

hearts on fire

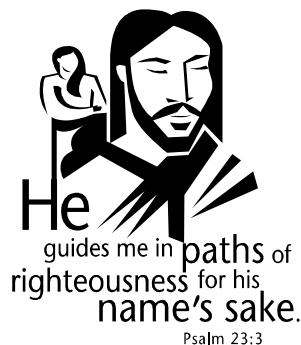
RADICAL CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP GROUP

SESSION 3

How to recover from a backsliding heart

Last session we looked at the evidences and the consequences of a backsliding heart. This session we want to talk about how to recover from a backsliding heart. It seems many of us consider ourselves to be backslidden only if we have partaken in some of the "evil" things of the world aka "drugs, sex and rock and roll" as my generation called it. However these are only the outward sins. Backsliding always starts in the heart and then works its way through our whole being. Backsliding includes the things we talked about last session. Many are things in the heart, hidden from everyone else but God and ourselves.

It is important as a Christian to not only be able to recognize when we are backsliding but how to recover from backsliding. It is important to look into the deepest corners of our hearts to see if a backsliding mentality is forming in us. It first shows up in our attitudes. Ask yourself these questions Do I have a servants heart, and I mumbling and complaining a lot, am I ungrateful about many things. Am I feeling the temptation to wander in my mind?



Message Ministries

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Bible Study notes - Session #3:

Message Ministries

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**Please write your scripture memory verses
from session #2 here:**

Verse # 1

Verse # 2

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SESSION #3 THE BIBLE SAYS!!!

Hebrews 2:1-3

- 1 We must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we ***do not drift away.***
- 2 For if the message spoken by angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment,
- 3 how shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him.

Hebrews 5:4-6

- 4 It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit,
- 5 who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age,
- 6 ***if they fall away,*** to be brought back to repentance, because to their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace.

Matthew 24:4-14

- 4 Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you.
- 5 For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.
- 6 You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come.
- 7 Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places.
- 8 All these are the beginning of birth pains.
- 9 "Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me.
- 10 ***At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other,***
- 11 and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people.
- 12 Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold,
- 13 ***but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.***
- 14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

Hebrews 10:22-27

- 22 let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.
- 23 Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.
- 24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.
- 25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching.
- 26 ***If we deliberately keep on sinning*** after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left,
- 27 but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God.

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HOW TO RECOVER FROM A STATE OF BACKSLIDING

- 1) REMEMBER THE PLACE YOU HAVE FALLEN FROM. FACE THE QUESTION AT ONCE AND DELIBERATELY COMPARE YOUR PRESENT SPIRITUAL CONDITION WITH THE WAY YOU ONCE WALKED WITH GOD.
- 2) TAKE A GOOD, HONEST LOOK AT YOUR TRUE SPIRITUAL POSITION. DON'T PUT OFF ANY LONGER DEALING WITH THE CONFLICT BETWEEN GOD AND YOUR SOUL AND THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN GOD AND YOU.
- 3) REPENT AT ONCE AND DO YOUR FIRST WORKS OVER AGAIN. (REV. 2:5)
- 4) DO NOT ATTEMPT TO GET BACK BY MERELY CHANGING WHAT YOU DO ON THE OUTSIDE. BEGIN WITH YOUR HEART AND IMMEDIATELY GET RIGHT WITH GOD. GIVE YOURSELF NO REST UNTIL THE QUESTION OF YOUR ACCEPTANCE BEFORE GOD IS COMPLETELY SETTLED.
- 5) DO NOT ACT LIKE A MERE CONVICTED SINNER AND THINK THAT YOU MUST "REFORM AND MAKE YOURSELF BETTER" BEFORE YOU CAN THEN COME TO CHRIST. BUT UNDERSTAND DISTINCTLY THAT COMING TO CHRIST, ALONE, CAN MAKE YOU BETTER! HOWEVER MUCH DISTRESS YOU MAY FEEL, KNOW FOR CERTAIN THAT UNTIL YOU REPENT AND ACCEPT HIS WILL UNCONDITIONALLY, YOU ARE NO BETTER AND ARE CONSTANTLY GROWING WORSE. UNTIL YOU THROW YOURSELF UPON HIS SOVEREIGN MERCY, AND THUS RETURN TO GOD, HE WILL ACCEPT NOTHING FROM YOU OR FROM YOUR HANDS.
- 6) DO NOT IMAGINE YOURSELF TO BE IN A JUSTIFIED STATE OF HEART, FOR YOU KNOW IN YOUR HEART THAT YOU ARE NOT. YOUR CONSCIENCE CONDEMNS YOU, AND YOU KNOW THAT GOD OUGHT TO CONDEMN YOU. FOR IF HE JUSTIFIED YOU IN YOUR PRESENT STATE, YOUR CONSCIENCE COULD NOT JUSTIFY HIM. COME THEN TO CHRIST AT ONCE, LIKE THE GUILTY SINNER THAT YOU ARE. OWN UP AND TAKE ALL THE SHAME AND RESPONSIBILITY UPON YOURSELF, AND BELIEVE THAT IN SPITE OF ALL YOUR WANDERINGS FROM GOD, HE LOVES YOU STILL, HE HAS LOVED YOU WITH AN EVERLASTING LOVE, AND WITH LOVINGKINDNESS IS EVEN NOW DRAWING YOU BACK TO HIMSELF.

