

Simply Christ
Gospel Newsletter
Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

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False Scenarios

Thirty-five years ago, a man questioned me about the following scenario. “There was man, who had once been an alcoholic, but was now saved and walking in the grace of God. One day his drive took him by a nightclub, and he decided to go in to refresh old memories. Soon he became overwhelmed with temptation just to take one drink. One drink led to another, and before long the man was drunk. He was then seduced by a prostitute, and while in the act of adultery, the police raided the establishment. Shots were fired, and the man was accidentally killed. Would God send this man to hell just because he was overcome with one temptation?”

The man who presented this scenario expected me to argue as to whether God would send a man to Hell based upon his failure in one temptation, but I did not. Instead, I told him “It never happened.” “How do you know it never happened?” the man asked. I replied, “Because you said this man was walking in the grace of God. The Bible says, *“...sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.”* Romans 6:14. If this man was walking in the grace of God, sin would have had no power over him.

A few years ago, Swaggart Ministries was presented with a similar scenario. "Let's say a Christian has their faith in Jesus Christ and Him crucified and loves God, but gives in to temptation and commits adultery. Well, if Jesus raptures the church while they are in the middle of committing adultery, will they go in the rapture?" The answer they gave to this question was both dangerous and appalling. They said, a man could be in the act of adultery at the moment Jesus returned for His people, and Jesus would accept the adulterous man "...if his faith is anchored in Christ."

In later broadcasts, the Swaggart ministers laid out a very wise sounding and convincing argument as to why this man who was in the act of adultery would be received by God. The only thing which stood in the way of their wisdom was the word of God itself. As the Apostle Paul reminds us, "*Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, ...shall inherit the kingdom of God.*" I Corinthians 6:9.

In both the scenarios mentioned above, we are asked to believe that the man in adultery is "walking in God's grace" and/or "his faith is anchored in Christ." Both of these are mere assumptions and absurdities. If the man in either scenario ever truly knew God, before he could in up in adultery, something had already gone very wrong with his walk with God.

What many Christian people fail to understand is "sin is not the cause of a person's backsliding, but the evidence of their fall from grace." When the

Apostle Paul warned the Galatians of the consequences of turning from Christ to trust in circumcision and the Law, he said, **“Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.”**

Galatians 5:4. Christ becoming *“of no effect unto you”* and *“fallen from grace”* are synonymous statements. The *“effect”* of Christ in God’s people is that he cleanses our heart from sin and delivers us from the power of darkness. Colossians 1:13. He is the one who *“...is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy.”* Jude 1:24. If Christ becomes of no effect unto us, we struggle to keep ourselves because we are no longer kept by grace.

When a person who has truly known Christ is found in the clutches of sin, that sin is not the cause of their fall from grace, but the result of their fall. Those who walk in the grace of God are *“...kept by the power of God through faith...”* I Peter 1:5. If they are turned from the grace of God, the only thing they have to keep them is their own determination and will-power. It is then only a matter of time before they succumb to the relentless assault of sin that has returned to work in their heart.

Jesus said, *“Abide in me, and I in you.”* John 15:4. This is the secret of the victorious Christian walk. Fellowship Christ and seek him each day of your life. Believe the truth of the gospel and stand upon it. Those who walk in such a manner need not fear sin nor Satan because their *“...life is hid*

with Christ in God” Colossians 3:3, and he keeps them from falling.