

Belief in Action

But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold. ¹⁸ They said to you, “In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires.” ¹⁹ These are the people who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit. ²⁰ But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, ²¹ keep yourselves in God’s love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life. ²² Be merciful to those who doubt; ²³ save others by snatching them from the fire; to others show mercy, mixed with fear—hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh. ²⁴ To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy— ²⁵ to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.

Jude 1:17-25

A voice was heard on the desolate heights,
Weeping *and* supplications of the children of Israel.

For they have perverted their way;
They have forgotten the LORD their God.

²² “Return, you backsliding children,
And I will heal your backslidings.”

“Indeed we do come to You,
For You are the LORD our God.

Jeremiah 3:21-22 NKJV

MAIN IDEA:

Backsliding is turning away from God. To keep us from this we can return to God’s Word, build ourselves up in faith, extend grace, and trust God to work.

1. Remember God’s Word daily.

But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold. ¹⁸ They said to you, “In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires.” Vv. 17-18

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. James 1:22

2. Build yourselves up in faith.

But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, V. 20

If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. James 1:5

3. Wait for Jesus.

Keep yourselves in God’s love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life. V. 21

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9

4. Extend grace, mercy, and love to others.

Be merciful to those who doubt; save others by snatching them from the fire; to others show mercy, mixed with fear—hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh. Vv. 22-23

For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. 2 Corinthians 4:15

5. Trust God to work.

To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy— ²⁵ to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen. Vv. 24-25

I will heal their backsliding; I will love them freely. Hosea 14:4

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