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STUDY ASSIGNMENT - SESSION #3

Read the materials provided on the book of **1 Corinthians**, including:

1) *The Introduction of the Book*

2) *The Outline of the Book*

3) *Now read the Book of 1 Corinthians*

* note: as you read the book make notes on what the Lord is showing you as you read through. I'm not looking for a mental synopsis of the book or a "book report" but more of what the Lord is showing you. You may read some parts and nothing may "stick out" to you. You might want to underline verses that really "stick out". Generally when this happens it is because the Holy Spirit is trying to teach us something.

4) *Pick out the verse that you feel the Lord wants you to hide in your heart from 1 Corinthians.*

Write that verse on an index card and carry it around with you until you have it memorized and "hidden in your heart". You will use this verse over and over in your life.

5) *Answer the questions provided with the study materials of 1 Corinthians.*

NOTE: You may want to work with your Fire Check partner on this.

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THE BOOK OF 1 CORINTHIANS

AUTHOR: Paul the Apostle

WRITTEN TO: To Christians at Corinth □ to Christians everywhere

DATE WRITTEN: 55 A.D., Near the end of Paul's three year ministry in Ephesus, during his third missionary journey.

SETTING: Corinth was a major cosmopolitan city, a seaport and a major trade center-the most important city in Achaia. It was also filled with idolatry and immorality. The church was largely made up of Gentiles. Paul had established this church on his second missionary journey.

KEY PEOPLE: Paul, Timothy, members of Chloe's household.

KEY PLACES: Worship meetings in Corinth.

SPECIAL FEATURES: This is a strong, straightforward letter.

THE OUTLINE

A. PAUL ADDRESSES CHURCH PROBLEMS (1:1 - 6:20)

1. Divisions in the church
2. Disorder in the church

B. PAUL ANSWERS CHURCH QUESTIONS (7:1 - 16:24)

1. Instruction on Christian marriage
2. Instruction on Christian freedom
3. Instruction on public worship
4. Instruction on the resurrection

MAJOR THEMES

Loyalties, Immorality, Freedom, Worship □ Resurrection

PURPOSE:

- 1) To identify problems in the Corinthian Church
- 2) To offer solutions to those problems
- 3) To teach the believers how to live for Jesus in a corrupt society.

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Introduction to 1 Corinthians

Was written from Ephesus #1Co 16:8 about the time of the Passover in the third year of the apostle's sojourn there #Acts 19:10 20:31 and when he had formed the purpose to visit Macedonia, and then return to Corinth (probably A.D. 57) The news which had reached him, however, from Corinth frustrated his plan. He had heard of the abuses and contentions that had arisen among them, first from Apollos #Acts 19:1 and then from a letter they had written him on the subject, and also from some of the "household of Chloe," and from Stephanas and his two friends who had visited him #1Co 1:11 16:17 Paul thereupon wrote this letter, for the purpose of checking the factious spirit and correcting the erroneous opinions that had sprung up among them, and remedying the many abuses and disorderly practices that prevailed. Titus and a brother whose name is not given were probably the bearers of the letter #2Co 2:13 8:6,16-18 The epistle may be divided into four parts:

1. The apostle deals with the subject of the lamentable divisions and party strifes that had arisen among them #1Co 1:1-4:21
2. He next treats of certain cases of immorality that had become notorious among them. They had apparently set at nought the very first principles of morality (#1Co 5:1-6:20)
3. In the third part he discusses various questions of doctrine and of Christian ethics in reply to certain communications they had made to him. He especially rectifies certain flagrant abuses regarding the celebration of the Lord's supper (#1Co 7:1-14:40)
4. The concluding part (#1Co 15:1-16:24) contains an elaborate defense of the doctrine of the resurrection of the dead, which had been called in question by some among them, followed by some general instructions, intimations, and greetings.

This epistle "shows the powerful self-control of the apostle in spite of his physical weakness, his distressed circumstances, his incessant troubles, and his emotional nature. It was written, he tells us, in bitter anguish, 'out of much affliction and pressure of heart and with streaming eyes' #2Co 2:4 yet he restrained the expression of his feelings, and wrote with a dignity and holy calm which he thought most calculated to win back his erring children. It gives a vivid picture of the early church. It entirely dissipates the dream that the apostolic church was in an exceptional condition of holiness of life or purity of doctrine." The apostle in this epistle unfolds and applies great principles fitted to guide the church of all ages in dealing with the same and kindred evils in whatever form they may appear. This is one of the epistles the authenticity of which has never been called in question by critics of any school, so many and so conclusive are the evidences of its Pauline origin. The subscription to this epistle states erroneously in the Authorized Version that it was written at Philippi. This error arose from a mistranslation of #1Co 16:5 "For I do pass through Macedonia," which was interpreted as meaning, "I am passing through Macedonia." In #1Co 16:8 he declares his intention of remaining some time longer in Ephesus. After that, his purpose is to "pass through Macedonia."

