

## Lesson 2: The Falling Away From Faith

The end of the age will be characterized by an End-Time Invasion of demonic spirits that will mesmerize society in deception. These spirits will blind people's minds to truth and they will seduce them to believe doctrines of demons. These demon spirits will be active in all aspects of the culture, even in the arena of the church. We are encouraged in scripture to test the spiritual realm.

**2 Peter 3:17 NKJV** - You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked.

**1 Timothy 4:1 NKJV** - Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons

### A. Departing From the Faith Produces Deception

1. The word *deceive* means to "wander off course." It refers to a departure from a previously held moral position. The idea is that of being on the right path and wandering off onto a different, unpredictable one.

**Matthew 24:4 AMP** - Jesus answered them, Be careful that no one misleads you [deceiving you and leading you into error].

2. When truth is abandoned and moral integrity is thrown away, a spirit of confusion is the result.

**James 3:16 NKJV** - For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.

3. To depart from truth opens the door for these seducing spirits to bring in a spirit of delusion. The last days society will be seduced and will believe what is false over what is true.

4. The result of departing the faith produces a conditioning that will open the door to wide-spread deception in every realm of society.

**Isaiah 5:20 NASB** - Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness;

5. The word *depart* (aphistemi) means to distance one's self, to withdraw from or to shrink back. This word pictures a person who changes his position of once held strong beliefs and now believes something quite different.

6. The Word indicates that there will be a falling away, a rebellion, an abandonment of the truth; a rejection of God's revelation. This is what is called an apostasy - a defection from the true God and the faith of the Gospel of Christ.

**2 Thessalonians 2:3 NKJV** - Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition.

Falling away (apostasia) - to withdraw; to defect; to forsake; to leave

**Hebrews 10:25 NKJV** - Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

Forsake (egkateleipo) - to abandon; to desert; to leave in the lurch

## B. Giving Heed to Demonic Influence

1. Society will put pressure on believers to embrace lifestyles that are contrary to what the Bible teaches us.

2. Deceiving Spirits will negate the power and authority of what Jesus did at the cross. They will suggest that the cross was not a divine plan of salvation.

**Philippians 3:18 AMP** - For there are many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, who walk (live) as enemies of the cross of Christ (the Anointed One).

3. Seducing Spirits will always attack the Word of God. The devil was a master of twisting scripture to bring people's minds into a state of confusion.

**2 Corinthians 11:3-4 NASB** - But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his trickery, your minds will be led astray from sincere and pure devotion to Christ. For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, this you tolerate very well!

4. The devil will always give you other options, to turn you away from Jesus. The phrase “giving heed,” means to turn your thoughts in another direction; to consider other options.

**1 Timothy 4:1 MSG** - The Spirit makes it clear that as time goes on, some are going to give up on the faith and chase after demonic illusions put forth by professional liars.

## C. Action Steps to Keeping the Faith

1. Monitor your spiritual progress and ask the Holy Spirit to help you identify anything that is not Truth.

**Psalms 25:5 NKJV** - Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; on You I wait all the day.

2. Identify any influences that may be affecting your heart toward unbelief.

**Proverbs 4:23 AMP** - Keep and guard your heart with all vigilance and above all that you guard, for out of it flow the springs of life.

3. Don't make any provisions for your flesh, but rather keep yourself in the righteousness of Christ.

**Romans 13:14 NKJV** - But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.