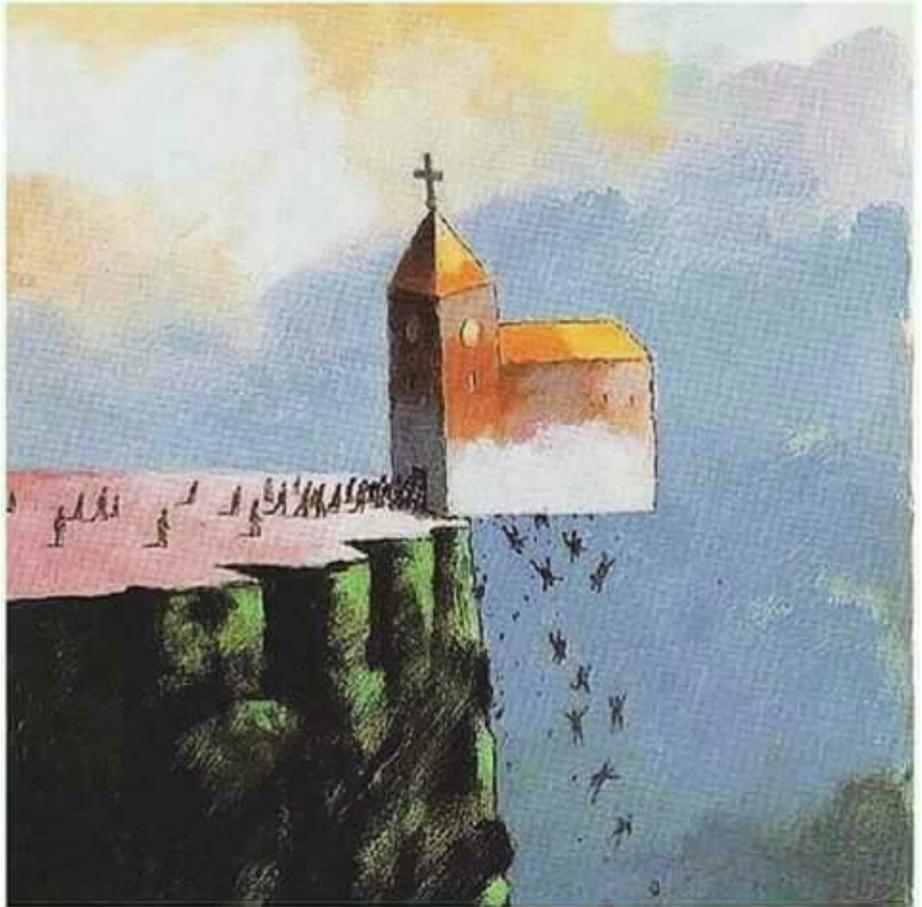


“Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto Him, That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the Day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that Day shall not come, except there come A Falling Away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the Temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.”  
*2 Thessalonians 2:1-4no2 KJV*



Many believe because they go to a church that they are somehow a part of God’s Family, but that is not the critical criteria. I can go to the Smith’s house and still not be a Smith! What makes you uniquely God’s child is the fact that He knows you. “Nevertheless the Foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, ‘The Lord knoweth them that are His.’ Many will say to me in that Day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy name? And in Thy name have cast out devils? And in Thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I NEVER KNEW YOU: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.” If something or someone falls away, it means they or it becomes detached; no longer connected. I think of the NASA space shuttle launches when the engines ignite and the tower and fuel lines “fall away,” and the rocket leaves them behind as it rises. If you “fall away” from faith in Christ, you never had it! The Parable of the Sower gives perfect example: Jesus said, “Hearken; Behold, there went out a sower to sow: And it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the way side, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up. And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth: But when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit. And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred. The sower soweth [God’s] Word. And these are they by the way side, where the Word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the Word that was sown in their hearts. And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the Word, immediately receive it with gladness; And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word’s sake, immediately they are offended. And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the Word, And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the Word, and it becometh unfruitful. And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the Word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred.” Of all the sowing only the “good ground” produced fruit. Only a quarter of those who heard the Word truly believed. The rest, even though they gladly received it, were quick to abandon it. When the going got tough; they fell away. Do you go to church thinking it your duty or is it because you love God and His children? “By this shall all men know that ye are MY disciples, if ye have love one to another. If ye love me, keep MY Commandments.” It’s easy to obey God in prosperity, but do you still do it when you’re hurt or hungry? That is where the rubber of faith meets the road of trials. Does your faith still have traction on the ice

of affliction? *“Yea, and all that will live Godly in Christ Jesus SHALL SUFFER persecution. Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened...you...are kept by the Power of God through faith unto Salvation ready to be revealed in the Last Time. Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.”* Affliction is part and parcel of your faith; it’s what purifies it and endears you to your Heavenly Father! If you have no trials, you have no faith. Faith may ask “Why?” but NEVER stops trusting!

Have you fallen away from Love of God?  
Does care and sorrow on your dark soul tread?  
Has your faith deserted and left you bound?  
Or is the Peace of God within you found? –CGP

It is Peace in the tempests of life which affirm your kinship with Almighty God. *“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that WE ARE the Children of God: And if Children, then Heirs; Heirs of God, and Joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we SUFFER with Him, that we may be also glorified together.”* Peace is the anchor of your soul in the Harbor of Faith. It moors you safely away from the doubt and despair of death and assures you that God does know you!

*“That the TRIAL of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see Him not, YET BELIEVING, ye rejoice with Joy unspeakable and full of Glory: Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.” 1 Peter 1:7-9 KJV*