

The Dedicated and The Deserters

(Why some believers quit)

1 Timothy 1:18-19 Timothy, my son, here are my instructions for you, based on the prophetic words spoken about you earlier. May they help you fight well in the Lord's battles. Cling to your faith in Christ, and keep your conscience clear. For some people have deliberately violated their consciences; as a result, their faith has been shipwrecked. NLT

¹⁹ holding on to faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and so have suffered shipwreck with regard to the faith. NIV

4:1 Now the Holy Spirit tells us clearly that in the last times some will turn away from the true faith; they will follow deceptive spirits and teachings that come from demons.

5:15 For I am afraid that some of them have already gone astray and now follow Satan.

II Tim 1:11-12 That is why I am suffering here in prison. But I am not ashamed of it, for I know the one in whom I trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him^[a] until the day of his return.

4:7 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. ⁸ And now the prize awaits me—the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of his return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his appearing.

1. They may have weakened on their commitment to truth

1Now the Holy Spirit tells us clearly that in the last times some will turn away from the true faith; they will follow deceptive spirits and teachings that come from demons.

2:17-18 This kind of talk spreads like cancer,^[a] as in the case of Hymenaeus and Philetus. ¹⁸ They have left the path of truth, claiming that the resurrection of the dead has already occurred; in this way, they have turned some people away from the faith.

I Tim 4:16 Keep a close watch on how you live and on your teaching. Stay true to what is right for the sake of your own salvation and the salvation of those who hear you.

1Now the Holy Spirit tells us clearly that in the last times some will turn away from the true faith; they will follow deceptive spirits and teachings that come from demons.

There is a connection between how we live/behave/make choices and what we believe.

A. We believe scripture is truth

John 17^{":17} Sanctify them by^[d] the truth; your word is truth.

B. We believe truth changes us.....

John 17^{":17} Sanctify them by^[d] the truth; your word is truth.

I Peter 2:2-3 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, ³ now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

C. We believe truth helps us find our way

Psa 119:105 Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.

D. We believe truth is readily available!

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A Bible that's falling apart usually belongs to someone who isn't.
Charles Spurgeon