

Again Entangled



2 Peter 2:20-22

Again Entangled

PRIDE - Mark 14:27-31

- Peter boasts that he will not fall away or deny Christ
 - Peter takes the first step in backsliding: **pride**
 - *“Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.”* - **Prov 16:18**
 - Why is pride the “first” step?
 - The first step in entering the kingdom is humility
 - **Matt 18:3-4**
 - If we lose our “humility” we take that first step backward
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Again Entangled

LAZINESS - Mark 14:32-41

- Told to keep watch and pray, Peter kept falling asleep
 - Lack of diligence left him unprepared
 - Without diligence, we too can be found unprepared
 - **Matt 24:42-44**
 - Usually, it is “gradual drifting” that catches us off guard
 - *“For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.” - Heb 2:1*
 - When we are proud of ourselves, we become lazy, and that leads to...
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Again Entangled

COWARDICE - Mark 14:54

- **“Peter followed Him at a distance”**
 - Peter stays far enough away not to be identified with Him
 - Peter was unprepared to face ridicule and persecution
 - **Without diligent preparation, we too can become cowards**
 - Ashamed to be seen carrying a Bible
 - Ashamed to be seen praying
 - Ashamed to be seen with other Christians
 - Ashamed to let others know that we are Christians
 - **Jesus is clear on what He thinks of “cowardice” - Mark 8:38**
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Again Entangled

WORLDLINESS - Mark 14:54

- Peter is with the servants of the High Priest and warming himself by their fire
- It's easy to mingle with the world and enjoy its comforts
- We can't be "comforted by the fire" of the world, and not be "burned"
 - Close contact with the world has its effects – **Prov 6:27-28**
- We can't "flirt" with the world and walk away unscathed
 - *"Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals."*
- **1 Cor 15:33**

Again Entangled

DENIAL - Mark 14:66-71

- **Away from Christ, at comfort with the world, Peter denies His Lord and Savior**
 - He put himself in grave danger - **Matt 10:33**
 - **We may never deny Jesus in “words”**
 - **We are called to worship Him**
 - ...but we make excuses
 - **We are called to serve Him**
 - ...but we offer little or no service
 - **We are called to stand by His side and suffer for His name**
 - ...but we stand afar off in the safety of the world's acceptance
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Again Entangled

- Peter realized his sin when the Lord looked at him
 - Luke 22:60-62
 - Peter wept bitterly over his sin
 - Peter had “godly sorrow” that results in true repentance
 - *“For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.” - 2 Cor 7:10 (NKJV)*
 - Years later, Peter wrote warnings to prevent us from making the same mistakes he made...
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Be on your guard

Guard Against

- **PRIDE**
 - **LAZINESS**
 - **COWARDICE**
 - **WORLDLINESS**
 - **DENIAL**
 - **HUMILITY** – 1 Pet 5:5-6
 - **DILIGENCE** – 1 Pet 5:8-9; 2 Pet 1:5,10
 - **GLORIFY GOD** – 1 Pet 4:16
 - **ABSTAIN** – 1 Pet 2:11-12
 - **GIVE A DEFENSE** – 1 Pet 3:15
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Conclusion

- Let's take the advice of one who learned the hard way
- Let's be on guard not to gradually slide back into the entanglement of sin

*“You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, **be on your guard** so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness, but **grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.”*

2 Pet 3:17-18
