state, a loss of well-grounded hope of future happiness.