

2 Peter I. 10 v- After the study and experience of more than 50 years, I have reached the conclusion that it is much easier to get religion than to keep it. The work of repentance and regeneration may be the work of a day, but the work of holding on and holding out to the end is a life time affair.

Some have entertained the opinion that after a person has been fully converted & brought into the fold of Christ it will be impossible for such a one to fall entirely from grace & make shipwreck of faith and a good conscience, but such a view is exceedingly dangerous and without support from the inspired word.

There is no doctrine more distinctly taught in the Bible, than the possibility and danger of falling from grace. Adam & Eve- Solomon and David-Judas and Peter—St. Paul found it necessary to keep his body in subjection lest after preaching to others he might become a cast away-Hence we are exhorted to watch & pray, lest we enter into temptation-thousands who were wonce covered have lost their first case & cast away their confidence. As long as we live in the flesh we shall be in danger of falling from grace & going back to the sinful pleasures of the world\_\_

But with the dangers and difficulties of the Christian conflict, we are perfectly safe, while we trust in the Lord and use diligently the means of grace- If any man, in this house, should loose his religion and go down to hell, it will be his own fault\_ He will feel in the day of judgment, that he knew his duty but he did it not.- You have had some good meetings here, and a goodly number have joined the church\_ I wish to call your attention to some the means by which you may grow in grace and finally get safely home to heaven.

The Apostle Peter says if ye do these things ye shall never fall\_ These things are mentioned in the preceding part of the chapter-Giving all diligence he says add to your faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, Godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity-

1. The first thing that claims our attention after communion, the apostle Peter says is to cultivate virtue or courage=
2. Knowledge-3. Temperance 4. Patience 5. Godliness-6. Brotherly kindness 7. charity