

WHY DO PEOPLE STOP LIVING OUT THEIR FAITH?

Dr. Larry Lamb – May 12, 2019

Philippians 4.1

Dear brothers and sisters, I love you and long to see you, for you are my joy and the reward for my work. So please stay true to the Lord, my dear friends.

2 Timothy 4.6,7 *As for me, my life has already been poured out as an offering to God. The time of my death is near. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful.*

- Beginning is easy, finishing is not.
- One of our values at CVC is UNITY IN DIVERSITY.

WHY DO PEOPLE STOP?

1. They were never really **SAVED**. Luke 8 tells of a parable where Jesus spoke of a farmer who went to scatter seed. The seed landed on:
 - (1) **Hard soil...***birds came and ate the seed.*
 - (2) **Rocky soil...***the seed could never get deep roots and died.*
 - (3) **Thorny soil...***thorns choked out the new growth.*
 - (4) **Good soil...***seed took root and grew 100 times as much as had been planted.*

The disciples asked Jesus what He meant with the seed/soil story.

Luke 8.11-15 *This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is God's Word.*

¹² *The seeds that fell on the footpath represent those who hear the message, only to have the devil come and take it away from their hearts and prevent them from believing and being saved.* ¹³ *The seeds on the rocky soil represent those who hear the message and receive it with joy. But since they don't have deep roots, they believe for a while, then they fall away when they face temptation.*

¹⁴ *The seeds that fell among the thorns represent those who hear the message, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the cares and riches and pleasures of this life. And so they never grow into maturity.* ¹⁵ *And the seeds that fell on the good soil represent honest, good-hearted people who hear God's Word, cling to it, and patiently produce a huge harvest.*

2. They feel like **GOD** let them down.

One dangerous speculation about living as a Christian is nothing heartbreaking, discouraging, or tragic should ever happen.

Romans 8.31 *If God is for us, who could ever be against us?*

Romans 12.21 *Don't let evil get the best of you but conquer evil by doing good.*

Romans 15.13 *So I pray that God, who gives you hope, will keep you happy and full of peace as you believe in Him. May you overflow with hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.*

3. They were deceived by someone who eventually **ERODED** their confidence to live out their faith.

Here are two reasons why Christians develop a slow drift away from God:

- The influence of false teaching.
- The influence of someone who diluted or extinguish their desire to live for God.

Galatians 5.7 *You were getting along so well. Who has interfered with you to hold you back from following the truth?*

2 Peter 2.1-3 REF

HOW TO LIVE OUT YOUR FAITH TO THE END OF LIFE

1. Be **CERTAIN** of your relationship with Jesus.
2. Immediately **REJECT** the notion that God bailed on you.
3. Do a quick relationship scan: Are the people in your life helping to draw you **CLOSER** to the Savior?

Prayer of Salvation ,

Lord Jesus, I confess that I have sinned and I choose to invite You into my life today. I repent of my sin and by doing this I want You to be the Lord (Master) of my life. I know that Your gift to me is free and I can do nothing to earn eternal life. Thank You for dying for my sins. Amen.