

# APOSTASY

An abandonment of what one has professed; a total desertion, or departure from one's faith or religion.

1828 Webster's Dictionary

## Kinds of Apostasy:

**1. National: 1 Kings 12:26-33**

Jeroboam should have relied on the protection of God, but he didn't. He changed everything regarding the Temple and even conducted the functions of high priest himself. He also made priests of people who were not Levites. He did nothing to continue in the way God instructed His temple to be set up.

**2. Individual: 2 Kings 21:1-9**

Manasseh: Rather than continuing the God-honoring policies of his father (Hezekiah), he reverted to those of his grandfather Ahaz and re-established the detestable practices of the Canaanite people. He defiantly built altars to other gods in the temple. He also practiced human sacrifice. Manasseh (verse 9) seduced the people to do more evil than the nations did whom the Lord destroyed before the Israelites.

Hebrews 3:12: Our hearts turn away from God when we stubbornly refuse to believe or obey Him. God will eventually leave us alone in our sin.

**3. Angelic: 2 Peter 2:4**

Punishment awaits those who rebel against God.  
There was a falling away of angels along with Satan.

**4. General: 2 Timothy 3:1-5**

In the last days: difficult times: a time of societal degeneration

Warning: Don't settle for comfort without commitment.

In the verses, Paul lists the behavior of many Christians (19 general characteristics) – will intensify with time.

**5. Final: 2 Thessalonians 2:3**

Be ready for anything that threatens your faith.

The falling away will occur before the judgment within the professing church.

**6. Irremediable: Hebrews 6:1-8**

We are to make progress and lay the foundations (elementary teachings) in our lives.

If they (or any of us) don't advance, we will retreat. He states there that do it is difficult to bring them back to repentance.

### Caused By:

1. **Satan: Luke 22:31**  
Re: Simon – Jesus' warning to him.
2. **False Teachers: Acts 20:29, 30**  
He calls them ferocious wolves.  
A warning for elders to guard themselves and their flock.
3. **Perversion of the Scriptures: 2 Timothy 4:3, 4**  
People will not listen to sound doctrine but will find teachers who will tell them what they want to hear.
4. **Persecution: Matthew 13; 21**  
Ones who do not have a strong "root system" will stumble when persecution or affliction comes.
5. **Love of the world: 2 Timothy 4:10**  
A love of worldly ease, safety, and comfort
6. **Hardened hearts: Acts 7:54, 57**  
In relation to Stephen
7. **Spiritual blindness: Acts 28:25-27**  
Paul applied the words of Isaiah (Acts 6:9-10)  
They were obstinate as far as believing which results in calloused hearts, deafened ears, and spiritually blinded eyes.

### Manifested In:

1. **Resisting the truth: 2 Timothy 3:7, 8**  
They are always learning (listening to anybody teaching them) yet they do not come into the full knowledge of Christ.
2. **Resorting to deception: 2 Corinthians 11:13-15**  
Be careful of false apostles whose motives are to bring deception.  
Never accept the message until you see what God's Word says for Satan himself is disguised as an angel of light.

### Safeguards against found in:

1. **God's Word: 2 Timothy 3:13-17**  
Hold to its truth. May it be your foundation.
2. **Spiritual growth: 2 Peter 1:5-11**  
Faith results in action, growing in Christian character and practicing moral discipline. If these are not consistently applied your faith will die away. Paul lists in these verses all of faith's actions that must be developed and applying them you will never stumble.

3. **Faithfulness: Matthew 24:42-51**  
Be alert: We don't know when the Lord will come.
4. **Spiritual perception: 1 John 4:1-6**  
Test the spirits. Do not believe every one.
5. **Being grounded in the truth: Ephesians 4:13-16**  
That will keep us from being tossed around by every type of teaching coming our way. Being grounded will also help us to be discerning.
6. **Using God's armor: Ephesians 6:10-20**  
God gives His people the resources to help us stand against all types of evil powers.
7. **Preach and teach the truth of the Word to others: 2 Timothy 4:2,5**  
Correct those in error (2 Timothy 2:25)

#### **Other References Referring to Apostasy:**

##### **Hebrews 2:1-3**

The need to pay special attention to the teaching of the Word. This involves focusing our minds, bodies and senses on God's truth and by obeying (be doers not hearers only).

##### **Hebrews 3:12-14**

Our need to guard against a sinful, unbelieving heart. The importance of our fellow believers in encouraging one another so no one would be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

##### **Hebrews 4:1-11**

Some of the Jewish Christians Paul was writing to may have been on the verge to turning back from entering God's rest just as the people in Moses' day had turned back from the Promised Land. A lesson and reminder from the past to us all.

##### **Hebrews 10:23**

We are to hold on to the truth without wavering.

##### **Hebrews 13:9**

Don't even consider something that comes along which is contrary to God's Word. Even more important reason for each of us to know God's Word and be a student of it.

##### **Colossians 2:6-8**

Receiving Jesus as Lord of our lives is the beginning of new life, but one must continue to follow His leadership by being rooted and strengthened in the Gospel. In verse 8, he condemns teaching which credits humanity, not Christ, with being the answer to life's problems. This approach becomes a false religion. Be careful!

**1 John 2:4-6:**

Knowing this helps determine who is a true follower of Christ and the one who is a liar.

**Romans 16:17**

Be on your guard and do not be fooled by smooth talk. If you are a student of the Word you will not be fooled. Keep away from false teachers.

**Galatians 1:6-9**

Here Paul expresses his anger and astonishment over the Galatians defection from the Gospel. He gives the more serious nature of doctrinal apostasy.

**1 Thessalonians 5:14**

Warn those who are idle. Encourage them. Their idleness will make them vulnerable.

**2 Thessalonians 3:6**

Separate yourself from the lazy and disorderly and those who will not submit to proper discipline (verses 14,15)

**1 Timothy 1:3-6**

Church at Ephesus may have been encountering the same heresy as the church at Colosse (see Colossians 2:8, 18). The false teachers may have been motivated by their own interests instead of Christ's.

**1 Timothy 4:1**

Latter times some will depart the faith following after deceitful spirits. Verses 6,7: have nothing to do with silly myths

**1 Timothy 6:20,21**

Paul encourages Timothy to guard himself from opposing ideas and spiritual thieves.

**Titus 1:13-14**

Rebuke the false teachers sharply so that they may be sound/healthy in the faith. The ultimate goal was to try and recover the one in error.

**Titus 2:1**

Teach what is only sound doctrine.

**Titus 3:9-11**

Paul warns Titus not to get involved in foolish and unprofitable arguments. He was to give two warnings. This is similar to Jesus' instructions in Matthew 18:15-17. After giving the offender 3 chances to repent, he is then to be cut off.

**James 5:19,20**

If a fellow believer wanders away, we should try to save that one by encouraging them back (restoration).

**2 John 9-11**

**The Message Bible: “Anyone who gets so progressive in his thinking that he walks out on the teaching of Christ, walks out on God!”**

**Don’t receive or welcome such people. Don’t show hospitality to such people. We are not to be partakers with them.**

**1 Timothy 6:10**

**Be careful regarding money. The love and desire for it can cause people to be led astray.**

**Matthew 15:9,13**

**Jesus’ statement regarding those who teach the commands of man as doctrines. They will be uprooted.**

**1 John 2:19**

**False teachers: Were once a part but have now went out from us: The word “us” contracts with the “you” in earlier verses. John is letting the people know that these men did not share the spirit and perspective of the apostolic circle. A man in touch with God will submit to apostolic instruction (1 John 4:6)**