

# “What About Those Who Abandon the Faith?”

1 Timothy 4:1-2

June 21, 2026

- I. There are some people who look like a Christian and are even associated with Christianity for a while but there comes a time when they stop their association with Christianity. They never were \_\_\_\_\_!

“They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us.”

**1 John 2:19 (NIV)**

“They have left the straight way and wandered off to follow the way of Balaam son of Bezer, who loved the wages of wickedness... If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and are overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning... Of them the proverbs are true: “A dog returns to its vomit,” and, “A sow that is washed returns to her wallowing in the mud.””

**2 Peter 2:15,20,22 (NIV)**

“But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, “Why wasn’t this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year’s wages.” He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.”

**John 12:4-6 (NIV)**

“for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia.”

**2 Timothy 4:10**

- II. There are some people who are Christians but for various reasons they start living in a way that is \_\_\_\_\_ of a Christian.

“For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.”

**2 Peter 1:8-9 (NIV)**

“Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans?”

**1 Corinthians 3:1-3 (NIV)**

“Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.”

**Luke 22:31-32 (NIV)**

**(Luke 15:11-32)**

- III. There are 5 reasons people fall away/drift away or turn from Christ:

1. Refusal to accept \_\_\_\_\_.

“Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved.”

**Luke 8:12 (NIV)**

“On hearing it, many of his disciples said, “This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?” Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, “Does this offend you? ... The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life. Yet there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him.... From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.”

**John 6:60-61, 63b-64,66 (NIV)**

2. The deception of \_\_\_\_\_.

“But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves. Many will follow their depraved conduct and will bring the way of truth into disrepute.”

**2 Peter 2:1-2 (NIV)**

“I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ.”

**Galatians 1:6-7 (NIV)**

3. Love for the things of this \_\_\_\_\_.

“The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life’s worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature.”

**Luke 8:14 (NIV)**

“for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia.”

**2 Timothy 4:10 (NIV)**

“Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them.”

**1 John 2:15 (NIV)**

4. Times of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

“Those on the rocky ground are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away.”

**Luke 8:13 (NIV)**

“These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”

**1 Peter 1:7 (NIV)**

5. A lack of connectiveness to and involvement in a Christ honoring \_\_\_\_\_.

“until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming.”

**Ephesians 4:13-14 (NIV)**

“Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

Hebrews 10:23-25 (NIV)