



ACCM

Bible Study: Thursday, November 15, 2018.

TOPIC: THE BACKSLIDDEN CHRISTIAN Part 7

THE BACKSLIDER'S RESPONSE

TEXT: II Kings 5:15-26.

As we round up this topic of the backslidden Christian, we will want to consider the responses we often get from backsliders who want to remain in their backslidden state. As for the other types of backsliders, which are the sheep, the coin and the son, they were willing to return. However, we have some backsliders who are not willing to return or if they are willing to return, they want to do it on their terms.

There are several examples in the Bible who backslid from their glorious states. Examples like Gehazi, Adam and Eve, King Saul, Ananias and Saphira etc.

If we are going to understand the backslidden state of a backslider and be able to help him or her, we must understand that backsliding is more of a spiritual challenge than physical one. (A person could be dying spiritually but all around him, things might look upscale fancy) Also, we must know that God hates backsliding. **Heb 10:38**. I did not

say God hate backsliders. If we know this, we must make adequate spiritual and physical efforts to restore a backslider

OUTLINE:

A. How do you approach a backslider in a discussion?

- I. Never allow your discussion to negatively cascade into an argument. **II Tim 2:16-18, Titus 1:14**
- II. In your discussion with a backslider, stay on the topic. **I Tim 6:20-21, II Cor 10:5**
- III. Let them see the forgiving power of God. **Micah 7:19, Psalm 103:12, Isaiah 5:7, Phil 3:13**
- IV. Stay constantly in the spirit. **Gal 5:16-17**
- V. Never allow anger to take over but clear understanding and empathy. **John 5:6, Gen 3:21-23**

B. The backslider's responses and reasons why some never return

- I. Outright denial: **Acts 5:7-9, II Kings 5:25.**
- II. Shame and self condemnation: **Luke 15:21, Gen 2:25.**
- III. Begin to judge and blame others: **Exodus 32:22-23, Gen 3:12-13, I Sam 15:15**
- IV. Giving peripheral answers: **Exodus 32:24.**
- V. They explore short cuts. (Go to churches that will accommodate them) **I Sam 28:6-7, Luke 15:15-16, I Sam 15:30**
- VI. They feign righteousness: **I Sam 15: 21**

CONCLUSION: At the beginning of this study, we made it clear that he that wins souls is wise. Prov 11:30. It will excite heaven when we undertake the business of soul restoration. Just like soul winning, you must know what you are getting involved in when you choose to counsel a backslider with a view to restore him or her. It takes a lot of tact and prayerful preparation. It is not an entertainment or an operation we should undertake without prayers. If not properly done it could lead to a complete loss of the backslider and sometimes the helper goes into depression.