

“HIM WHO THINKS HE STANDS...”

By Keith Greer

“Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.” {1 Corinthians 10:12} This is a short verse, but it makes a powerful statement. Confidence can be a good thing, but too much of it has led many a man to a quick fall. Why do we need to “heed?” The word is defined as “to give careful consideration.” We need to “**take heed**” because:

We can fall. “Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called ‘Today,’ lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.” {Hebrews 3:12,13} One of the most popular doctrines among human religions is often referred to as “eternal security” or “once saved always saved.” The premise of this doctrine is that a person who enters into a relationship with Christ and is saved by Him can never fall. This doctrine cannot be found in the pages of God’s book. Consider the Israelites. God loved the Israelites and chose them to be His people, but later, because of their disobedience to His covenant and commands, He destroyed them. Israel is a perfect example of a nation that needed to “take heed.”

We need to prove ourselves faithful. “Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves that Jesus Christ is in you --unless indeed you are disqualified.” {2 Corinthians 13:5} Please note what Paul wrote – we can become disqualified. If we are disqualified, we are no longer in the race! This happens when we do not follow the rules by which we are to abide. We need constant examination to be certain we are following the course that the Lord set for His children. “For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.” {Galatians 6:3}

We need to be humble. “Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.” {James 4:10} Every faithful child of God must be humble. It helps one to keep a proper perspective – who am I and who is He. Do you remember Jesus’ teaching concerning the two men – the publican and the tax collector – praying in the temple? The account is in Luke 18:9-14. God will not accept as His child one who does not have humility. Humility helps us remember who we are and that we can lean on the One we will need every step of the way as we travel life’s pathway. If we’re full of ourselves, we’ll definitely fall!

We need to count our blessings. “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will.” {Ephesians 1:3-5} Who, more than God’s child, has more reason to rejoice and be happy? Each and every day, God blesses us in so many ways. The fact that He has promised to be with us is a wonderful comfort. It should help us to appreciate and love Him even more.

We need to help others to stand. "Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." {Galatians 6:1,2} Christians can never be concerned for just themselves. Our love for one another should motivate us to help others to also "take heed" so they will not fall away from the Lord. Our fellow Christians are a blessing from the Lord! May we ever treat them as such every day. ***