

THREE RIVERS FELLOWSHIP

SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY

HOW TO STAY ON TRACK IN OUR WALK WITH GOD

A practical discussion of staying on track spiritually

A. Don't let grief or difficulty dampen your relationship with God.

Some turn away from God with heartache or loss, or with feelings that God didn't answer our prayers, or allowed us experience extreme pain. How can you stay close to the Lord in times of loss?

- 1. Confess your real feelings to God.** He already knows how you feel. Only by being genuine with Him can you receive all the comfort He has for you. Lamentations 3:1-18
- 2. Search for encouraging Scriptures.**
Instead of dwelling on how discouraged you are or how unsatisfying something was, choose to focus on the spiritual truth found in the Word. Why should we not focus on the problem?
- 3. Remind yourself that God can bring good out of every heartache.**
Romans 8:28

B. Don't forget to confess sin

Along with loss, another primary cause of spiritual drift is unconfessed sin. When we fall into temptation over and over, our hearts often become hardened to the things of God. It interferes with the fellowship.

The key to resisting sin is just not to "try harder" in our own strength. Sometimes, this actually increases the lure of sin. How can we resist temptation God's way?

- 1. Focus on Scripture.** According to Psalm 119:9-11, what is one major benefit of learning and memorizing Scripture?

2. **Don't just focus on scriptures that condemn your vice.** Spend time meditating on verses that talk about how God fulfills us with good things when we trust in Him, such as Psalm 84:11. See also Psalm 16:11.
3. **Avoid tempting situations when possible.** King David (2 Samuel 11:1).
4. **Trust God to deliver you from temptation. Who provides a way out of temptation? According to James 4:7-8, how can we resist temptation?**

C. Surround yourself with Godly friends.

1. **Be careful when reaching out to godless people.** To be effective witnesses, we must love non-Christians and spend time with them. But the Bible warns us against the influence of those who don't respect God, His laws, or even natural consequences of poor behavior.

- What does Proverbs 13:20 say will happen to someone who is a companion to fools?

2. **Purposefully befriend strong believers.** Look for ways to connect on an intimate level with those who are passionate about their relationship with God.

- Hebrews 10:23-25. What are some ways believers can "stimulate one another to love and good deeds"?
- Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 gives a picture that represents one advantage of having a faithful friend. What is it?

3. **Listen to only Godly advice** - Godly friends also give wise advice.

- What does Proverbs 15:22 say about how to plan successfully?
- What do you think the writer of Ecclesiastes meant when he said, "It is better to listen to the rebuke of a wise man than for one to listen to the song of fools"? (Eccl. 7:5).

D. Set clear goals for yourself, spiritually and otherwise. In general, the more carefully you plan, the more likely you are to succeed (Prov. 21:5).

1. **Ask God for direction.** John 10:27-28.

2. **Look for scriptural goals.** Almost any biblical command can become a goal. (Matt. 28:19-20, Phil 3:7-15; I Tim 1:5).).

3. **Don't worry about failing in a goal** God will correct your path if you set off in the wrong direction (Prov. 16:9).