

### 1 Timothy 4

“1 But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times **some will fall away from the faith**, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, 2 by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron, 3 men who forbid marriage and advocate abstaining from food which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth.”

Falling from faith has everything to do with our relationship with

# the Law



**but not in the way you might think.**

### Galatians 5

“1 It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery. 2 Behold I, Paul, say to you that if you receive circumcision, Christ will be of no benefit to you. 3 And I testify again to every man who receives circumcision that he is under obligation to keep the whole Law. 4 You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. 5 For we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness.”

### What does it mean to “fall away” from the faith?

“1 It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.”

**Those in Christ stand firm in grace**

**Those who leave the faith fall away into slavery of the law**

**Note:**

**“Falling away” is returning to bondage under the law.**

1.

**“Falling away” does not mean transgression of the Law but returning to bondage under the Law.**

### What does it mean to “fall away” from the faith?

“2 Behold I, Paul, say to you that if you receive circumcision, Christ will be of no benefit to you.”

**Those in Christ find their hope in the Gospel of Grace.**

**Those who leave the faith find their hope apart from the Gospel of Grace.**

**Note:**

**“Falling away” is shifting our hope to keeping the law.**

**Romans 10:1-4**

“1 Brethren, my heart’s desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation. 2 For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge. 3 For not knowing about God’s righteousness, and **seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God.** 4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.”

**Jesus did not just show us how to be righteous.  
He is our righteousness.**

**1 Corinthians 1:30**

“But by His doing you are in **Christ Jesus, who became to us** wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption.”

**John 14:6**

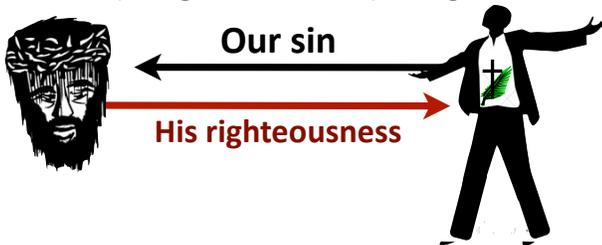
“I am the way , and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”

**Jesus did not just show us the way.  
He was the way.**

**2 Corinthians 5:21**

“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

**The great exchange**



The chief benefit of Christ to us is found not in his teaching and example but in **his crucifixion and resurrection.**

**2.**

**“Falling away” means shifting our hope from grace and Christ to the law and self.**

**What does it mean to “fall away” from the faith?**

“3 And I testify again to every man who receives circumcision that he is under obligation (**debtor**) to keep the whole Law.”

**Those in Christ find their righteousness in Christ.**

**Those who leave the faith are obligated to fulfill the full demands of the Law.**

**Note:**

**“Falling away” is seeking the righteousness of the law.**

**Galatians 3:10**

“For as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse; for it is written *Cursed is everyone who does not abide by all things written in the book of the law, to perform them.*”

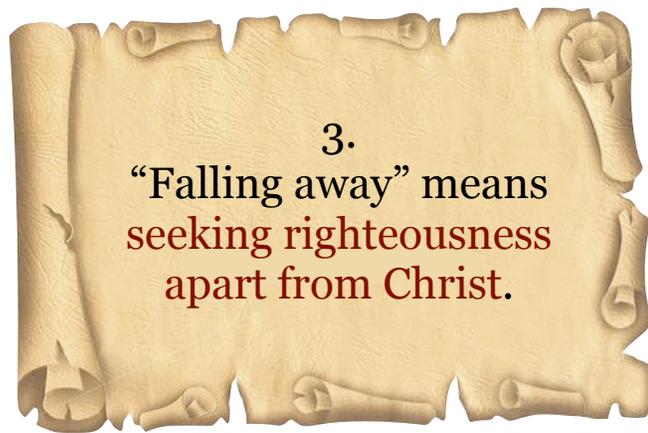
**The law is not just a moral guide.**

**It is a covenant of works  
righteousness.**

**James 2:10**

“for whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.”

The hope that is ours in Christ is forfeited when we are under law as we seek to to be justified through our obedience.



**What does it mean to “fall away” from the faith?**

“<sup>4</sup> You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. <sup>5</sup> For we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness.”

**Those in Christ are united with Christ and living under grace as they await their hope.**

**Those who leave the faith cut off from Christ and working for their righteousness under the Law.**

**Note:**

**“Falling away” is replacing the Gospel with the Law.**

**Hebrews 10**

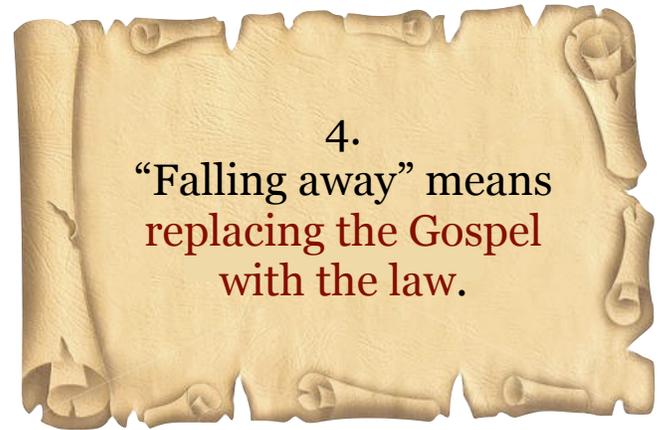
“<sup>28</sup> Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. <sup>29</sup> How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has **trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?**”

**Hebrews 6**

“<sup>4</sup> For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, <sup>5</sup> and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, <sup>6</sup> and then **have fallen away**, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since **they again crucify to themselves the Son of God, and put Him to open shame.**”

Being cut off from Christ is not failure to keep the law but rather **living under the law.**

It is tragic to fail to respond to the law but **it is fatal to fail to respond to the cross.**



## “Falling away” means

- returning to bondage under the Law.

- shifting our hope to keeping the Law.

- seeking righteousness through the Law.

- replacing the Gospel with the Law.



## How are we to understand the meaning of “falling away” from the faith?

1. Those who emphasize the **sovereignty** of God.

**True believers will persevere in faith & holiness. Only false believers can fall away.**

2. Those who emphasize the **free will** of man.

**Those who fail to repent fully of known sins eventually are hardened in heart and are lost.**

3. Paul’s teaching.

**Those who rely on their own merit apart from the grace of Christ have fallen away.**

## How are we to understand the meaning of “falling away” from the faith?

1. The Scripture treats faith neither as a meritorious work nor as a gift but as a **response / responsibility.**
2. If holy living is a sign of true faith - **how holy must a believer be and for how long?**
3. Paul’s view of “falling away” is **“from grace”** not **from obedience** to the law.
4. Saving faith in Christ is **Cross focused, grace centered, and discipleship oriented.**

**An abiding faith** is rooted in the Gospel, intellectually convincing, emotionally satisfying, culturally relevant, and morally transforming.