

HOW TO RUIN A SPIRITUAL LIFE

Zephaniah 3:1-7

Introduction: You are right with the Lord, all is going well, God is blessing, you are happy with how things are going but gradually things begin to change and all at once it seems, things are not as they once were between you and the Lord. What went wrong? What happened? Your spiritual life is not what it once was. God's chosen people experienced the same thing, more than once. What happened to them? How did they get away from God? Was it sudden? Was it gradual? Just how did God's chosen people get separated from Him?

I. THEY WERE DISOBEDIENT

1. They were disobedient to the voice of God, Himself.
2. When God's ministers/prophets preached, they didn't listen, paid no heed, ignored them.
3. When hearing or reading God's Word, they didn't learn anything, they disregarded it.
4. The Holy Spirit's leadership was refused.

II. THEY PAID NO ATTENTION TO GOD'S WARNINGS

1. They ignored God's judgments, warnings.
2. Even when hardships, calamities, pestilences, droughts came, they still ignored God and only complained.
3. God even told them "*...return unto me and I will return unto you...*" but they still refused.

III. THEY DIDN'T TRUST THE LORD GOD ANYMORE

1. Disobedience is always followed by unbelief and God's chosen people began to not believe.
2. They began to trust in things and yet expected God to continue to bless them.
3. They didn't learn the lesson that trusting others brings disappointments, but trusting God will never bring disappointment.

IV. THEY DESERTED GOD

1. God's chosen people, Israel, ultimately, finally just turned away, rejected God, as it is also so true with individuals.
2. Israel desecrated, polluted the sanctuary of God instead of confessing her/their sins.
3. Israel got priests who would tolerate her/their sins instead of those who demanded repentance.

4. Israel, God's chosen people, broke God's laws instead of obeying, consecrating them and worshiping God. They changed, perverted God's laws, worship to fit what they wanted.
5. God's chosen people, Israel decided that they didn't really need God anymore. Thus the end result of a once good, spiritual life.

CONCLUSION:

1. Ever believer in the Lord Jesus Christ needs to remember that living the Christian life is not automatic, nor is it easy for Satan will attack from every source attempting to drag the Christian away from his/her spiritual life.
2. Leaving one's spiritual way of life is not instant, it is so slow that it is unnoticeable by the one being led away and all at once, the believer, who was once active, involved, happy in doing the Lord's things is now quiet, inactive and once again worldly.
3. If a nation chosen by God can go away from Him, certainly individuals like US, can also go away for living like God wants.
4. Be on your guard, Christian, for Satan seeks to lead you away from living a spiritual life.