

Steps to Unbelief

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I. Concerns about modern Christianity.

A. Most Christians are concerned about their standard of living and safety while Christ calls us to abandon everything to follow Him.

B. Most Christians play church while the enemy plays for keeps.

C. It is becoming more difficult to tell the Christian from the non-Christian.

D. Charity, love, service, redemption, grace, gospel, and faith have all become marginalized in our society.

E. God called Jeremiah to speak for Him and influence others, not be influenced by them. (Jeremiah 15:19)

F. The Gospel is simple and we are tempted to complicate it. (II Corinthians 11:3)

G. One person radically committed to Christ can touch thousands of life.

H. A great falling away will occur before the return of Christ. (II Thessalonians 2:3)

I. Many bad things will happen before the return of Christ. (II Timothy 3:1-3)

J. The lawlessness of the last days will cause men's love to grow cold. (Matthew 24:1-12)

K. Falling away from Christ does not happen all at once, but it is a process.

L. Process of falling away from Christ:

1. Stop talking about Jesus Christ.
2. Wrong priorities.
3. Less fellowship with like-minded believers.
4. Begin to say 'yes' to things you used to say 'no' to.

II. The Steps on the Path to Unbelief. (Psalm 106)

A. The Israelites believed His words in Psalm 106:12, but despised the land and had no faith in God's promise in Psalm 106:24.

B. Steps to Unbelief in Psalm 106:13-24:

1. Forgetting His works and committing the sin of ungratefulness against God.

(Psalm 106:13)

- a. Ungratefulness is a major sin. (Romans 1:21, 29)
- b. God wants our true thanks. (Psalm 50:14-15)
- c. Ungratefulness to God leads to being ungrateful to other people.

2. Waiting not for His counsel and being impatient. (Psalm 106:13)

- a. He who believes will not be hurried. (Isaiah 28:16)
- b. Do not be impatient for the Lord to act and He will act in due season.

(Psalm 37:24)

- c. Being overhasty is a sin. (Proverbs 19:2)
- d. When you do not wait for God's counsel, you will seek men's counsel.
- e. Rebellious children take counsel, but not from God. (Isaiah 30:1)
- f. Are we afraid that we cannot get counsel from God?
- g. Some refuse to seek counsel from God or man – they are self-sufficient.
- h. Do not be proud, but be humble. (Romans 11:20)
- i. There is no place for human pride in the presence of God. (I Corinthians 1:29)
- j. The thing God hates the most is a proud look. (Proverbs 6:16-19)

3. Loving the world (Psalm 106:14-15)

- a. Do not love the world. (I John 2:15-16)
- b. Esau and Samson both forfeited their inheritance because of their love for the world.
- c. The love of money is the root of all evil. (I Timothy 6:10)
- d. Wealth will not help on Judgment Day, only righteousness will.

(Proverbs 11:4)

- e. Trust in your money and down you go. (Proverbs 11:28)
- f. Throw away your money for it will have no value in Judgment Day.

(Ezekiel 7:19)

g. Do not worry about getting rich. (Proverbs 23:4-5)

h. What are you giving your life for?

i. God gave the Israelites their request but sent them a plague. God will sometimes give us what we want to teach us a lesson. (Psalm 106:15)

4. Jealousy and envy (Psalm 106:16)

a. The opposite of jealousy is contentment in what God has given us.

b. Envy is a feeling of discontent because of someone else and what they have.

c. It was the envy of Jesus' enemies that caused them to turn Him over and crucify Him.

d. Cain was jealous of Abel, Joseph's brothers were jealous of Him, Jews were jealous of Paul's ministry.

e. Envy is the opposite of love.

f. Envy rots the bone. (Proverbs 14:30)

5. Idolatry. (Psalm 106:19)

a. A man's god is that which he thinks is most important.

b. We become like what we worship. (Psalm 115:4-8)

c. Covetousness is idolatry. (Colossians 3:5)

d. Idolatry involves falling in love with strangers and rejecting the love of God. (Jeremiah 2:25)

6. Despising what God has provided for us. (Psalm 106:24)

7. Believing not God's Word. (Psalm 106:24)

a. This is what the enemy suggested to Eve in the Garden and to Jesus in the desert.

b. Results of not believing God's Word:

1. People who refuse to believe God's promises sit it out instead of sweating it out.

2. They complain. (Jude 16)

a. Be careful before you complain about what God has done for you. (I Corinthians 10:10)

3. They quit listening to God.

a. He that does not listen to God is ineffective in prayer.

(Proverbs 28:9)

4. Sexual sins begin to creep in. (Psalm 106:28)

5. Disobedience leads to death and destruction. (Psalm 106:34, 37-38)

III. The Road Back to Belief

A. The Heart.

1. Ezra prepared His heart. (Ezra 7:10)

2. David's heart was fixed. (Psalm 57:7)

3. The Israelites' hearts were divided. (Hosea 10:2)

4. Set your heart on things above not on the things of the earth. (Colossians 3)

5. Where is your heart set?

B. Recognize the reality of the battle.

1. The battle never gets any easier.

2. The flesh continues to battle us and we must be a living sacrifice and be transformed the renewing of our minds. (Romans 12:1-2)

3. Jesus calls us to take up our cross daily. (Luke 9:23)

4. The Word of God will keep you from sin and sin will keep you from the Word of God.

5. Be sensitive to your condition. (Isaiah 42:25, Hosea 7:9)

6. If you are not sensitive to your condition, you will be defeated just as Samson was defeated. (Judges 16:20)

7. We have to be equipped with the Sword of the Spirit. (Ephesians 6:17, Hebrews 4:12)

C. Confess our sins to God and receive His forgiveness.

1. God forgives our sins when we confess our sins. (I John 1:9)

2. When we don't receive God's forgiveness after our confession, we denigrate the value of the blood of Christ.

3. We must remember that God has cast our sins behind His back. (Isaiah 38:17)

D. Praise to God.

1. God remembered His covenant even though the Israelites forgot. (Psalm 106:45)
2. When we are too weak to have any faith left, God will not disown us and will carry out His promises to us. (II Timothy 2:13)

E. Willingness to pay the price of availability.

1. People must have a willingness to pay the price. (Proverbs 18:1)

F. Christian fellowship. (Psalm 106:23)

1. If God has given you a Moses in your life, hang tight to him or her.
2. God is looking for those whose hearts are focused on Him. (II Chronicles 16:9)
3. The Lord is looking for one who does good and seeks after Him. (Psalm 53:2)
4. God cares for those who seek Him. (Psalm 34:14)
5. God has called us to holiness. (I Thessalonians 4:7)
6. We must have holiness to see the Lord. (Hebrews 12:14)
7. God delivers those we pray for. (Job 22:30)
8. A wise man is glad to be instructed. (Proverbs 10:8)