

**Solid Rock Christian Church Manassas, Virginia**  
**Bible Study for September 10, 2020**

**Prepared & Presented by: P**

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**Title: "The Danger of 'Cracks' in Your Life"**

**Scripture Reference: 1 Corinthians 10:12**

**I. Introduction**

A. I want to look at a true story from history that demonstrates the danger

of "Cracks" in your spiritual life. The story concerns the city of Sardis, where one of the seven churches in the book of Revelation was located (see Revelation 3:1-6).

B. The city of Sardis was located very high up on the top of side by side or perpendicular cliffs that were almost impossible to climb.

C. Because of the city's high and remote location, the residents believed that it couldn't be penetrated or taken captive by a foreign enemy.

**Note:** It was this overconfidence that led to the demise of Sardis on more than one occasion.

D. Because those who lived in Sardis believed that the city was impenetrable, they felt sure that foreign aggressors couldn't make war on them. As a result, they became proud, overconfident, lazy,

and complacent. As these attitudes took over, the people stopped giving attention to the foundations and walls of their city.

E. As a result, while the people's pride and overconfidence kept growing stronger and stronger over the years, they failed to notice that the foundations and walls of their city had begun to deteriorate and form massive cracks at the base of the walls.

F. At first, the cracks were small and unnoticeable; but as time progressed, those tiny cracks grew bigger, deeper, and wider. Finally, the gaps in the walls became so wide that a human body could easily slip through them.

G. One night while the people of the city of Sardis were sleeping, an enemy army scaled up the cliffs and made their way through the cracks in the foundations and the walls of the city.

H. The invading army silently made its way up to the top of the city walls, and then settled into military positions with their weapons fixed on the main routes of the interior of the city, so that no one could make a move, without facing retaliation.

I. When the residents of Sardis awakened the next morning and ventured out into the streets, there was great panic and shock. Enemy forces had infiltrated the city.

**Comments:**

- (1) This actual historical account of the city of Sardis is like so many of us. We become so busy in life, so caught up by everyday cares, or perhaps so confident of our own abilities, that we become unaware of our own spiritual need(s).

- (2) We go on in life as though we have no need to deal with the foundations of our lives, not realizing that tiny cracks are starting to form.
- (3) This kind of negligent thinking is usually accompanied by prayerlessness and insensitivity to the Holy Spirit.

**Note:** A Christian who is too busy to get into the Presence of God is a Christian who will soon find him or herself in trouble, just like the city of Sardis.

J. This is why the Apostle Paul said: "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall" (1 Corinthians 10:12)

## II. Exposition (Part I)

A. Again, Paul says: "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth ...." The word "standeth" comes from the Greek word *istemi*, which means to stand, to stand fast, to stand firm, or to stand upright.

B. The word "thinketh" is from the Greek word *dokeo*, which in this case means to be of the opinion, to reckon, to suppose, or to think (as translated from the KJV of the Bible).

C. The word *dokeo* expresses the idea of what a person thinks or supposes about themselves.

**Comment:** There is nothing in this verse to verify that the individual's opinion is correct; only that it is the opinion this type of person has regarding him or herself.

**Note:** As we go through this study, you will see why the above comment is so important for a deeper understanding of the target verse (1 Cor. 10:12).

### III. Exposition (Part II)

A. Paul goes on to say, "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth ...."

B. Again, the word "standeth" comes from the Greek word *istemi*, which means *to stand, to stand fast, to stand firm, or to stand upright*. However, when the words *dokeo* and *istemi* are combined as Paul uses them in this verse, it means, "Wherefore let anyone who has the self-imposed opinion of him or herself that they are standing strong and firm ...", then, Paul adds the next critically important words: "... take heed lest he fall."

B. The words "take heed" are from the Greek word *blepo*, which means *to watch, to see, to behold, or to be aware*.

**Comment:** The Greek tense indicates the need to not only *watch*, but *to be continually watchful*.

C. Paul is urging us to live in an uninterrupted state of watchfulness regarding our spiritual lives and the firm stance of faith that we claim to possess!

