

Scripture Text:

The question that forms our title is one that every Christian should ask on a very regular basis.

It would not be a laughing matter if one needed to be renewed; however, once a renewal has taken place, they should not return back to the lifestyle they have just left.

1. Can My Fire Burn Out?

- A. The Bible says it can.
 - 1. Galatians 5:4
 - a. Fallen from grace. This one verse singlehandedly disproves the false teachings known as *Once Saved, Always Saved*.
 - b. Paul talks about it in past tense – it had already happened for some in Galatia, and they were living their lives as if all was well!
 - 2. Revelation 2:5
 - a. Remember – think about how good it was when you were faithful.
 - b. Once again, past tense – not falling.
- B. Hymns we sing indicate it can.
 - 1. “Light the Fire”
 - a. As new Christians, we are on fire. I remember thinking I could singlehandedly convert the whole world!
 - b. The song ends with the word “again” indicating we need to be relit from time to time.
 - 2. “Revive Us Again”
 - a. Revive means to “restore to life.”
 - b. We constantly need encouragement to stay on the straight and narrow.

2. How to Tell I Need to Be Renewed

- A. You no longer read your Bible.
 - 1. Reading is your lifeline to God’s commands – why cut yourself off?
 - 2. *The Diary of a Bible* (anonymous)

January 10. Been resting for a week. The first few nights of the New Year my owner read me regularly, but he has now forgotten me already, I guess.

February 7. Clean up time. I was dusted with other things and then put back on the shelf.

February 9. Owner used me for a short time after dinner looking over a few references. Went to Bible school today.

March 6. Clean up. Dusted again. Have been in the hall since my trip to Bible school last month.

March 30. Busy day. Owner had young people's meeting and had to look up references. He had an awful time finding them but they were there all the time.

May 3. In Grandma's lap again this afternoon. She spent most of her time in 1st Corinthians 13 and the last four verses of the 15th chapter.

May 7, 8, 9. In Grandma's lap again this afternoon. She spent most of her time reading and sometimes she just talks to me. It is so comfortable there.

May 10. Grandma is gone. Back to the same old place. She did kiss me bye before she left.

July 3. Had a couple of four-leaf clovers stuck in me today.

July 4. Packed in a suitcase with clothes and other things. Off on vacation I guess.

July 7. Still in suitcase.

July 10. Still in suitcase, though all else has been taken out by now.

July 15. Home again in my old place. Quite a nice journey they say, though I did not see why.

Aug. 1. Rather stuffy and hot. Have two magazines, a novel and an old hat on top of me.

Sept. 10. Used by Mary for a few minutes today. She was writing a letter to a friend whose brother died and wanted appropriate verses.

Sept. 23. New mail order catalogue came today. Certainly is getting a lot of attention. More than I ever received.

Oct. 10. Wished someone would take these stinking four-leaf clovers out of me. They have been here five months now, and they tickle me, they are so dry and flaky.

Nov. 29. Thanksgiving season. Was taken to church last Sunday.

Dec. 31. End of another year. Not interesting for me. Maybe next year.

3. *Dust on the Bible* (John & Walter Bailes)

I went into a home one day to see some friends of mine
Of all the books and magazines, not a Bible could I find
I asked them for the Bible; when they brought it, what a shame
For the dust was covered o'er it, not a fingerprint was plain.

CHO: Dust on the Bible, dust on the holy word
The words of all the prophets and the sayings of our Lord
Of all the other books you'll find, there's none salvation holds
Get that dust off the Bible and redeem your poor soul

You can read your magazines, read of love and tragic things
And not one word of bible verse, not a scripture do you know
When it is the very truth and its contents good for you
If dust is covered over its sure to doom your soul.

Oh, if you have a friend you'd like to help along life's way
Just tell him that the Good Book shows a mortal how to pray
The best advice to give him that will make his burden light
Is to dust the family Bible, trade the wrong way for the right.

4. 2 Tim. 2:15 – a command

5. 2 Tim. 4:13 – give special attention to

- B. You no longer pray as you did.
1. Prayer is your lifeline to God's ear – why cut yourself off?
 2. God wants to hear from you more than when things are going bad.
 3. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 – a life of constant prayer
- C. You no longer sing as you did.
1. Remember when you would leave camp of H.E.Y./T.a.B.S. and be singing hymns for weeks? Do you now only ever sing worldly songs that are not edifying?
 2. When you're at worship, do you just read the words in the hymn, or do you contemplate and analyze the words the author used. I love knowing the history of hymns, why certain words were used, etc., and knowing it helps me better understand the hymn. (For example, *Onward Christian Soldiers* was written in 1865 – when we were at war with ourselves; *Sing to Me of Heaven* mentions the word *comrade* and was written in 1914, another war period.)
 3. Put good things in, get good things out – Gal. 6:7-8 sowing and reaping.
- D. You no longer think about Christ like you did.
1. He was on your mind all the time – now, He barely occupies your thoughts *EVEN IN CHURCH.*
 2. "... Jesus in the morning, Jesus at the noontime, Jesus, Jesus, Jesus when the sun goes down."
 3. "All day long of Jesus I am singing,/ He my song of joy will ever be;/ All the while He keeps my heart-bells ringing,/ For His love is ev'rything to me." *He's My King*
 4. Proverbs 23:7 – think in His heart
- E. You cannot remember the last time you went to Sunday night or Wednesday night service.
1. Countless missed Sunday night, Sunday School, Midweek, VBS, Gospel Meetings, youth events, the list goes on and on.
 2. Everyone else is attending and you're just at home "scrolling endlessly."
 3. Attendance is a requirement of God – Heb. 10:25
 4. Even if you are tired, etc. *WV Cot, Chuck Reed, Shirley Melton*
- F. If you dread going to church or wanting to be involved with things related to God, that is probably a good indicator that you need to be renewed.

3. How to Be Renewed

- A. Revelation 2:5 – remember
- B. Revelation 2:5 – repent
- C. Acts 8:22 – pray to God
- D. Acts 26:20 – work. How?
 - 1. Study – 2 Timothy 2:15
 - 2. Preach – 2 Timothy 4:2
 - 3. Grow in grace – 2 Peter 3:18
 - 4. Grow in knowledge – 2 Peter 3:18
 - 5. Walk in the light – 1 John 1:7

Do you need to be renewed? This is a simple question with a straightforward answer. I knew a lady that agonized over making her life right for 7 years – so much uneasiness – you don't have to put yourself through something like this.

Do you need to be renewed? I cannot answer this for you (although I wish I could). You must answer for yourself.

Do you need to be renewed? Why not be renewed tonight, right now, right here – through prayer.

Do you need to be renewed? If you are not a Christian, you can become a new creature in Christ today.

Do you need to be renewed?

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