

together by His word

FALLING AWAY

We are truly living in the last days which **1 Timothy 4:1** defined as “latter times”. Latter comes from the Greek word **husteros** (hu-ste-ros) and is normally used for emphasizing the very extreme end of something. Times comes from the Greek word **kairos** (kai-ros) which always describes a “season” or a special designated period of time. It is describing the characteristics and activities of the last time period of the church age.

It goes on to say, some will depart. The Greek word **aphistemi** (a-phi-ste-me) is a compound of two Greek words. The first word means “away”, and the second means “to stand”. When put both together, this word means: to stand or step away from, to withdraw or to back away from. The English word “apostate” is derived from these 2 greek words.

How does the condition of apostasy take place in a believers’ life? He becomes so seduced that eventually he or she begins to withdraw, back away and eventually depart from the witness of Jesus, by giving heed! Meaning; to hold one’s mind in place until the complete understanding comes. This refers to a persons’ intellectual mind, or natural thinking departing from the faith. It is not referring to a blatant or outright rejection of the faith; the process is much more subtle than that.

In **Genesis 3:1**, the term “more cunning”, refers to a slow careful, almost unnoticeable, inch by inch, step by step departing over a period of time. There is a great difference between rejecting the faith and departing from the faith. Rejecting is deliberate, whereas departing is slow and unintentional.

Also I want you to take notice in **1 Timothy 4:1-2**. In **verse 1**, look at the phrase **some will depart**. I’m not totally convinced that there will be a mass “falling away” of believers before Christ comes for the church. When Paul said some, he was not referring to a large group of believers, but only to a few. They were giving themselves over to deceiving spirits, (someone who uses scripture out of context, twisting it to mislead) and doctrines of demons. (other forms of faith such as Hinduism, reincarnation, Islam, Buddhism etc.) In **verse 2**, the phrase “speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron”. Basically this is saying, “They do not speak from the reality of the words of Christ, but from that which never existed in their life”.

It is from lies that they marked, “having branded” on their own

conscious mind to have as their reality. Referencing **Romans 10:17**, in the Greek “so then faith comes by hearing, and hearing through a word of Christ. (Continuing on from **1 Tim 4:2**) Now they are unable to make a distinction to what is right from what is wrong, reprobate living in hypocrisy. Please take time to read **Romans 1:19-21**.

The reason I have brought **1 Timothy 4:1-2** to your attention, is that we are living in the time period where seducing spirits and doctrines of demons have grown to a large scale in our society. Now is the most crucial time we as believers must come to know two very important things. We must know the significance of the “Body of Christ” in the earth. And we must have the understanding of Christ in us; the hope of His glory.

In my opinion, the safest place to be right now is in a local church that clearly illustrates the body of Christ in the earth. **Having the revelation that the church is seated in heavenly places with Christ as the head is so essential. Therefore, Christ is connected to His body, which is in the earth. The body cannot function without the head.** Over the next few letters I will do my best to show you how safe it is to be part of the body of Christ and the dangers you may encounter if you are on the outside. Stay close, stay connected, after all, it is the heart of the Father.

LOVE,
JANN T. BUTLER

