

# REMAINING FAITHFUL

March 5, 2017 PM Sermon | Don E. Smith

## I. A CHRISTIAN CAN FALL:

- A. Calvinists teach the doctrine of the “perseverance of the saints.” This means that once one is saved, he cannot fall from grace. Although this doctrine is widely believed by many among the denominations, the Bible does not teach it!
- B. The Bible abounds with warnings that the child of God can be tempted, sin, fall away, and be lost eternally.
  - 1. Adam and Eve fell from their standing with God when they sinned. (Genesis 3).
  - 2. David, the “man after God’s own heart,” sinned when he committed adultery with Bathsheba and murdered her husband Uriah. Had he not repented, he would have been eternally lost (II Samuel 12 and 13).
  - 3. Solomon fell from his good standing with God when he wasted astray by his foreign wives and served idols (I Chronicles 28:9, I Kings 11:1-13).
  - 4. Judas, an apostle of Jesus Christ, fell from his privileged position when he betrayed the Savior for a few pieces of silver (Luke 22:1-6, Acts 1:15-18).
  - 5. Ananias and Sapphira, members of the church of Christ in Jerusalem, fell when they lied to the Holy Spirit and perished in their sin (Acts 5:1-11).
  - 6. Simon the Sorcerer sinned when he sought to buy the gift of the Holy Spirit with money. (Acts 8:12-24).
  - 7. Paul spoke of Hymenaeus and Alexander who had made shipwreck of the faith (I Timothy 1:19, 20).
- C. “Wherefore, let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall” (I Corinthians 10:12).

## II. A CHILD OF GOD NEED NOT FALL

- A. Even though a child of God is subject to sin and can thereby fall from grace and be lost, he need not fall.
  - 1. “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to men: but God is faithful, who will not

suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it” (I Corinthians 10:13).

- 2. “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (I John 1:9). This confession implies repentance on our part (Acts 8:22).
- B. Christians have a “great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God.” (Hebrews 4:14-16).

## III. WHAT CAN WE DO?

- A. What can we do to remain faithful? (1 Timothy 2:4). Nothing can sever the child of God from God’s love (Romans 8:31-39).
- B. Christians must “**take time to be holy.**”
  - 1. Time needs to be spent with God daily in the reading and studying of his Holy Word.
  - 2. If Christians will “search the Scriptures daily,” they will not be led astray by false teachers (Acts 17:11).
  - 3. “Meditate on God’s Word day and night,” they will not be led in the way of the ungodly, the sinners, or the scornful (Psalm 1).
  - 4. “Hide God’s word in their hearts” (Psalm 119:11; Matthew 4:1-11).
- C. Prayer will also keep one close to the Lord. (James 5:17; 18; Daniel 6:10,11; II Thessalonians 1:3,3:1).
- D. Regular attendance at all assemblies of the saints is essential if Christians are to remain true to the Lord. (Heb.10:25).

Finally, if Bible reading, prayerful, worshipping children of God give themselves to “good works” they can be secure in their salvation. Idle hands are indeed “the devil’s workshop” but if one is busy with the Master’s business, he is not likely to go astray (Titus 2:14; Ephesians 10).

Christians have Christ, the hope of glory, living in them (Colossians ~7). They have a living hope of an inheritance in heaven (I Peter 1:3-5).