

But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned.

Galatians 2:11

Store In My Heart

1Corinthians 10:12

Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.

We must constantly guard against our own weaknesses. The context of this verse points us back to the example of Israel in the wilderness. They were all brought out of Egypt. They all heard the Voice of God on the mount. Yet most of them turned away from God and never saw Canaan because they were distracted by their surroundings. They were not diligent to stay close to God and rejoice in His presence among them. Focusing on their current situation they forgot the goal, the Promised Land, in sight.

We can fall today for similar reasons if we are not diligent in taking heed. We must remain on watch against the things in this world that would cause us to stumble or fall. There is no time to relax our guard.



The Dangers of Having Been Here Longer

Gary Henry

"Better a poor and wise youth than an old and foolish king who will be admonished no more" (Ecclesiastes 4:13)

Just as there are special challenges for those who are young in the faith, there are also some for the older. One of these is the pride that comes from comparing ourselves to those who are our juniors, spiritually speaking. "May God help us to avoid thoughts such as these: But I have been here the longest. I have worked harder. Someone else is being favored" (Teresa of Avila).

Pride is especially dangerous because of its subtlety. It can take many different forms, some of which are extremely hard to see when we are the ones who are guilty. If we think only of blatant egotism and arrogance, we may judge ourselves to be free of pride, but we need to think twice. It may be that some of the attitudes we classify as "spiritual maturity" are actually forms of pride, nicely disguised as the virtues of strength and wisdom.

For example, it's hard for experienced Christians to keep satisfaction with their experience from sliding off into the swamp of smugness. Perhaps we would never say so, and perhaps we're clever enough to keep others from knowing we think this way, but inwardly we may feel a warm, condescending glow of ever-so-subtle superiority when we think how little others have suffered. "When they've been

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We want opportunities to speak with others about the Lord's Kingdom.

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For Our Information

Joyce Venable is feeling a little better.

Ruben & Brenda Keisler are still in isolation.

The Simpson family is in Star City this weekend.

The LaValla family is in Southaven, MS this weekend.

Amy Simpson will have hip surgery this week.

We will in Judges 14 at 5 this evening.

Wednesday at 7 pm we will be in 1Corinthians 15.

Pray for safety, courage & healing.

around as long as we have, they'll see things differently," we sigh, congratulating ourselves for being older.

If you think you're not troubled by this particular malady, ask yourself this question: how willing am I to be corrected by someone with far less experience than I? The patronizing, "mature" smile with which you listen to criticism from your juniors is probably a sign of pride, and you may need to listen to Solomon: "Better a poor and wise youth than an old and foolish king who will be admonished no more." Hasn't pride closed many an older ear?

Whether we're young or old in the faith, it's a good idea to minimize the amount of time we spend making comparisons. It really doesn't matter whether we are ahead of or behind someone else in life's experience. We won't have been in heaven for five seconds before we realize how absolutely silly such comparisons are. The only gap that matters is the gap between us and God!

"Beware of thinking about your seniority" (Teresa of Avila).

(As I read the article above my mind turned to Peter. Do you remember Paul's description of confronting Peter regarding his actions when Jews from Jerusalem came to Antioch? (**Galatians 2:11-14**) Peter had been with Jesus through most of His 3 year ministry. He stood before the Jews and taught Christ on Pentecost. Peter continued to stand firm in face of severe persecution. Peter was the one chosen to reveal the Good News to the Gentiles at the household of Cornelius. Paul on other hand was not converted until almost 10 years after Pentecost. He had spent much of that time persecuting those who followed the Way. Here is a good example of long term vs short term. Peter had been following Christ for close to a quarter century and Paul only had about a decade of service. I can easily see how someone in that situation might wonder "why should I listen to him?" or "who is he to correct me?". Yet, who was in the wrong? We need to listen to the message of this article. We should always strive to avoid pride and it's companions, superiority and condescension. Every one will need a little correction or guidance from time to time. Sometimes the mature learn from the young. Study, Pray, Do! DLH)

We seek only to serve God according to His Will!

