

Learning to serve God is done in fellowship with others in the body of Christ, which often happens in weekly Bible studies and Sunday church services. Falling to attend church is the first way we stunt our growth and begin walking the wrong way, because "iron sharpens iron". We must rely on others to support us in times of weakness. We cannot stand alone. There is no I in body or church. We are one in Christ together.

Here are the key elements that always follow a person who is contemplating backsliding or already has:

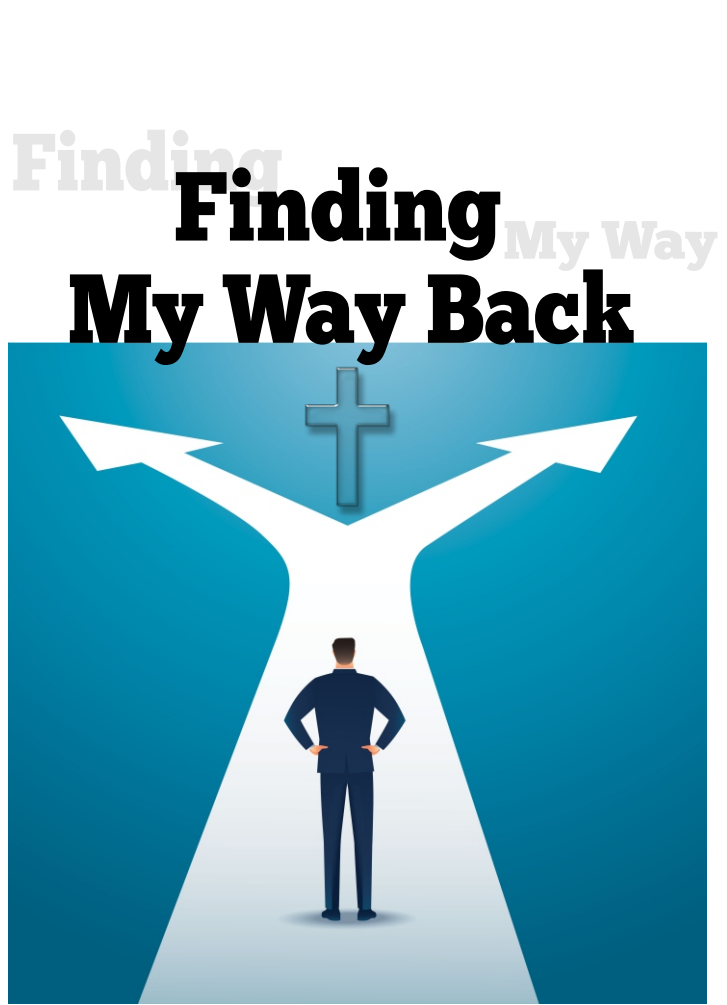
1. **DENIAL** If you say you do not need the body of Christ and will do your own thing, this is the first sign you have begun heading in the wrong direction.

Jeremiah 2:19 says: *"Your wickedness will punish you, your backsliding will rebuke you. Consider then and realize how evil and bitter it is for you who forsake the Lord your God and have no awe for me declares the Lord Almighty."*

Living for and serving the Lord is God's plan for our lives, and it is essential we are in right relationship with him. But sometimes we lose our way and our fellowship with God is lost. In fact many of us at some point "fall backwards" but how far we fall is up to us.

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Finding My Way Back



If you want to rededicate your life to God, turn to the back.

← **1. DENIAL** If you say you do not need the body of Christ and will do your own thing, this is the first sign you have begun heading in the wrong direction.

← **2. DISTANCING** Once you stop wanting any fellowship with others you are rejecting the body of Christ and the things you have learned. In this stage, you make it a point to avoid those of the faith and vehemently reject their beliefs. By now, you no longer move forward but backwards. Your fall has begun.

← **3. DUBT** If you are doubting the Bible and questioning the things of God, it starts by believing that doing things your own way is best. This is the second sign of a backslider because our walk is done with God in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, but also involves staying in relationship with the church.



Ask yourself these questions:

← **Am I struggling to believe God loves me? If yes,** re-establish contact with God through prayer and Bible reading immediately. Ask God to renew his love in your heart. Read **John 3:16**

← **Am I seeing the church full of hypocrites? If yes,** realize we are all sinners saved by grace. We all fall in what we say and do. Focus your attention on God, not others. God is the reason we go. Read **Romans 3:23**

← **Won't everyone judge me if I go back to church? No,** it's the safest most connected place we can go. It is a place where we can grow, find support from others and learn to serve. Read **Colossians 2:6-7**

Rededicate Your Life to God

Pray this prayer:

Dear Lord, I thank you for creating me, giving me life and for loving me. Today I surrender my life back to you. Forgive the sin that separates me from you and restore to me the joy of your salvation in Jesus name, Amen

If You Want to Receive Jesus for the First Time

1. **Admit** - personally admit to God that you want to be free from sin's death penalty
2. **Confess** - your sins to God asking him to forgive you for living without him
3. **Believe** - in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead
4. **Receive** - by faith ask Jesus to come into your heart to give you God's free gift of salvation

Pray this prayer:

God, I admit that I need you and I confess my sin. Forgive me for living without you. I believe Jesus died for me. Come into my heart and life and be my Savior from this day until you call me home. Amen