

“For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.” 2 Peter 2:20 KJV



Burdened with sin and shame, sinners hear the Truth and are convinced by the Spirit of Truth of their perilous path. Believing, they cry to God for salvation and are relieved of their burden and given peace and joy in its stead. Like newborns, they cry hungrily for more Truth and understanding. They grow in grace and practice, become capable of digesting the “meat” of God’s Word, but then, they get comfortable with their faith. They assume they can enter into the arena of sin and resist it in their own strength and once again become entangled in its insidious web! They become lazy and apathetic towards their walk with God those who had great testimonies and actively engaged in fellowship, evangelism, and prayer, suddenly begin living worldly and some even forsake the Assembly! What happened? They depended on themselves for their spiritual diet and strength and they found their well dry and their pantry empty! *“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.”* We resist sin and Satan by keeping God’s Word in the forefront of our thought processes. *“In ALL thy ways acknowledge [God] and He shall direct thy paths.”* While there are some things I must do, they can only profit me if I first seek God’s face in prayer and meditation for my strength and Light! You can read your Bible like a book or you can read your Bible like a personal letter; actively imagining God’s intent and emotions are directed at you! Believers who think their faith depends on them will fail! *“Faith cometh by...the WORD OF GOD! And that NOT of yourselves, it is the GIFT of God.”* Obedience to God’s Word is the good stewardship of faith. Satan uses carnal lusts to entice back into the entanglement of sin and death. You’ll never catch a mouse with an unbaited trap, and you use irresistible bait. There’s nothing bad about a mouse eating cheese or peanutbutter, but where he eats it from may be fatal! When believers seek satisfaction in the world they will reap the death of their faith! *“Be not deceived; God is not mocked; whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. Every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”* Their lives become miserable and they have none to depend upon, but themselves when trouble comes. Satan will make sure he does everything he can to keep you from returning to obedience of God’s Word! Obedience IS repentance! He’ll drown out God’s Voice with carnal pleasures and success! Your witness for Christ will become non-existent and no one will know you’re a believer! Your life will be barren of the Spirit’s fruit. Other gods will seat themselves on the throne of your heart and your misery will be worse than the beginning! If you do repent, Satan will withdraw all he has given to draw you away from God until you’re left destitute and miserable! Returning to Truth is much harder than turning to it in the first place, but this Truth still remains absolute, *“Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved!”* Jesus came *“to seek and to save that which was lost.”* He not only seeks, but saves!

The path of Truth is often hard,
With jeering jest and fiery barb,
But faith prevails and keeps the pace,
It perseveres by loving Grace! -CGP

It is God's Word that keeps you steadfast and strong; the love of it, the fellowship around it, the preaching of it, and the sharing of it all work together to fight against the fiery darts of enticement that enflame lust and cause you to burn with carnal desire for the leeks and onions of Egypt! *"Above all, taking the shield of Faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench ALL the fiery darts of the wicked."* Be careful of pleasure! It may be a baited trap!

"Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil." 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22 KJV

C. G. Palmer