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I Corinthians

INTERESTING NEWS ITEMS

- Corinth - Had controlling access to both the Aegean and Ionian seas. It was called the bridge of the sea. At the peak of power the city probably had a free population of about 200,000 in addition to 500,000 slaves in its navy and in its many colonies.
- The celebration of the Isthmian games (much like our Olympics today) at the temple of Poseidon made a considerable contribution of Hellenic life. This temple was located about seven miles east of Corinth. At the foot of the Acrocorinth was Melicartes, god of Navigation. The sanctuary of Poseidon was given over to the worship of the Corinthian Aphrodite (Venus? - Roman name), whose temple on the Acrocorinth (1850 ft. high) had more than 1,000 'hierodouloi' (female prostitutes). Many people came to Corinth on account of these priestesses, and the city grew rich. 'Korinthiazomai' was an expression used to describe a person of loose life.
- Paul came to Corinth somewhere around A.D. 50. The city besides its many temples and shrines, including the Temple of Apollo, the city had two theatres to the north and west, one of which could seat 18,000 people (the larger outdoor theatre hosted the gladiatorial games and contests with wild beasts, while the smaller indoor theatre, which seated about 3,000 people, hosted plays and musicals).
- The main Corinthian god's at the time of the founding of the Corinthian church were:
 - 1) Aphrodite (the Roman Venus, a sex god).
Temple on the Acrocorinth; had more than 1,000 female prostitutes.
Many people came to the town just for these prostitutes.
 - 2) Apollo was the god of music, song □ poetry, and the ideal of male beauty
(The 'G.Q. god of the day).
 - 3) Melicartes, the god of navigation. At the foot of the Acrocorinth, which was 1850 ft. high.
- The population of Corinth at the time of Paul's visit was approx.. 600,000.

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I Corinthians

INTERESTING NEWS ITEMS (Continued)

- Through various sources, Paul had received reports of problems in the Corinthian Church, including Jealousy, divisiveness, sexual immorality, and failure to discipline members. The church today must also address the problems they face. We can learn a great deal by observing how Paul handled these delicate situations.
- Paul knew the Corinthian church well because he had spent 18 months there during his second missionary journey (Acts 18:1-18).
- Corinth had been destroyed in 146 B.C. by the Romans after a rebellion. Julius Caesar decided to rebuild it in 46 B.C. because of its strategic seaport location. By Paul's day 50 A.D. the Romans had made Corinth the capital of Achaia (present day Greece).
- Corinth was a city full of evil and various religions it was known as one of the most decadent cities in the world at its time. Idolatry flourished in Corinth. There were more than a dozen heathen temples employing at least one thousand prostitutes.

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY NOTES:

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QUESTIONS for the Book of 1 Corinthians:

- 1) What themes did Paul repeat several times? (1:1-9)
- 2) 18. To what has God called all Christians? (1:9)
- 3) 5. What kinds of wisdom are there? (2:6)
- 4) 9. What is God's secret wisdom that only the mature will attain? (2:7)
- 5) What is like either gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay, or straw? How? (3:12-14)
- 6) What attitudes should Christian leaders have? (4:2-4)
- 7) Why did the Corinthians tolerate immorality in their church? (5:2)
- 8) For what reasons were the Corinthians to expel a professing Christian? (5:11)
- 9) Why is it unnecessary for Christians to judge non-Christians? (5:12-13)
- 10) Who will judge the world? (6:2)
- 11) What's wrong with sex outside of marriage? (6:15-16)
- 12) How could the exercise of a believer's freedom hurt a weaker Christian? (8:9)
- 13) Why is it necessary to live with purpose and discipline? (9:25-27)

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QUESTIONS for the Book of 1 Corinthians continued:

- 14) How does God help us when we are tempted? (10:13)
- 15) What importance did Paul assign to Communion? (10:14-17)
- 16) For what did Paul praise the Corinthian church? (11:2)
- 17) Why did Paul give the Corinthians advice about spiritual gifts? (12:1)
- 18) Why should outward appearances or status not matter to us? (12:13)
- 19) What qualities does love have? (13:4-8)
- 20) What did God want the Corinthians to desire? (14:1)
- 21) What contributions were the Corinthians to make when coming together? (14:26)
- 22) Why is it important to "hold firmly to the word"? (15:2)
- 23) What is "the end"? (15:24-25)
- 24) How does the body on earth differ from the body in heaven? (15:42-44)
- 25) What specific instructions did Paul give the Corinthians regarding the collection? (16:2-3)
- 26) What closing thoughts did Paul leave with the Corinthians? (16:22-24)