

Date : 4 Oct 2026
Theme : Making Your Salvation Sure
Topic : The Elect's Warnings and Dangers
Passage : 1 Corinthians 10:1-12
Key Verses : So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!
1 Corinthians 10:12
Key words : "think" and "be careful"

The greatest danger is not being aware of the dangers we are in, thinking we are always safe. Therefore, we don't know what to watch out for.

Paul sounded out the warning with two key words – 'think' and 'be careful'.

"So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall."

It is addressed to those who think they are standing firm. To help us think, he takes us back to the history of Israel. What happened to them was recorded as an example and warning for us.

We can start thinking by **examining ourselves**.

What must we examine?

1. Complacency — Have I become careless and undisciplined in my lifestyle?

How does complacency develop?

a) Taking God's goodness for granted

Am I taking God's grace for granted?

Paul used the Israelite's example to specifically warn believers in Christ about the danger of taking God's goodness for granted.

How did the Israelites become complacent?

They had experienced God's goodness again and again:

- **God's Presence and guidance** – the cloud 1 Corinthians 10:1
- **God's deliverance from slavery** – through the Red Sea 1 Corinthians 10:1
- **Identified as God's chosen people** - baptised into Moses... 1 Cor 10:2
- **Trusting God's provision** - spiritual food and drink 1 Corinthians 10:3-4
- **Dependence on Christ, the Rock** - spiritual drink from the Rock that was Christ 1 Cor 10:4

Yet, despite all that they had experienced from God, they became careless and undisciplined:

- **They became careless** in their walk with God - they wanted to go back to slavery in Egypt.
- **They became presumptuous** about God's grace – they complained, tested Him and rebelled against Him.
- **They became undisciplined** in their desires and lifestyle - they gave themselves to sinful desires, idolatry and sexual immorality.

Consequences: Struck down

God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. Their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. They did not arrive at their destination. **They could not enter their inheritance.** 1 Corinthians 10:5; Numbers 14:22–23

How could people who had experienced so much of God's grace still fall?

They became complacent.

b) Complacency can take the form of staying out of battle. 2 Samuel 11:2-15

King David decided to lie in bed that day. In his time, the king was expected to lead his army into battle. But when David became bored, he looked for something to entertain himself. He saw Bathsheba bathing; and eventually committed adultery with her and subsequently arranged for Uriah to be killed. His downfall began with letting his guard down.

Consequences: The child born to Bathsheba died; violence entered his family; incest among his children, sibling murder, and his son, Absalom rebelled against him and sought to take his throne. Nathan warned, "The sword will never depart from your house." *2 Samuel 12:10–14*. David was forgiven as he repented, but forgiveness did not remove the painful consequences of his sin.

What does complacency look like?

Signs of Complacency *1 Corinthians 10:1-5*

How do we know if we have become spiritually complacent?

Do you even have a time of self-examination?

Examine ourselves through 3 hidden signs:

- **Presumption – "I am standing firm."**
 - ☐ Do I think or say, "I've been a Christian for so many years; I already know this"
 - ☐ Do I assume, "Because I attend church, know the Bible, and served God, I must be spiritually healthy and secure/firm"
- **No self-examination – "I don't need to examine myself."**
 - ☐ Have I stopped regularly examining my spiritual condition and character?
 - ☐ Have I become less teachable or unwilling to receive correction from others?
 - ☐ Have I stopped confessing my sin because I assume, "It's only a small thing"?
- **Lukewarmness – "I am comfortable where I am."**
 - ☐ Has my devotional life become a duty rather than a genuine desire for God?
 - ☐ Has my hunger for God's Word, worship, prayer and holiness begun to fade?
 - ☐ Has my heart grown lukewarm in my relationship with God?

2. Compromise – I know it is wrong, but I will allow it *1 Corinthians 10:6–9*

Secondly, we must examine our hearts regarding compromise. Compromise can bring consequences far beyond what we imagined.

What does compromise look like?

How do we know if we have begun to compromise?

Compromise begins when we give a little ground to what God has forbidden. It rarely begins with, "I reject God." It begins with, "Just a little. Just this once. It won't hurt."

- **Samson** was chosen by God and given great strength, but he was weak in controlling his desires. In Judges 16, he compromised by staying with Delilah, even though she repeatedly tried to discover the secret of his strength. He kept playing with danger, giving in to compromise little by little until he finally revealed his secret. His compromise brought **devastating consequences** – he was captured, blinded, humiliated and ultimately died. *Judges 16:21-30*
- **Israel** compromised by giving in to their desires. At Peor, they were attracted to the Moabite women and gave in to their desires, joining them in sexual immorality. They then compromised further by joining in the worship of their gods, putting their desires above their faithfulness to God. *Numbers 25:1–3*
Their compromise brought God's **judgment**—23,000 died in one day. *1 Corinthians 10:8*

Examine ourselves through 4 signs:

a) Sinful Desire — "I want it, so I will give it room."

