

The Lakeland Hills Leader

Lakeland Hills Blvd church of Christ

2510 Lakeland Hills Blvd
Lakeland, FL 33805
(863) 688-4336

Schedule of Services

Sunday

9:00 AM Bible Study
9:50 AM Worship
5:00 PM Worship

Wednesday

7:00 PM Bible Study

Visit our Website:

www.lakelandhillschurchofchrist.com

For Sermon & Class outlines,
Bible Study Materials and
Other Information.

Visit our Facebook Page:

www.facebook.com/LakelandHillschurchofchrist for events,
information, and links to our
YouTube Archives

Visit us on YouTube:

www.youtube.com/channel/UCu7AG_3jUtpBDlr2NPqB3iw for
Live Streams and Video
Archives.

Elders

Bob Marschall
Leon Miller
Larry Wisdom

Deacons

Bucky Day
Sherman Johnson
Michael Sadler
David Williams

Evangelist

Kent Heaton

He Who Thinks He Stands, Take Heed Lest He Fall

By Emmanuel Ogbonna | Owerri, Nigeria

Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. (1 Cor. 10:12)

One of the greatest dangers in the Christian life is not weakness, but overconfidence. Many people fall into sin, error, and spiritual ruin because they believed they were too strong to fall. The apostle Paul warned the Christians in Corinth not to become proud or self-confident. He reminded them of the history of Israel. Although the Israelites experienced God's blessings, many of them fell because of disobedience, idolatry, immorality, and unbelief (1 Cor. 10:1-11). The lesson is clear: no one is above temptation, and no one should become spiritually careless.

The Danger of Self-Confidence

Peter is a classic example. When Jesus told His disciples they would forsake Him, Peter boldly declared, "Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended" (Matt. 26:33). Peter thought he was standing strong, yet within a few hours he denied Jesus three times (Matt. 26:69-75). Many Christians make the same mistake: "I can never fall into that sin"; "I am too mature to be deceived"; "That temptation cannot overcome me." The moment we begin to trust in ourselves instead of God, we place ourselves in danger. "Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall" (Prov. 16:18).

Even Great Men of God Fell

The Bible records the failures of strong men and women so we may learn humility. David was a man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22), yet he fell into adultery and murder (2 Sam. 11). Solomon was the wisest man on earth, yet foreign wives turned his heart away from God (1 Kings 11:1-4). Demas was a fellow worker with Paul, yet he forsook the faith because he loved the present world (2 Tim. 4:10). If these people could fall, we must never think we are beyond danger.

The Christian Must Remain Watchful

Jesus repeatedly commanded His followers to watch. "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak" (Matt. 26:41). A soldier who sleeps on duty becomes vulnerable to attack. Likewise, Christians who neglect prayer, Bible study, worship, fellowship, or evangelism often become spiritually weak and susceptible to temptation. "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Pet. 5:8).

Trust in God's Strength, Not Your Own

The Christian life was never meant to be lived by human strength alone. Paul wrote, "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness" (2 Cor. 12:9). Victory comes when we depend on God rather than ourselves. The strongest Christian is not the one who says, "I can handle it," but the one who says, "Lord, help me."

God Provides a Way of Escape

Immediately after warning Christians not to fall, Paul offered encouragement. "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is

faithful... but will with the temptation also make a way to escape” (1 Cor. 10:13). Temptations are real, but God never abandons His people. When temptation comes: Pray immediately. Flee from sinful situations. Seek counsel from faithful Christians. Trust God’s promises.

Conclusion

The warning of 1 Corinthians 10:12 is for every Christian: “He who thinks he stands, take heed lest he fall.” We must: Avoid spiritual pride. Learn from the failures of others. Remain watchful and prayerful. Depend on God’s strength. Use the way of escape God provides. A Christian is safest when he walks humbly with God, knowing that without Him he can do nothing.