

## From One Backslider to Another

(2 Peter 2:20-22)

- Introduction:
1. 2 Peter 2:20-22 warns of the real possibility and serious consequences of falling away from the Lord.
  2. I find it interesting that this was written by Peter, who knew from experience what it meant to turn his back on Jesus.
  3. In this lesson, I want to identify the process that led Peter away from the Lord and his advice he later offered so that this wouldn't happen to others.

### I. Pride

- A. (Mark 14:27-31) "Peter said to Him, 'Even if all are made to stumble, yet I *will not be*.'"
- B. (1 Peter 5:5-6) "Be clothed with humility, for God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Therefore, humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time."

### II. Lack of Vigilance

- A. (Mark 14:32-42) Then He came and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, Simon, are you sleeping? Could you not watch one hour? Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation."
- B. (1 Peter 5:8-9) "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour."

### III. Cowardice & Mediocrity

- A. (Mark 14:54) "But Peter followed Him at a distance."
- B. (1 Peter 4:16) "Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter."

### IV. Denial

- A. (Mark 14:66-71) "Then he began to curse and swear, 'I do not know this Man of whom you speak!'"
- B. (1 Peter 3:15) "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear."

- Conclusion:
1. May we learn from Peter's experience and heed his advice.
  2. And may we also take comfort in the fact that God is a loving and forgiving God.