

Don't Backslide

To be naïve is to be a person who doesn't think enough. A naïve person is low on the character trait of curiosity. A naïve person prefers not knowing because knowing information might disappoint, or cause fear and anxiety, or cause sadness. A naïve person prefers not thinking about the future, because the future might be painful, or depressing. A naïve person believes they have no influence or control over the future so it is better to just hope for the best instead of trying to change anything or possibly make the future better.

Choosing to be naïve is a self-protective move. It doesn't really protect but it does take away much anxiety. In our day when everything is changing as rapidly as it is the future is scary and intimidating, so naïve people choose to not think about the future, or plan for it, or try to change it. Our life after we die will be really, really good or it will be really, really bad. Because it is forever, it is not very wise to ignore thinking about our eternal destiny or not thinking seriously about how to make it much better.

I ponder about my future every day. We were created by God as teleological beings, because He is; that is we can *think* about the future, we can *plan* for the future, and we can *change* our future. I want a very joy- filled, rewarding, positive, and productive future, so I am making choices that will make those dreams reality.

My greatest desire in life now is to somehow be a strong influence in the lives of many people so that they will move away from being naïve, to becoming a genuine seeker of answers, always wanting to know more and more, and influencing them to be a genuine seeker for Jesus. God says that if we seek Him, we will find Him; He will see to it.

1. Many people who _____ living for Jesus _____
from Him. **1 Timothy 4:1; 2 Corinthians 11:3; 2 Peter 3:17.**
2. Some that _____ away from their faith in Christ are _____ and
will _____. **Luke 15:17-20.**
3. But many who fall away are _____ in Jesus, and will
spend eternity in the _____ of _____. **Hebrews 3:14, 6; Romans 11:22.**

4. Many, who when they _____, are _____ to spend eternity with God, will hear a shocking and irreversible _____ from God.
Matthew 7:21-23.
5. Becoming a child of God is _____, but it isn't _____.
James 2:19.
6. Because of the confusion and misunderstanding of the word *believe*, Pastor Dee has come to the conclusion that the best word to use to declare our salvation is " _____." **1 Corinthians 16:22.**
7. Those who truly _____ Jesus will desire to _____ Him by _____ and following Him.
John 14:15, 21, 23, 15:9-11; 1 John 5:3; 2 John 6.
8. Nobody who _____ to be a Christian plans on or thinks they will _____.
Matthew 26:33.
9. A person who is not _____ will think about their walk with Christ and _____ their heart to make _____ they are a follower of Jesus. **2 Corinthians 13:5.**
10. Faithfully _____ the _____ and spending _____ with God in _____ are basic to maintaining and growing in our love relationship with Jesus.
11. One of the most ignored and violated principles of _____ with Christ, is _____ with other _____.
Hebrews 10:23-25, 3:12-15.
12. Though technically not required to be a child of God, our choosing to follow Jesus in _____ is a strong _____ of our love for, and our desire to follow Him.