

Never Say Never

A Lord's Flock General Assembly Topic
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When Jesus was about to be crucified, He told His disciples that they would all fall away. Peter declared, "Even if all fall away, I will not." Jesus answered, "Tonight before the rooster crows twice you will disown me three times" (Mk. 14:26-31). Many times, like Peter, we feel certain that we would never fall away from Jesus. Unfortunately, we all eventually deny Him due to worldly distractions.

We, as believers, have the tendency to be self-righteous. We think that our beliefs and morals are better than everybody's. We also have the tendency to think that we have made big strides in our walk of faith; and judge others by measuring our lives against the life we live. We may not admit it, but we think that there is something special about us.

As Christians, we must bear these in mind:

- "If you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall" (1 Cor. 10:12).
- "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves" (Phil. 2:3).

Being self-righteous is one way of denying Jesus. Two persons in the Bible did this. One was the rich young man, who boasted in telling Jesus that he followed all the commandments. However, when offered the chance to follow Jesus, he refused (Mt. 19). The other one was Peter.

As believers, we, too, deny Jesus by refusing to glorify Him in our lives when we:

- are ashamed to share that we are renewed.
- cannot mention His name.
- cannot share what the Lord has done to us.
- disobey God's Word.
- do not practice the Word of God outside the church.
- choose not to serve for we are busy.

Due to fear, we do these things that might make us fall under the disciplinary hand of God. We are then challenged to:

- be doers of the Word, not hearers (Jas. 1:22).
- leave everything and follow Jesus (Lk. 5:11).

When we do not obey Jesus' teachings, we are like His followers. They were only after signs & wonders and bread to eat; so, they left Him when His teachings became difficult for them to obey.

Reflection: When Jesus' teachings become difficult for you to obey, do you stop walking with Him?

The Lord Jesus said that in this world, there will be many troubles; but all will be well with us if we follow Him (Jer. 7:23).

The Lord knows everything and therefore knows us better than we do. He knew that Peter would deny Him three times and knows that we are all going to deny Him also. Saying that we would never fall away is useless. So, we must never say never.

Reflection: Have you denied the Lord when He gave you an opportunity to follow Him?

Maybe we have failed, but Jesus longs for us to love Him again, the way we did the first time, and to do the things we did at first (Rev. 2:4-5).

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