

DESTRUCTION OF ONE'S FAITH

1Tim 1:19

INTRODUCTION:

- A. All of us have known people who have given up their faith.
- B. There are many things lead people away from faithfulness.
- C. Identifying some of these enables us to assist in restoring people and strengthen us so that we will not fall from our own steadfastness.
- D. Think with me now about some things that destroy our faith

DISCUSSION:

I. PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS CAN DESTROY FAITH

- A. Pride. (appearing above others (conspicuous), i.e. (figuratively) haughty:--proud - Strongs) Jas 4:6
 1. One sins and is unwilling to repent because of pride
 2. Too much responsibility or authority 1Tim 3:6 Consider also Prov 16:18; Rom 12:3
- B. Stubbornness 1Sam 15:23
 1. Yes we must contend for the faith Jude 3
 2. But we must not have a stubborn disposition Jas 3:17
- C. Worldly ambition - a problem among disciples: Lk 22:24-27
 1. Being Christian often conflicts with worldly desires and goals
 2. Worldly ambition can crowd out spiritual activities & concerns
 3. The carnal mind is enmity against God Rom 8:7
- D. Greed
 1. Judas Matt 26:14-16; Jhn 12:4-6
 2. Ananias and Sapphira Acts 5:1-10
 3. One greedy for money can't be an elder 1Tim 3:3; 1Pet 5:2

II. EXPERIENCES AND RELATIONSHIPS CAN DESTROY FAITH

- A. Some lose their faith as a result of personal tragedies
 1. There is some tragedy in everyone's life and some cannot deal with it when it comes Eccl 7:14
 2. Lose health, wealth, a loved one, etc., and blame God
 3. Job lost everything: note what he said Job 1:21; 2:10
 4. No matter how hard the trial, we can overcome. 1Cor 10:13
- B. Relationships with fellow Christians - strange, but true
 1. We, at times, are trying, aggravating, hard to get along with
 - a. Paul spoke of "false" brethren. 2Cor 11:26
 - b. Some hated Paul Phil. 1:16
 2. Let's not become angry at what people say or do, but do our best to love all, even those who opposed us Matt 5:43-48
 3. Never retaliate and use the same tactics they use
- C. Relationships with family - family should be an influence for good; however, this is certainly not always the case
 1. Some relatives not to be trusted. Micah 7:5-6; Matt 10:34-37
 2. Relatives can be one of the strongest determining factors in keeping one's faith or giving up one's faith

3. Whether others remain faithful or not, we must do what God requires of us. Matt 26:33
- D. False teachers Matt 7:15; 2Pet 2:1; 1Tim 4:1-3; 2Tim 4:1-4
 1. Some preachers have great influence and power - some can be "church bosses." 3Jhn 9 - some become fascinated with and begin to teach "unusual" theories
 2. Often, when a false teacher is exposed, some become discouraged and give up their faith
 - a. Our faith in the message, not the messenger 1Cor 3:5
 - b. Continue to strive for the faith of the gospel Phil 1:27
- E. Worldliness - appears in many different packages - from attraction to materialism to the vilest of sins
 1. When one's desires for the world outweigh his desires to please God, he will self-destruct spiritually
 2. Not the ship in the water, but the water in the ship that causes it to sink. Likewise, it not the Christian in the world, but the world in the Christian that destroys him Jhn 17:14,16
 3. One turning back to world is not fit for kingdom Lk 9:62
 4. A friend of the world is the enemy of God Jas 4:4
 5. We have escaped pollutions of world 2Pet 2:20; Gal 5:1
- F. Fail to trust the promises of God Heb 3:17-4:2
 1. Israel died in the wilderness because they failed to trust God's promises - God had promised He would give them the land, Instead of believing God, they believed ten unbelieving spies
 2. God has given us exceeding great and precious promises 2Pet 1:4
 3. put our trust fully and completely in His promises - never be moved away from the hope of the gospel Col 1:23

CONCLUSION:

- A. As seen, many things can destroy our faith. Yet, there would never be a legitimate reason for losing one's faith.
- B. The consequence of the destruction of one's faith is the destruction of one's soul.
- C. Let's be on guard 1Cor 16:13 and stand fast in the Lord. Phil 4:1