

**Question:** How can we guard our faith and others against apostasy/ defection? [Galatians 6:9](#)

Scripture commonly teaches about the temptation to fall away from the faith. There are many raised in Christian homes, taught the faith as children, and even who served in full time ministry, who eventually fall away.

This should not be surprising as this is taught throughout Scripture. [Acts 20:29-30](#)

Moses warned about false prophets trying to lead people away from God in [Deuteronomy 13:12-18](#)

Jesus warned about false prophets in the Sermon on the Mount ([Matt 7:15-16](#)), [Matthew 24:9-13](#), [2 Thessalonians 2:3-4](#)

Christ taught that the end times would be marked by a massive exodus of believers from the faith

Before Christ's return, there will be a great rebellion. People, including professing believers, will begin to follow the Anti-Christ. However, as mentioned, this warning is not just for some future time; it is for today. [Hebrews 3:12](#)

We are in the last days, as we await Christ's coming, and these days will be marked by increasing apostasy—those who profess Christ and enjoy fellowship in the church will fall away. [1 John 2:18](#)

- [John MacArthur](#) said: There will always be those who make a temporary response to the gospel but have no genuine faith in God. [1 John 2:19](#))

Those who depart from the faith were never truly saved—the seed of the gospel never produced true conversion in them. [John 15:8](#), [2 Timothy 4:10](#)

As we consider this passage, we must ask ourselves how can we protect ourselves and others from falling away.

### **#1 We Must Recognize It as Satan's Primary Objective ([1 Timothy 4:1](#))**

Scripture teaches that not only did God create the seen universe but also an unseen universe including angels and demons. Satan and his demons are intent on destroying and perverting God's will for all creation, [Ephesians 6:12](#)

Satan uses demons and demonic doctrines to keep unbelievers away from God and to draw Christians into apostasy. [2 Corinthians 2:11](#), [Luke 22:32](#)

### **#2 We Must Recognize False Teachers ([1 Timothy 4:2](#))**

Demonic agents—false teachers use professing Christian teachers to lead others away from God. [2 Corinthians 11:14-15](#)

How can we recognize these false teachers so not to be led astray by them? [Matthew 7:16](#)

How did these Christian teachers become so deceitful?

They practiced dishonesty, sexual immorality, etc., so long that their consciences were no longer sensitive to their sin. Therefore, they became candidates for demonic persuasion.

Sometimes your enemy can be the closest one to you if you are not careful. [Matthew 26:23](#)

God surveys the church for people with right hearts whom he can use greatly for the kingdom. [2 Chronicles 16:9](#)