

Angie's Marriage Column ~ December 2, 2009

What to Do When Husband Has Backslidden?

Ask Angie: I am a woman striving to live a pleasing life for the Lord, I am also trying to teach my sons to do the same. My Husband is backslidden and it is very difficult and probably confusing to my kids because they are being influenced by good and evil. How do I deal with this?

Marriage Guidance: Why or what do you think has caused your husband to backslide? If you can you may need to eliminate "it" from your lives. God tells us to literally RUN from temptation because we may succumb to it overtime. We have a duty as Christians to recognize where we are the weakest and stay away from those things, places and people as much as humanly possible. **In fact when we remove our selves from tempting areas in our life, we are behaving physically and spiritually courageous.**

A person's faith may be weak in certain areas if they are unable to not sin when around people or things that are associated with that weakness. For example if you are [newly sober you wouldn't want to socialize in places where alcohol is served](#) or even hang around with people that over indulge themselves with alcohol. Run from it!! Be spiritually and physically courageous and run—fast!

In the same way if your spouse is [addicted to shopping](#) you wouldn't want to hand them the check book either. If your spouse is addicted to porn you may want to get rid of the families computers until healing takes place. In the same way, if your spouse is [rebellious to Christ's marriage commands](#) you wouldn't want them to be associating with unbelievers who will only continue to sway their faith and trust in God for your marriage.

It is difficult for a true believer to backslide once they have already given their life to God; unless of course, they only *think* they have given their life to the Lord. [Or they have stopped acting on God's principles for their life](#). One way to know for sure is to look for the fruits. Were there blessings before your husband backslid and now they are gone? True believers [trust their whole being with God](#) and will have abundant blessings enter their lives because of that trust. We have to continually seek out God's will for our lives because God knows what is best for us in all areas of our life.

Do you think that friends, work associates, or extended family are discouraging your husband from seeking the Lord? Amazingly friends and family can discourage us from following the Lord because they aren't walking in the Lord themselves. [Hanging around with the wrong people can get us into trouble](#). You would think it only happens with kids, but adults too, can fall away or turn aside from God if they are not careful.

What does it mean to backslide? Backsliding means you have become unfaithful in your actions somehow. A person who backslides is no longer living consistent with his or her beliefs. Instead of putting your faith and trust with God you have chosen to put your

trust in self. Many Christians are [deceived daily by worldly affairs, events and interactions that take them off guard and away from the Lord](#). They think they are doing something good and right, but [if it is not of God then it is of the world and in the long run can make us sin and walk in error](#). Great discernment is needed here.

Believers who move away from their faith in the Lord, for whatever reason, are in serious trouble and need to repent. Scripture urges Christians to help backsliders return to God. “My brothers, if one of you should wander from the Truth and someone should bring him back remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins”. (James 5:19-20)

Do you want to strive to do what’s right? Pray for your husband. By praying for your husband and acting in love it is possible for you to bring your husband back to God and into Christ’s forgiveness. “Again I tell you if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together **in my name**, there am I with them”. (Matthew 18:19-20)

[Your good example](#) and good works will always prevail over sin. Children are a lot more aware and prone to doing right than we sometimes give them credit for. Children understand between right and wrong at a young age. If one parent has backslidden it is up to the faithful parent to tactfully talk to them about how this may have happened. When talking about the issue at hand don’t focus so much on the negative aspect of the sin but what you can do together to help the backslider come back to God.

Do not falter in your own faith because of the sins of your spouse. Ask God to give you strength to do what is right and continue to be the [main spiritual example for your children](#)—they will benefit greatly from your good actions in the Lord. [Pray for your husband](#) with your children—that is a good example for sure.

Be encouraging to your husband and let him see you and the children studying the bible together and singing and praising the Lord every day! (Psalm 147:7) [Continue to stay faithful to God no matter what](#). Live God’s Word through your actions. God’s word is not only something we read, but something we must **do** every single day! Christ Ones must LIVE the Word in their actions. Belief, faith, and trust must have hands and feet.

“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ”. (Colossians 2:6-8)

In Christ,
Angie and Frank
[Heaven Ministries ~ Marriage Healing Ministry](#)