D. Paul goes on to say, "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." The word "fall" is the Greek

word *pipto* and is used here to depict someone who *falls into sin; into a worse state than he was before.*

E. The "fall" here can also indicate that someone who falls into some type of failure. The Greek word for fall as used here, *pipto*, describes *a downfall from a formerly presumed high and lofty position.*

F. Therefore, it isn't just a little stumbling that Paul is referring to; it is a downward fall that causes one to sorrowfully crash.

#### IV. Exposition [Part III]

A. Putting all of this together, 1 Corinthians 10:12 could be translated as follows:

*"If anyone has the opinion of himself that he is standing strong and firm, he needs to be continually watchful and always on his guard lest he trip, stumble, and fall from his over-confident position and take a nose-dive downward to a serious crash."*

**Comment:** We must never become so smug that we fall into complacency. The day we allow that to happen, we are in big trouble.

B. Like the city of Sardis, we may end up with huge cracks we aren't even aware of. That is exactly when the enemy will slip in to take us captive in different areas of our lives.

C. Unfortunately, it appears that the Church in Sardis mirrored the City of Sardis. Listen to the Lord's statement to this church: "... *I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead*" (Revelation 3:1).

D. At one time the Church in Sardis had a great name and a testimony of being spiritually alive and vibrant. But because the believers in that church got too busy and failed to give heed to the foundational things in their lives, *cracks* began to form spiritually over time.

E. Eventually, the devil found a way to slip into that Church to ruin its name and influence. Because of spiritual negligence, the church body lost its vitality and Jesus said it was "dead."

#### V. Exposition [Part IV]

A. In Revelation 3:2, Jesus told this church to "*Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die; for I have not found thy works perfect before God.*"

B. This verse alerts us to the fact that it is never too late to do something to fix the problem(s) ((while the blood is still running warm in our veins)).

**Comment:** Here is the admonition from Jesus in a very straight and warm way: **Identify, locate the problem! Find a solution! Strengthen what you have! Do it before it's too late!**

C. If you have a part of your life that is broken, cracked, or splintered, there is still hope that it can be restored.

D. It may require emergency care to get it on life support for now, but through the Power of the Holy Spirit, you can be renewed.

## Interactive/Participation Time

The following passages are taken from the KJV. Please fill in the blank spaces. If you are using a different version of the Bible, please write out each passage; I believe you will be blessed.

"If the \_\_\_\_\_ be \_\_\_\_\_, what can the \_\_\_\_\_ do? (Psalm 11:3)

"\_\_\_\_\_ and pray, that ye enter not into \_\_\_\_\_: the spirit indeed is \_\_\_\_\_, but the \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_." (Matthew 26:41)

"\_\_\_\_\_ me O God, and know my \_\_\_\_\_: try me and \_\_\_\_\_ my \_\_\_\_\_: and see if there be any \_\_\_\_\_ way in me, and \_\_\_\_\_ me in the way \_\_\_\_\_." (Psalm 139:23-24)

"Be \_\_\_\_\_, be \_\_\_\_\_; because your \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_, as a \_\_\_\_\_ lion, walketh about, \_\_\_\_\_ whom he may \_\_\_\_\_."  
(1 Peter 5:8)

"\_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord with all thine \_\_\_\_\_; and lean not unto thine own \_\_\_\_\_. In all thy ways \_\_\_\_\_ him, and he shall \_\_\_\_\_ thy paths."  
(Proverbs 3:5-6)

## Questions For You to Consider

1. Are you aware of any areas in your life that have deteriorated and need attention?
  - a. It could be your finances, your relationships, or other vital areas of your life.
  - b. Are there cracks in any of these areas through which the devil may try to sneak up on you and take you captive?
  
2. If your answer is yes, what do you need to do to seal those cracks and strengthen those areas so that the devil cannot successfully lay siege to your life?
  
3. Can you think of one area in your life that was fractured in the past, but through God's grace it is now healed and sealed?

Thank you for participating in what I believe is a very thought provoking study session. My prayer is that each of us would meditate on this material and if there are any spiritual cracks, seek God's guidance and then follow through as the Holy Spirit leads and directs.

As always, please feel free to share this lesson with others.

Jude 3

Pastor Austin