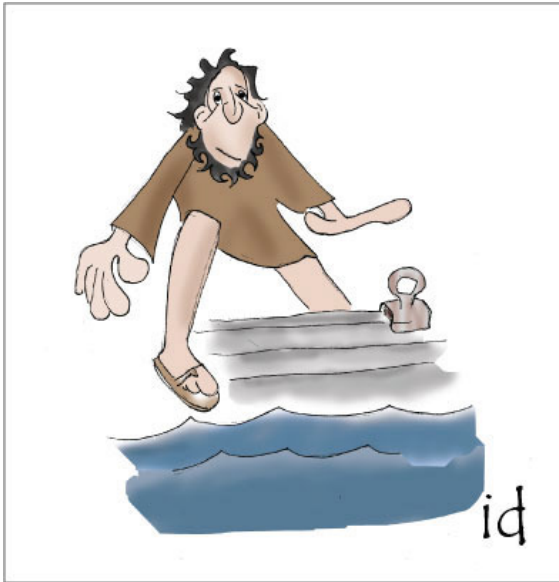


# Warning from a Backslider

How does a man go from “walking on water” to “denying” Christ?



Peter was brought to Jesus by his brother Andrew and he became the disciple listed first in every list of the apostles. He was to be called the Rock and he was the one who professed “We know and are sure that thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God.” He was the sensitive soul who responded to Grace and blessing by realizing his unworthiness and saying “depart from me for I am a sinful man.” Then he denied Christ. How did something like that happen? How does one go from walking on water to denying the Lord? Thank God he was restored, but there is a warning in his experience for us. There are at least six steps of the backslider. Watch out for them.



**1. Pride-** “Others may deny you but not me.” (Mk.14:3, Mt. 26:35). It is thinking more highly of ourselves than we ought (Rom. 12:3). “Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed .” (1Cor. 10:12). God gives grace to the humble (James 4:6).

**2. Prayerlessness-** “can ye not watch with me for one hour.” Peter fell asleep in the garden. Peter fell asleep on the Mt. of Transfiguration.

**3. Taking matters into our own hands-** Sword Play- (Mt. 26:52). He was rebuked and put in his place by Jesus. From Eden to Ishmael, taking things in our own hands seldom turns out well.

**4. Following from a distance** -(Mt. 26:58) When we are chastized or rebuked and disappointed with God we often pull back, hold back, or sit back. In the Upper room, John was the close disciple.

**5. Becoming cold-** (Jn. 18:15-18, 18:25). We know we are spiritually cold when we try to warm ourselves by the world’s fires. “Love not the world.”

**6. We Deny Christ-** Peter may have been afraid, disappointed, frustrated, or tired. Whatever it was, he did what he vowed he would never do. He denied his Lord. The curse was an oath- something like “I swear, I don’t know Him.” With that he crossed over to the dark side(1Pet.1:9). The cock crowed and Peter realized what he did and went out and wept bitterly.

The End. Found in *The Theology of Grace, Forgiveness and Pentecost.*

*Ingimar DeRidder*