

Five Ways to Fall Short

Five Ways to Fall Short

- This sermon is titled: Five Ways to Fall Short.
- It is not titled: Five Ways Denominations, Liberals, False Teachers, and Sinners Fall Short.
- It is spiritually wearying and discouraging to see how instinctively and automatically we apply the word of God to others, when God wills that we begin every application of every text with the edification and examination of ourselves.
- 1Cor. 9:27 - “But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.”

Five Ways to Fall Short

- Jesus supplied us with the means to reach the goal
 - Heb. 5:8-9 - “Though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. 9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him”

Five Ways to Fall Short

- When one falls short, he becomes responsible
 - 2Thes. 1:8-9 - “In flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power”

By Doing What God Has Forbidden Us To Do

- “As long as your sin breaks your heart, as long as your disobedience makes you lie awake nights and wet your pillow in tears there is hope for you. But when you become contented with your wickedness, when you come to believe that it is the best possible for you, then you are in danger indeed.” (Clovis Chappell)

By Doing What God Has Forbidden Us To Do

- Bible examples:

- Adam and Eve - Gen. 3:1-19

- Lot's wife - Gen. 19:17, 24-26 - "So it came to pass, when they had brought them outside, that he said, Escape for your life! Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed... 24 Then the LORD rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the LORD out of the heavens. 25 So He overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. 26 But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt."

By Doing What God Has Forbidden Us To Do

- Bible examples:
 - Jeroboam - 1Kings 12:26-30 - “And Jeroboam said in his heart, Now the kingdom may return to the house of David: 27 If these people go up to offer sacrifices in the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, then the heart of this people will turn back to their lord, Rehoboam king of Judah, and they will kill me and go back to Rehoboam king of Judah. 28 Therefore the king asked advice, made two calves of gold, and said to the people, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, O Israel, which brought you up from the land of Egypt! 29 And he set up one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan. 30 Now this thing became a sin, for the people went to worship before the one as far as Dan.”

By Doing What God Has Forbidden Us To Do

- Today, we focus on the worldly; it keeps us from looking at us
- Unprecedented fornication among disciples
 - Gal. 5:19 - “Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness”
 - 1Cor. 6:18 - “Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.”
- Disregard and disrespect of civil authority
 - Rom. 13:1-7

By Refusing Or Failing To Do What God Has Commanded

- “It is possible to miss God's perfect will for our lives through carelessness or disobedience.” (Zac Poonen)
- Bible examples:
 - Jonah 1:1-3 - “Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, 2 Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me. 3 But Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa, and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid the fare, and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.”
 - Saul - 1Sam. 15:1-3, 9-11, 13-21

By Refusing Or Failing To Do What God Has Commanded

- Today, we focus on the materialists and pragmatists; it keeps us from looking at ourselves
 - Titus 3:1-7
- What about professed Christians overlooking the transformation into the new man?
 - 1John 2:4 - “He who says, I know Him, and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.”
 - Col. 3:8-10, 12-14

By Adding To God's Word

- What is written?
 - Prov. 30:5-6 - “Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him. 6 Do not add to His words, Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar.”
 - Matt. 15:9 - “And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.”
 - Rev. 22:18 - “For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book”
 - 2John 9 - “Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.”

By Adding To God's Word

- Today, we focus on institutionalism; it keeps us from looking at us
 - Organizations larger or smaller than the local church
 - Generating scruples and personal rules and binding them on others
 - Creating or accepting excuses for falling short and for bad behavior

By Subtracting From God's Word

- What is written?
 - Deut. 4:2 - “You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.”
 - Rev. 22:19 - “And if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.”

By Subtracting From God's Word

- Today, we focus on denominations; it keeps us from looking at us
 - Decreasing the frequency of the Lord's Supper; increasing the frequency of the collection; salvation without baptism
 - But what about dumbing down the doctrine
 - Lowering the bar on attendance, modesty, dedication, moral conduct -- incrementally and inexorably

By Substituting For God's Word

- Bible examples:
- Cain
 - Gen. 4:3-7 - “And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD. 4 Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering, 5 but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. 6 So the LORD said to Cain, Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? 7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.”

By Substituting For God's Word

- Nadab and Abihu
 - Lev. 10:1-2 - “Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them. 2 So fire went out from the LORD and devoured them, and they died before the LORD.”

By Substituting For God's Word

- Naaman

- 2Kings 5:11-12 - “But Naaman became furious, and went away and said, Indeed, I said to myself, 'He will surely come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place, and heal the leprosy.' 12 Are not the Abanah and the Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?” So he turned and went away in a rage.”

By Substituting For God's Word

- Today, we focus on progressives; it keeps us from looking at us
 - They endorse denominational worship practices
 - But what about emphasis on entertainment instead of edification?
 - Increased interest in quality rather than quantity time in worship

Five Ways to Fall Short

- We need to be careful lest we fall short in one or more of these five ways while directing most of our attention on others.
- The Adversary is well served when most of our focus is external; it means that we are less likely to see our own personal or congregational vulnerabilities
- 1Cor. 9:27 - “But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.”
- Heb. 12:15 - “Looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled.”