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## **Are You Backsliding?**

*"Go in through the narrow gate; for the gate that leads to destruction is wide and the road broad, and many travel it" Matt 7:13-21 CJB*

**"Discernment Is NOT Knowing The Difference Between Right And Wrong. It Is Knowing The Difference Between Right And Almost Right."**

- Charles H. Spurgeon

### **Backsliding:**

- ✓ To falter morally or to return to your old ways

*"Then Moses returned to the Lord and said, "Oh, these people have committed a great sin, and have made for themselves a god of gold! Yet now, if You will forgive their sin – but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written." Ex 32:31-32*

In Exodus 32, Moses is so connected to the people that his intercessory prayer asks God to blot him out along with those who have been disobedient. I would to God that as a fellowship we learn to be so connected to each other that we intercede for one another like Moses did!

Are you backsliding? Here's a question we would almost never ask somebody. What a mind-blowing question it is! "Are You Backsliding?"

### **It's Not A Question To Condemn. It's A Question To Ponder...**

As a pastor, it is a difficult question to ask because I don't want to offend anyone. Nonetheless, how many might still be saved today if only someone would have had the courage to ask them this simple question while there was still time to change their course. We ask people all the time, "Are you ok?" "Is everything alright?" If we are genuinely concerned about the welfare of the other person, why not ask the tough questions.

### **Genuine Concern Causes One To Ask The Deeper Questions. It Forces Us To Enter Into A Conversation On Uneasy Ground.**

We oftentimes don't like to ask the hard questions. We rarely enter into a conversation with someone where we don't feel comfortable. Yet, uncomfortable is the place where a

person is most vulnerable. Uncomfortable is a place where searching questions discover deep answers. Uncomfortable questions exact hard answers. Solid answers lead to a right way of living.

### **Experience And Wisdom Teaches Us That A Person Who Is "Off Track" Seldom Realizes It Before It Is Too Late!**

Most recently, a national news report read like this: *3 hikers fell to their deaths at the Yosemite falls. Each one was trying to help the other from falling. Hormiz David, Ninos Yacoub, and Ramina Badal all perished because they ignored the warning signs along the path that cautioned them to stay within the walkways designated as safe.*"

### **When Those Watching Noticed That The Hikers Were Going Over The Falls, It Was Too Late For Anyone To Help Them.**

The above news report went on to tell about all of the people who watched in horror as these three were swept to their deaths. What if someone who had seen them stepping beyond the safe zone had actually been concerned enough to ask these questions instead of watching them fall?

### **"Should You Cross That Line?" "Are You Supposed To Be Over There?" "Aren't You Putting Your Life At Risk And Endangering Those Who Might Try To Save You?"**

The Fall Feasts of Yom Teruah, Yom Kippur and Tabernacles are God's season for individuals, leaders, and the church to ask the tough questions such as: "Are you getting too close to danger?" "Have you ignored God's Word and are you about to go over the falls?" "Are you too far from the Church?" "Is your heart right with the Lord?" "Is something wrong?" "Why have you been missing so much church lately?" "Are you backsliding?"

### **But We Don't Want To Offend, Do We? Neither Do We Want To Create A Scene, So We Watch Instead Of Risking Rejection!**

These are tough questions to ask, but we need to ask them! Why? Because there is still time to correct the path we are walking on. No one needs to be on the other side of the fence in a slippery stream backsliding towards the FALLS! No one needs more misery. No one should have their name blotted out of The Lamb's Book of Life. I wonder how many of those who witnessed the deaths of the people mentioned above wished that they would have shouted to them to get back on the safe path because you are crossing a threshold into a dangerous place and are risking your life!

*"Go in through the narrow gate; for the gate that leads to destruction is wide and the road broad, and many travel it. And every man that hath this hope in Him **purifieth** himself, even as he is pure."* Matt 7:13-21 CJB & 2 Cor 3:18 KJV combined by B. Hill

Do not become disobedient or fall prey to a lukewarm spirit regarding the commandments of God. Christians need to be sure they have not allowed the spirit of this world to penetrate their lives, making them weary of obeying His commandments. In order to avoid being found beyond the wide gate and on the broad road that leads to the second death warning shofars and eJournals like this are sounded in synagogues and churches all over the world asking the uncomfortable and hard questions.

Are you walking on the right pathway or have you climbed over the safety fence into slippery and dangerous places? Are people watching in dismay as you are being swept away towards the FALL...(S).

*"Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord."* Acts 3:19 NKJV

### **This Is The Season To Ask The Hard Questions.....**

"Are you backsliding?" "Are you getting too close to danger?" "Are you too far from the Church?" "Is your heart right with the Lord?" "Is something wrong?" "Why have you been missing so much church lately?" Should you cross that line?" "Are you supposed to be over there?" "Have you ignored the warnings of God's Word to the point that you are about to go over the falls?" "Aren't you putting your life at risk and those who might try to save you?" *"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says."* Rev 2:11 NKJV

These are tough questions! When the "Trumpet Blast" actually occurs on Yom Teruah (Tishrei 1), which book listed below would best represent how you are living right now?

1. The Book of the righteous
2. The Book for the wicked
3. The Book of the lukewarm

### **It Is Time To Ask The Hard Question....Are You Backsliding?**

- ✓ To falter morally or return to your old ways?

*Blessings Pastor Bob & Kris Hill*

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**WHOLEHEARTEDLY** Jer 29:11-14 For I know what plans I have in mind for you,' says Adonai, 'plans for well-being (prosper, peace), not for bad things; so that you can have hope and a future. 12 When you call to me and pray to me, I will listen to you. 13 When you seek me, you will find me, provided you seek for me wholeheartedly (center of being); 14 and I will let you find me,' says Adonai. 'Then I will reverse your exile. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have driven you,' says Adonai, 'and bring you back to the place from which I exiled you.' JBC

#### **I Will Reverse Your Exile**

1. Self-imposed absence from one's kingdom.
2. The condition or a period of living away from one's native country.