

# *Restoring a Fallen Christian*

By Greg S. Baker

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## Contents

INTRODUCTION.....	3
Chapter 1 – The Restorer.....	1
Chapter 2 – Peter’s Fall.....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
Chapter 3 – King Saul’s Fall.....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
Chapter 4 – The Prodigal Son’s Fall.....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
Chapter 5 – Judas Iscariot’s Fall.....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
Chapter 6 – King David’s Fall.....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
Chapter 7 – Cain’s Fall.....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
Chapter 8 – Jonah’s Fall.....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
Chapter 9 – Absalom’s Fall.....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
Chapter 10 – Samson’s Fall.....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
Chapter 11 – He That is Impossible to Restore.....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
Concluding Thoughts.....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>

The Bible records the falls of many men of God. I believe that each Christian that falls will in some way resemble these men. Each fell in a different way and for different reasons. The study of their issues and situations will go a long way in helping you to restore a fellow Christian that has fallen.

Look through these chapters and you’ll see your friend or loved one described at the beginning of the chapter, then read through it to gain an understanding of what you can do to restore him or her back to the grace, love, and peace of the arms of Jesus Christ.

# INTRODUCTION

## THE PROBLEM

Having been in Christian circles all my life, I've come to observe a rather disturbing pattern among Churches and Christian circles. We spend time, money, energy, and devotion in reaching the lost for Jesus Christ—as it ought to be—but then we ostracize, ignore, gossip about, defame, and generally drive away a Christian who has fallen.

This phenomenon first became very evident to me in Bible College. I'd watch sold-out young Christians prayerfully and sincerely venture into the dregs of society to pull out a drunken bum, give him the Gospel, clean him up, and bring him to Church. This same wonderful Christian would then spit at the feet of a fellow Bible college student because the student fell a bit in his Christian walk with God.

We obey the Great Commission, but then we ignore the Biblical command to restore a fellow Christian when they fall.

*Galatians 6:1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.*

There really isn't a good reason for our failure in this area. In fact, we've hindered the Great Commission. How many more people could be reached with the Gospel by those fallen Christians if we took the time to restore them back to fellowship with God? How many great men and women of God were lost to us, because when someone fell, there wasn't a Christian to help restore him? What great soul winner, Sunday School teacher, pastor, missionary, or deacon did we lose because a spiritual Christian couldn't be bothered to restore a fallen Christian?

## THE PURPOSE OF THIS BOOK

The purpose of this e-book is to help you restore a fallen Christian in the spirit that the Bible suggests—meekness. We will be looking at a variety of stories in the Scriptures in an effort to identify various types of fallen Christians, and then to discover the Biblical methods used to help restore them.

Not everyone falls the same way. In fact, most of us are currently backslidden somewhere in our Christian life. We are all susceptible to the wiles of the Devil. The methods of restoration vary from person to person and from type to type.

I don't want to stereotype Christians who fall. But elements of the examples given in Scripture are bound to pertain to that person you know that needs your help.

This small e-book will not seek to explain why every person falls, or even how a person falls. The focus of this writing will be to help you restore someone you love and care about back to the comforting fold of Jesus Christ.

# Chapter 1 – The Restorer

## THE KEY

The key to restoration is the restorer. In essence, a restorer is a guide to help a fellow Christian find their way again spiritually.

*Galatians 6:2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.*

*Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up.*

Most people when they fall don't need someone to point out the obvious. They know. They don't need to be kicked, or walked over. They need a hand up. They need someone to help them.

In fact, it is part of our job as a Christian to become a restorer. Someone who has strayed from the spiritual way, from their Biblical roots, will have a difficult time coming back. It may not be because they don't want to come back, but it may be because they think they can't.

## THE GREATEST HINDRANCE

The greatest hindrance to a fallen Christian's restoration is usually fellow Christians. One of the most common concerns I hear from people who used to go to Church and are now thinking of returning is some variation of, "Will I be judged for what I've done?"

Christian arrogance and superiority has driven more people out the doors of our Churches than almost anything else. Christians who criticize the failings of others, who gloat over the mistakes of others, and who refuse to sully themselves with the consequences of the sin of others make it difficult and sometimes impossible for one of God's children to be restored to the faith.

When our tongues are used to flay the spirit of our fellow brethren, or when our actions radiate rejection and disinterest the fallen Christian is led to believe that they can't return—and worse, they aren't wanted to return.

This attitude, I believe, is a direct result of two things:

1. A fear of the Christian to consider himself.
2. A misunderstanding of certain Scriptural references regarding disassociation with certain types of believers.

Taking the first point, it is often easier for a Christian to attack a fault and to distance himself from a fellow Christian who has fallen because it means that he doesn't have to face the fact that they have just as much potential to commit the same transgression.

I've discovered that someone who is often the most vocal about condemning sin and the sinner alike is someone who is trying to hide the fact that they are just as likely to commit the same sin. It is an attempt to hide a weakness within themselves and a fear to face that weakness.

The Bible clearly commands the restorer to consider himself. To look within and realize that he is just as likely to fall, just as likely to sin, as the one whom he wishes to restore. The realization of which, helps you approach them in the spirit of meekness. If you try to help someone any other way, it will come off wrong. You'll do more harm than good.

Now let's examine some of the verses that are often misunderstood.

## **1 CORINTHIANS 5:11**

*1 Corinthians 5:11 But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.*

To begin with, the word 'company' is talking of mixing together in a casual, associate way that we think of when we attend a party or social gathering of some sort. Notice the last phrase of the verse, 'with such an one no not to eat.'

The Scriptures teach that we ought to avoid being casual about someone's sin. This doesn't mean that we can't try to restore them. In fact, this entire passage deals with a man who Paul asked to be removed from the Church, but later, in 2 Corinthians 2:7, these same Christians were commanded to forgive and comfort this fallen Christian. They were commanded to restore him.

I don't care who it is, I won't go to the bar associate with anyone—Christian or otherwise. A bar is the wrong setting for any Christian and should be avoided. But I will invite that person to Church. I'll even sit with him there.

*Whoever controls the atmosphere controls the influence.*

Where I may invite a fallen Christian to my house in order to be a blessing to him, I won't go to his party where he controls the music, the food, the drink, the friends, the company, the place—and the influence. No, in order to influence someone you must be in control of the environment.

Who does the most influencing at your Church? Your pastor does. He controls the music, the preaching, the singing, and the teaching. He does the influencing.

You can help restore a fallen Christian without having to immerse yourself in their sin. You don't have to be a drunk to reach a drunk. You don't have to be a fornicator to reach a fornicator.

***THIS CONCLUDES THE FREE DOWNLOAD OF PART OF CHAPTER 1.  
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- Examine more passages on restoring a fellow Christian.
- Learn how to spot the 'types' of fallen Christians.
- Understand your options regarding a fallen Christian.
- Learn to anticipate the signs and indicators of someone who may soon fall away.

- Discover how to gently guide or restore a fallen Christian back to the loving grace of Jesus Christ.