

# Backsliding Preventives

## Introduction

1. **Backsliding: "to slide backward in morals or religious enthusiasm; become less virtuous" (Webster's New World Dictionary)**
2. **There are many backsliders in the world today and there are even some in the Lord's church.**
  - A. **Preventive medicine helps keep one from serious ailments.**
  - B. **Preventive maintenance keeps your automobile from needing major overhauls.**
  - C. **Backsliding preventives can and should prevent one from sliding backward in their religious enthusiasm.**
3. **In our study, let us call attention to some effective backsliding preventives.**

## Let God Say Something to Us Every Day

1. **There is no better way to guard against backsliding than by letting God say something to us every day.**
  - A. **Many go day after day without looking into God's book.**
    - 1) **This is a refusal to allow God to say something to them.**
  - B. **God has much to say to us - we ought to be anxious to listen to Him.**
2. **By listening to God - we will not have to walk in darkness.**

Psalms 119:105-106 Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

1 John 1:6-7 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth **But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another**, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

John 1:9 That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.

- A. **We should take delight in letting God talk to us.**

Psalms 1:1-2 Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; **But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.**

**B. Even the noble ones of old searched the scriptures daily to find out the truth - they let God talk to them!**

Acts 17:11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

- 1) We should search also - not merely giving it a glance but to sincerely know what God expects of us. Jesus asks us to listen.**

John 5:39 You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.

- 2) It is a command for us to learn of God.**

2 Timothy 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

- 3. Did you ever know of anyone backsliding who allowed God to talk to him every day? We are more likely to backslide when we cease searching the scriptures!**

## Say Something to God Every Day

**1. Not only should we allow God to say something to us every day, but we should say something to Him every day.**

**A. We should pray to God and thank Him for our many blessings EVERY DAY.**

1 Thessalonians 5:17-18 pray without ceasing, **in everything give thanks**; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

**1) When we fail to do so - it is basic ingratitude.**

**a) Don't we parents like to hear our children say "thank you!"**

**2. Prayer will stop Sin or Sin will stop prayer.**

**A. Has our sin separated us from God, so that he no longer hears?**

Psalms 66:18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear.

**B. When we turn away from God - our prayers are an abomination to Him!**

Proverbs 28:9 One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, Even his prayer is an abomination.

**C. Real prayer avails so much!**

James 5:16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, **that you may be healed**. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

## Say Something for God Every Day

1. **Read the Bible (God talking); Pray (Us talking); and say something FOR God every day.**
  - A. **Many days may go by and we do not speak up for God.**
  - B. **Our speech should have more of God and more for God in it every day.**
  - C. **God uses us to speak to lost souls today. We can tell them of God's love for us.**
2. **Many lives would turn from worldliness to godliness if we would only share God with them.**
  - A. **What a joy it is to rescue a brother that errs from the truth by saying something for God.**

James 5:19-20 Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way **will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.**

### 3. **Our conduct should be worthy of the gospel of Christ.**

Philippians 1:27 Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, **with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,**

- A. **We're surrounded with opportunities to say something for God.**
  - 1) **In our association with friends and loved ones, how good it would be to drop a few words for God into the conversation!**

## Do Something for God Every Day

**1. Our days are full of things that we do. But often times not enough of that doing is FOR God.**

**A. We should LOOK for opportunities to do good.**

Galatians 6:10 Therefore, **as we have opportunity, let us do good to all,** especially to those who are of the household of faith.

**B. Others should be able to see our good works for God.**

Matthew 5:16-17 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works **and glorify your Father in heaven.**

**1) Powerful influences for God are exerted by the humble and sincere life of a Christian.**

**2) Let's not shine our lights, but rather let our light shine - there is a difference!**

**2. So much of what we do in this world is vain - but nothing that we DO for God is vain.**

**A. He takes note of all we DO. How good it is to KNOW that He knows!**

1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that **your labor is not in vain in the Lord.**

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## **Conclusion**

- 1. Let us resolve to prevent backsliding by:**
  - A. Letting God say something to us EVERY DAY.**
  - B. Saying something to God EVERY DAY.**
  - C. Saying something for God EVERY DAY.**
  - D. Doing something for God EVERY DAY.**

