

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

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Apostasy Warning Signs

I venture to say that we all have unfortunately known of someone who has abandoned the faith. However, we all need to recognize that apostasy is not something that just happens over night, but typically there are many “warning signs” which indicate that a child of God is in potential danger of turning their back on the Lord. Therefore, we all need to beware of, and look out for, these potential warning signs of apostasy, and we need to give them the required attention they demand, before it is too late. So, knowing that, let’s examine some “apostasy warning signs” that can indicate that you, or someone else that you may know, could be in danger of falling away.

A Loss of Appetite For God’s Word

We all realize that if we lose our appetite for physical food and fail to eat, that we will become physically malnourished, and that our physical well-being will then become compromised. However, the same is true with our spiritual well-being. For, if we lose our appetite for God’s word and fail to feed upon it, we will become spiritually malnourished, and then our spiritual well-being will become compromised. Therefore, beware of this potential apostasy warning sign, and always remember these words of Jesus, *“It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God”* (Matthew 4:4).

A Loss of Desire To Pray To God

We all understand that communication is a vital part of any relationship. For instance, failure to properly communicate with your spouse, or with your employer, will lead to a lopsided, unhealthy relationship. The same can be said in regard to the child of God who fails to properly communicate with their heavenly Father through prayer. You see, the avenue of prayer is important and valuable to every Christian. For, it is through the avenue of prayer that we make our request known to God (Philippians 4:6), it’s how we confess our sins to God and ask Him for His forgiveness (Acts 8:22), and as a child of God, we can have the confidence that God hears our prayers, and that He will grant us the things that we have asked of Him, if it be His will (1 John 5:14-15). However, when prayer becomes non-existent in one’s life, it often denotes that one has lost their confidence in God, which is a sign of apostasy. So, beware of this apostasy warning sign, and keep these inspired words in mind, *“...men always ought to pray and not lose heart...”* (Luke 18:1).

Failure To Regularly Assemble With The Saints

One of the most noticeable warning signs that one may be on the verge of abandoning the faith is that of failing to regularly assemble with the saints. Throughout the Hebrews epistle the inspired writer warned about apostasy (Hebrews 2:1, 3:12-13; 4:11, 6:4-6, 10:26-31), and he exhorted Christians to endure and to keep the faith (Hebrews 3:14, 6:9-12, 12:1-2, 13:20-22), and in Hebrews 10:24-25, he encouraged Christians to consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, and to not forsake the assembling of themselves together. Sadly, as the Hebrews writer noted in verse 25, there are some who willfully abandon the assembling of themselves together with the saints, and when one begins to become very sporadic in their attendance, or when one stops attending worship services altogether, this is a sign of apostasy. Therefore, beware of this apostasy warning sign, and take notice when you start to see an inconsistent pattern

in your's or another's attendance, seek to resolve that issue, before it is too late.

A Noticeable Absence of The Fruit of The Spirit

In Galatians 5:16-25, the apostle Paul catalogues the evident works of the flesh, and the fruit of the Spirit, and he reminds Christians of the need to walk according to the Spirit and not the flesh. Therefore, when a Christian starts living, and exhibiting a life that is counter to that of what a Christian should, it is a huge indication that something is wrong, and that apostasy is at hand. Knowing this, pay attention to your actions, and to the actions of others, and when you notice that they are becoming contrary to that of the fruit of the Spirit, take heed, and beware of this apostasy warning sign, before it is too late (Romans 8:5-11).

Being More Focused On Worldly Things, Rather Than Spiritual Things

My friend, when one's focus and concern becomes that of temporal things, rather than that of spiritual things, apostasy is around the corner. You see, when a child of God starts to focus more upon the cares of this world, the pleasures of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, rather than staying focused upon God, and storing up treasure in heaven, they are in trouble, and they become in great danger of falling away (Matthew 6:19-21, 13:22). Therefore, always strive to set your mind upon the things above, rather than on the things on the earth (Colossians 3:1-11), and beware of this apostasy warning sign, before it is too late.

These are just a few of the possible warning signs that could indicate that one is in danger of apostasy. Therefore, let's all beware of these apostasy warning signs, and may we always give special attention to them, before it is too late!

✍ Brad Phillips

God's Plan of Salvation

Hear the word of God. (Romans 10:17)

Believe in Jesus Christ. (John 8:24)

Repent of your sins. (Acts 17:30)

Confess Jesus Christ. (Matthew 10:32)

Be baptized for the remission of sins. (Acts 2:38)

Remain faithful unto death. (Revelation 2:10)

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth: to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.” (Romans 1:16)

Belleville church of Christ	
5635 S County Rd 200E - Belleville, IN - (317) 539-5258	
www.bellevillechurch.net	
Schedule of Services	
Sunday Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	4:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 p.m.
Elders	
David Lockhart	(317) 714-6213
David Thomas	(317) 945-8539
Evangelist	
Brad Phillips	(765) 720-2816