

# What Causes a Christian to Backslide?

by Erlo Stegen

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*A Christian's backsliding is caused by sin, which separates us from God and others, and can be prevented by abiding in Jesus.*

**Duration:** 9:16

**Scripture:** John 15:4-17, Romans 8:13, Galatians 5:16, 1 John 1:7

**Topics:** "Spiritual Growth", "Backsliding"

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## Description

This sermon delves into the reasons why Christians may regress spiritually and return to their old sinful ways, emphasizing the impact of sin as the ultimate separator. It highlights the importance of fellowship with the Lord and with one another, drawing parallels to the unity within the Trinity. The message stresses the necessity of abiding in Jesus to bear fruit and avoid spiritual withering, ultimately pointing out that salvation hinges on remaining connected to Him.

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## Transcript

Now the big question is, what causes a Christian to go back to his old sin, to his old ways? Yes, that he regresses spiritually. How is it possible that the Christian can have an experience that overflowing life, where his heart is full of joy and overflows with the Christian life and then it stops?

I remember at the wedding of Baba Jablan Dube, one Christian got up. If I remember correctly it was in 1968, this person got up. And he said to the bridegroom, he said, God has created us that we should be one. There's just one thing that can separate us. And that one thing is sin, nothing else can separate us other than sin. Our text here refers to fellowship with one another. That we should have fellowship with the Lord Jesus as the Lord has fellowship with God and at the same time enjoying fellowship with one another. And he said there's just one thing that will separate us and that is sin. And it says if we have fellowship, if we walk in the light as he is in the light then we will have fellowship with one another. If we have fellowship. So we can have fellowship and should have fellowship with one another. As the Father and the Son are one and united and the Trinity is one so we should enjoy such fellowship. So how is it possible that you can have that fellowship with the Lord and then you later forsake him?

And so if we have fellowship with the Lord we are one with him so we will have fellowship and unity with one another as well. In the Gospel of John where the Lord speaks about the vine. He said abide in me as the branch abides in the vine. If we don't abide in him we will wither. We will not bear fruit and eventually end up being thrown into the fire. That's tragic. If you don't abide in Jesus. Abiding in the Lord as that branch

abides in the vine That branch will just wither and die and end up being thrown into the fire Salvation is only possible if we abide in him as that branch abides in the vine If we do not abide in Jesus we will wither You will notice You will notice You will notice such a person that doesn't abide in the Lord and enjoy that fellowship anymore He will wither, you will notice it, you will no longer have that joy he had in the beginning And if we wither in our spiritual life we are on our way to hell Spiritually we can only survive if we stay and abide in the vine as that branch But the branch that doesn't abide in the vine will wither, will not bear fruit and eventually end up in the fire

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