

Ministering to the backslidden I

- Realize there is a healing needed in their lives.
- Understand they struggle with personal sin, weaknesses and discouragement.
- Be empathetic: How many of you have been tempted to quit on your relationship with the Lord?

Backsliding Defined: to go back, retreat, withdraw, to turn away, slide back; also to be rebellious, stubborn ... as a backsliding calf.

Everybody has backslidden, but not everybody has been caught!

A hallmark of revival is that backsliders come back into the church.

God's attitude toward them

Hosea 11:7 My people are bent on backsliding from Me. Though they call to the Most High, None at all exalt Him.

Hosea 14:4 "I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely, For My anger has turned away from him.



The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32)

A. Their response:

1. Pain (vs. 14) "he began to be in want"
 - a. Don't bail them out of their misery. Let it work for them.

Proverbs 14:14 The backslider in heart will be filled with his own ways, But a good man will be satisfied from above.

2. Revelation (vs. 17) "But when he came to himself"
3. Repentance (vs. 18) "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you"

B. Our response:

1. Compassion (vs. 20) "His father saw him and had compassion ... fell on his neck and kissed him"

Galatians 6:1-3 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. 2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. 3 For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

Galatians 6:1 (AMP) BROTHERS, IF any person is overtaken in misconduct or sin of any sort, you who are spiritual [who are responsive to and controlled by the Spirit] should set him right *and* restore *and* reinstate him, without any sense of superiority *and* with all gentleness, keeping an attentive eye on yourself, lest you should be tempted also.

2. Welcome them back. (Avoid the elder brother judgmental syndrome).
3. Know that this is an important ministry to deliver people from hell (vs. 32) "was lost and is found"

James 5:19-20 Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, 20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

Conclusion: The Lord desires to bring healing! And so do !!

Jeremiah 3:22 "Return, you backsliding children, And I will heal your backslidings."
"Indeed we do come to You,

How to minister to backslider:

1. Pray they don't die in their sins.
2. Show forth the Love, acceptance and forgiveness of Jesus.
3. Have a no condemnation approach (the devil has already thrown their failures in their face)
4. Have them affirm their love & commitment to Christ (Remember Jesus asked Peter three times if he loved him, equaling the three times he denied him).
5. Bring them to a place of repentance.
6. Bring them back to their mission for God.



Backslidden people are the most unhappy, miserable people on the planet. They know the truth, but aren't living it. They know about the joy, but don't have it. I should know. It happened to me in high school. God brought great healing to me. I found out after coming back to the Lord that during my backslidden three years a lady in the Salvation Army church prayed faithfully for me. Thank God for the intercessors! Can Jesus count on you to be an intercessor for our brethren who have gone back into the world?