

#11 A Growing Faith

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- Christians have two major challenges, each requiring one to use his or her faith:

- (1) Learning how to return to the Lord when he or she has fallen.
- (2) Consistently pursuing the Lord even when all is well.

Returning to the Lord

- The forsaking

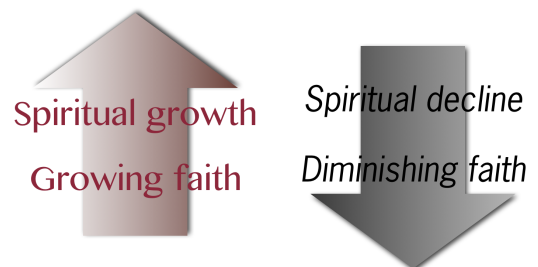
“When the kingdom of Rehoboam was established and strong, he and all Israel with him forsook the law of the Lord” (2 Chr 12:1).

- Rehoboam faced trouble in the fifth year of his term due to his unfaithfulness. “Because they had been unfaithful to the Lord” (2 Chr 12:2).
- Things got better when he and Israel humble and turned back.

“And when he humbled himself, the anger of the LORD turned away from him, so as not to destroy him completely; and also conditions were good in Judah” (2 Chr 12:12).

Faith Facts

- This explains why we can fall when everything seems to be going fine or when we’re down, we in brokenness can call on God for special help and find it. Our strength depends on our present faith.
- These changes and opportunities take place secretly in our hearts and minds.



Our Lessons

- Spiritual growth stems from exercising our faith or trust in God.

- Spiritual defeat results from no longer sincerely believing God's way is important or best.

Our Applications

➡ Describe your faith in God. As you do, rate how important you think God is in your life on a scale from 0 to 10.

➡ Think of a time when you were backsliding. Describe your doubts at that time. Were you doubting some aspect of God or His ways?