

## **Backsliding**

James 1:15 - Then when the illicit desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin has run its course, it gives birth to death.

Matt 12:31 – "All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men; but the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit shall not be forgiven unto men"

**STAGES... cobwebs become cables, drink to get drunk, lust to adultery.**

**A thought becomes a belief, then action, then habit, then culture.**

1. Spontaneous Sin? Sudden impulse, not premeditated

Mistake? Curiosity – excited, interested to investigate or experience,

Accidental? Instant, forgot? Unexpected, unintentional, unplanned.

One night stand? Vs long term affair? With sin

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Matt 12:30... "kept on saying" he has the devil...

Committing a sin is different than living in a lifestyle of sin. A lifestyle becomes a culture surrounded by others who enable and brand you with a feeling, belief, and practice of rebellion towards God. It is not a "struggle" anymore. There is no repentance, only denial and justification.

2. Chronic procrastination – repeatedly putting off

Indifference – lack of interest or concern

Apathy – not motivated, do not care

Neglect – disregard, not paying attention, fail to try

Resist – push back, prevent, ignore

Convicted – decided to be guilty, feeling of remorse

Cynical – negative belief about reality, mocking, contempt

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3. Habitual – continuous choices

Intentional – knowingly on purpose

Calloused – hardened, protective, defensive,

Seared conscience – no longer sensitive, permanently closed off

Progressive rejection – final stage of dismissal

Metastasized – cancer that spreads to the rest of the body

Malicious – intended harm, desire for ill will, condemnation

Hateful, vengeful – filled with evil,

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Prov 26:11, james 1:5, Matt 21:43, 1 tim 5:12,15, heb 3:12, heb 6:4-6,

heb 10:26,27, 2 peter 2:20, 1 jn 5:16, 2 thess 2:3, rev 3:5, rev 22:19