

DEDICATION

What is a backslider, or rather what categorizes an individual as a backslider? The word backslider is found in the book of (Proverbs 14:14), but I'm searching for a profound definition to better understand its meaning. Would the definition appear as a category the Church has created to classify the present status of a believer? Are there several determining factors when classifying someone as a backslider? Or would the determination become situational according to reason, purpose, or decision to become a backslider?

Would a backslider be a person who believes on the name of the Lord and then later changes his or her mind no-longer believing? Would a backslider be a believer who strays away from his or her church because of rules and regulations, including legalism of religion, which contradicts the lifestyle of an individual? Would a backslider be an individual who has slowly progressed away from some aspects of the Christian lifestyle? Or would a backslider be a believer who purposely chooses to stay home and worship God because sanctuary environments are growing more and more corrupt?

I'm becoming a little confused as to what determines classification of a backslider! From my experience, I know for certain that many of us have been in one of these categories at some time or another, but for some reason, there are an increasing number of individuals backsliding purposely! Yes, believers are choosing to backslide on purpose, having a motive to protect themselves from an intimidating force that has ambushed our assemblies!

May I continue by saying I'm sorry? I feel the urgency to open this dedication with an apology! I must apologize on behalf of pastors and ministry leaders who have allowed congregants to stray. I pray you're able to receive in your hearts this apology on behalf of those who were and still are not able to stand before us (yes, I said *us*) and say, "I'm sorry!" This book is dedicated to millions of current and former congregants who retain frustration regarding the Church. There are so many believers around the world wandering without a pastor! Not because they're stubborn and don't want to support ministry, but because many churches are now operating outside its sacred establishment!

Church has always been the place for healing, reconciliation and impartation, but there is no ministry for those that live in pain inflicted upon the Church. Where are the sheep to go, whom are we to call? Year after year, thousands of believers begin wandering either from church to church, or astray, seeking emotional or spiritual healing. Some still retain love for God, maintaining scheduled time for studying and praise and worship, now behind the comforting doors of their homes. As many have fallen far away from their embraced religion, there are those that still sit silently, hurting, crying, and seeking God for real answers!

I'm dedicating this book to those who have no voice, but desire to stand against what they know in their hearts is wrong! It's my prayer that former and current congregants will begin waking up, striving to get the House of prayer back in order! God has heard your cry, my brother, and my sister. He is ready to bring order back into His House, but you must remember *YOU ARE THE CHURCH, THE BODY OF CHRIST*; therefore YOU must allow what's within YOU (the Holy Spirit) to proclaim a voice that is so needed today, thereby bringing order back where it belongs!
"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my

***heart be acceptable in your sight, oh Lord, my strength
and my redeemer.” Amen!***