

FALLING AWAY FROM THE FAITH (Part #2)

In (1 Tim.4:1), Paul gave a prophetic warning of times of apostasy during the Church Age (CA). Paul described this apostasy as “falling away from (aphistemi/ f.a.ind.3pl) the faith.”

Paul described this apostasy as “**Falling Away from the Faith.**” We introduced this subject in our last lesson.

This lesson will study four aspects of a modern day example of apostasy of Falling Away from the Faith.

1. Falling away from the faith (aphistemi/ f.m.ind.3pl) is abandoning a new covenant church age grace doctrine for another doctrine that opposes either the doctrine of Grace or the grace application of that doctrine.

An example comes from the early church. The main issue of the Jerusalem conference was the conflict over the mechanics of salvation (Acts 15:1-11).

- One group from the **sect of the Pharisees** taught that a person had to believe the gospel and be circumcised, under the Mosaic Law (ML), in order to be saved (Acts 15:1, 5). This was being taught by this group in Jerusalem Christian Church.
- The other group, headed by Paul and Barnabas taught that a person was saved by God’s grace through faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ (Acts 15:7-11).

The apostles and elders signed-off on the following agreement regarding this issue (Acts 15:22-29). “But we believe that we are saved though the grace of the lord Jesus, in the same way as they also are.” (Acts 5:11) [Jews and Gentiles alike]

2. However, many within this sect of the Pharisees fell away from this doctrinal position of faith.

They left the Jerusalem Conference and established opposing legalistic salvation doctrines.

This group began attacking the gospel of grace salvation taught in the Grace Christian Churches.

An example of this conflict between law and grace occurred in the Church of Galatia (Gal.1:6-8; 2:4-5, 9-16).

- **The Purpose of the Mosaic Law (ML):**
 - (Gal.3:24-25) “Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.” (Heb.10:1)
- **The Works of the Mosaic Law (ML):**
 - (Gal.2:16) “Nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified.” (Rom.3:20-24)
- **The Danger of the Mosaic Law (ML):**
 - (Gal.5:9) “A little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough.”

3. There are three areas of New Covenant (NC) Church Age (CA) Grace Doctrines that must never be abandoned or compromised in the Christian way of life.

There are two doctrinal principles of faith that are important to these three areas.

- 1st Faith must have a working object that functions by grace.
- 2nd Therefore the object of faith always does the work.

These three must always line-up with grace.

Grace Salvation: The object of faith is **The Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

- Message Gospel (1 Cor.15:3-4) The finished work of Christ on Cross (Jn.19:30) (perf.p.ind.3ps).
- Mechanics Believe gospel (Rom.1:16) Faith without any human work or merit.
- Means Saved by grace through faith (Eph.2:8-9)

Grace Spirituality: The object of faith is **the ministry of the Indwelling Holy Spirit.**

- Message Indwelling ministry of The Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:19-20; Gal.3:1-5; Rom.8:11; Jn.14:16)
- Mechanics Walking by means of indwelling Holy Spirit (Gal.3:3; 5:16-17, 22-23).
- Means Confession of personal sin because of carnality (1 Cor.3:1-3; Gal.5:17; 1 John 1:9, 7, 5).

Spiritual Growth: The object of faith is **Categorical Bible Doctrines of the Christian Way of Life.**

- Message Grow in grace and knowledge of word of God (2 Pet.3:18; Ps.119:11, 105; Heb.4:12).
- Mechanics Four stages of spiritual growth by faith cycle:
 - Brephos Baby (1Pet.1:23; 2:2)
 - Nepios Childhood (Heb.5:13; 1 Cor.3:1)
 - Teknon Immature adult (Gal.4:19; 2 Tim.2:1)
 - Teleios Mature adult (Heb.5:14; Eph.4:13-14).
- Means – walking by faith not by sight (2 Cor.5:7; Col.2:6-8).

(Gal.5:1) “It was for freedom that Christ set you free; therefore, keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.” (Gal.5:1-6)

This attack of legalism upon grace had political teeth 20 years later against Paul (Acts 21-28/ 20:20-31).