

13 Traps in the Christian Walk

We are to fight the good fight of faith. Faith trusts the Lord in His Word without seeing, feeling or instant positive results. At first it sounds easy but there are traps along the way. And faith becomes a fight. Some start well with convictions in all His Word, yet later they change. It is not always Satan's outright persecution but more subtle things that can change our walk from His way to our way. Following are 13 traps that can ensnare our faith and change our walk – and we may not even know it at first.

1. **Family** – Abraham made family mistakes under pressure from his wife, Sarah. Eli the priest failed when he honored his sons, who needed removed from the temple, above God. Love for flesh and blood can breed compromise. The Lord taught He comes before family: *“If any man come to me and hate not his father, and mother, and wife and children...,”* Lk. 14:26.

2. **Finances (food-famine)** – The basic necessities of life are real. When survival seems threatened we are capable of compromising ethics, church faithfulness and family. Abraham went to Egypt because of famine and was willing to sacrifice his wife's purity. Do we have faith in God that, *“My God shall supply all your need...by Christ Jesus,”* Philp. 4:19?

3. **Fear of Man** – The rejection of peers cuts deeply for it's lonely alone - emotional hurt. Men with power can make things worse for us - physical hurt. Saul sinned and did it his way, not God's, because, *“I feared the people, and obeyed their voice.”* But, *“The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me,”* is the boldness of faith, 1Sam. 15:24 / Heb. 13:6.

4. **Failure of Men** – “My problem with Christianity is not Christ but Christians,” say some. Failure of others is their excuse for not following Christ. There will always be a Judas yet Peter wouldn't go away. In faith he said, *“thou hast the words of eternal life,”* Jn. 6:68.

5. **Failure of Church** – “The church is full of hypocrites,” we hear. But the person saying that then becomes a hypocrite and uses that excuse to quit practicing what they profess. Though there was failure in the churches, the Lord Jesus walked among them with patience, grace and instruction, Rev. 2:1. For, *“charity [love] never faileth,”* 1Cor. 13:8.

6. **Failure of Ourselves** – Guilt can overwhelm us as see our own sin and think the Lord can't use such a one as me. But we don't enter the holiest by our works but boldly, *“by the blood of Jesus ... in full assurance of faith,”* Heb. 10:19, 22. After David's sin with Bathsheba and the baby's death, he came into the Lord's house and worshiped, 2Sam. 12:20.

7. **Friends** – Sometimes we choose companionship with those who don't have a heart for the Lord. We forget that bad company corrupts good habits, 1Cor. 15:33. Also to stay popular and accepted we become like those of Jesus' day who, though they believed, wouldn't confess Him, *“For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God,”* Jn. 12:43.

8. **Fatigue** – Much stress or physical and mental work can produce weariness and lessen our response to stimulus. When tired with no energy we can become like Elijah who after running miles from Jezebel, said, *“It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers,”* 1Kings. 19:4. He needed sleep and food and was then stronger.

9. **Fun** – In a pressure packed society of prosperity and peace (freedom from survival and fighting) with modern time-savers we crave fun or happiness to overcome boredom with life. Amusement (a - muse, not to think) even finds its way into churches. Men become, *“lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God,”* 2Tim, 3:4. Fundamental becomes fundamental. Christians need to realize we are still in warfare with the world, the flesh and the devil.

10. **Facebook (etc.)** – There is a built in desire to connect with others and express oneself. In days before modern technology it was the church fellowship where Christians found this. Today’s Christian can find this online, which requires no commitment or accountability – or accuracy in the Word. *“Study to show thyself approved unto God”* and *“seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church”* has given way to an electronic click and run involvement, 2Tim. 2:15, 1Cor. 14:12. The 23rd Psalm can become the 23rd Megabyte:

*The World Wide Web is my iGuide; my spiritual needs I shall no longer want.
It letteth me download in grey cyberspace.
It leadeth me beside the shallow waters of useless information.
It restoreth my knowledge in the things of the world and draineth my soul’s time with God.
It leadeth me in paths of materialism for my need’s sake.
Yea as I surf through the valley of the Internet, I will see much evil, for Wi Fi is with me.
Thy rod and thy staff are traded for more news and opinions, which confoundeth me.
Thine enemies preparest a table of virtual reality before me at which I am present.
It acquaintest my head with desires and choice; my credit card runneth over.
Surely Siri and Alexa shall empower me all the days of my life;
And I will dwell in the house of the Cloud – with loss of reward – forever.*

11. **Fame** – To be admired, respected and advance in life is natural. But it can become the “pride of life” when pursued over the will of God. Absalom made himself a king and built a monument unto himself to be famous. Now he’s infamous. The prophet said, *“seekest thou great things for thyself? seek them not,”* Jer. 45:5. We are saved for the Lord’s glory.

12. **Fortune** – Money seems to promise security, peace of mind, health, choice, pleasure and happiness. But the *love* of money has drowned men in temptations and pressures bringing sorrows and complexities *“But godliness with contentment is great gain,”* 1Tim. 6:6.

13. **Frivolity** – To escape responsibility some, with excess humor (foolishness and light heartedness), neglect life’s serious issues. Truths of God are trivial and kind of mocked at – in the name of grace – just as the people invited to the son’s wedding *made light* of such and went their ways, Matt. 22:5. Could it be, generally, that churches that have great numbers have more entertainment than sound doctrine and practice? Yet we are exhorted *“to be sober minded,”* Titus 2:6. *“The good fight of faith”* is serious for the Lord, 1Tim. 6:12.

If we find ourselves in a trap the solution is REAL. 1. **Remember** how you first received His Word only. *“Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard,”* Rev. 3:3. 2. **Exchange** our ways for His ways no matter what the cost and hold His Word fast this time. It’s called faith and repentance. *“hold fast, and repent,”* Rev. 3:3. 3. **Admit**, *“confess our sins,”* and He is so faithful to forgive, 1John 1:9. 4. **Look**. *“Looking unto Jesus”* – alone, Heb. 12:2. Men fail but look to Him, not in. Is the Lord Jesus Christ faithful? To look within is to be distressed. To look without is to be depressed. But to look up is to be blessed!