(*1 Corinthians 10:6,8; Numbers 11:4-34*)

Israel compromised when they gave in to their craving for Egypt's pleasures, despising the manna God had generously provided. They forgot that Egypt was the land of their slavery and began longing for the very life God had delivered them from.

Self-examination:

- ☐ What sinful desire am I allowing to grow instead of putting it to death?
- ☐ Am I entertaining something that I already know God forbids?
- ☐ Have I begun to justify what I once knew was wrong?

b) Idolatry — “I want something else alongside God.” 1 Corinthians 10:7; Exodus 32

Israel had experienced God's mighty deliverance. Yet when Moses was on the mountain, they gave in to their impatience and desire for something visible and immediate, compromising their trust in God. They made a golden calf and worshipped it instead of waiting for God.

Self-examination:

(An idol is anything we value, trust or obey more than God - success, family, comfort, pleasure, reputation—or even ourselves.)

- ☐ Is there something I value, trust or obey more than God?
- ☐ When obeying God becomes inconvenient, slow or difficult, do I choose what I want instead?

c) Fear — “What am I afraid of losing?”

Peter knew the truth about Gentile believers. Yet when certain men came from James, he withdrew from the Gentiles. Paul said that his conduct was influenced by fear of the circumcision group. Fear affected his obedience and caused him to compromise what he knew to be right. *Galatians 2:11–14*

Self-examination:

- ☐ FOMO/Kiasu (*fear of missing out*) - Am I driven by fear of losing out on opportunities, status, resources, or relationships or comfort?
- ☐ What am I afraid of losing that could cause me to compromise obedience to God?

d) Deception — “What if I can believe something different?”

The serpent deceived Eve by questioning God's Word and convincing her that the forbidden fruit would make her like God. Eve believed the lie, gave in to her desire for the fruit, and ate it despite God's command. Deception led her to compromise God's Word and disobey Him. *Genesis 3:1–6*

Today deception can sound like:

- “*You don't need to repent; God accepts and loves you just as you are;*”
- “*You can follow Jesus without changing how you live;*”
- “*There is no need to take difficult parts of the Bible literally. The Bible must be reinterpreted for today's culture.*”

Self-examination:

- ☐ Do I accept only the parts of God's Word that I like and reinterpret the parts that challenge me?
- ☐ Does this teaching feed my ego rather than pointing me toward self-denial and serving Christ?
- ☐ Do I seek out teachers who tell me exactly what my flesh wants to hear, rather than those who challenge me to grow?

3. Complaint – A Self-centred heart: When God doesn't meet our expectations

Complaint is dissatisfaction with God and His dealings with us. It reveals a self-centred heart. What is happening in our hearts that causes us to complain? It rises from distrust. God takes grumbling very seriously. **God's anger was aroused** when His people complained. *Numbers 11:1*. Paul warns us not to grumble, because those who did came under God's **judgment**. *1 Corinthians 10:10*

Let us examine ourselves through **two signs**:

a) Pride – 'I want things my way'

Testing Christ *1 Corinthians 10:9; Hebrews 3:9,19*

Israel became dissatisfied with God's provision and way in the wilderness. Their complaint about God's provision, circumstances and leadership revealed a self-centred heart: "God, I want things my way."

b) Offence – I don't like what has happened

Offended by Christ and His teaching

- **His teaching is hard** — some disciples found Jesus' teaching difficult and turned back. *John 6:60, 66*

Offended by people

- Misunderstood, mistreated, rejected or insulted
- Offence can lead to bitterness, unforgiveness and resentment leading to withdrawal from Christ and His people.

Self-examination:

Pride:

- ☐ When Christ's teaching is difficult and challenges me, do I obey—or distance myself?
- ☐ Do I become upset when God does not answer according to my expectations?

Offence:

- ☐ Do I forgive or walk away with bitterness and resentment when I am offended:
 - My leader disappointed me or made a decision I disagree with?
 - A Christian brother or sister hurt me or did not appreciate me?
 - I feel ignored, criticised, misunderstood or treated unfairly?
- ☐ Do I allow offence to grow into resentment and bitterness?

When we stop examining ourselves and ignore God's warnings, spiritual drift can become a spiritual spiral:

Complacency → Compromise → Complaint → Spiritual decline → Falling away

- Falling away raises the **issue of salvation** and **exclusion from God's kingdom**. *1 Cor 10: 12*
- Such a serious danger calls for repentance and perseverance in faith.
- But God is faithful. When we are tempted, He provides a way of escape. *1 Cor 10: 13*

What must I do?

- Take heed. **Examine yourself**.
- Set a schedule and decide how you will do so.

"So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall." 1Corinthians 10:12