

Gravity

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Introduction: You can ignore the law of gravity at your own peril!

- A. God has designed this physical universe with undeniable physical laws.
 - 1. You may wish they were not there or outright deny they exist, they still will operate in a completely consistent and dependable manner.
 - 2. You can test the law of gravity now. See how long you can hold your hand out.
 - 3. Why does the roof over our heads resist gravity.
- B. There are also unchangeable spiritual laws.
 - 1. There are two opposite forces at work in our hearts. **(Gal 5:16-17)**
 - 2. We need the wisdom to know ourselves and where we are in relation to this great spiritual struggle. **(2 Cor 13:5)**
 - 3. Let us consider the spiritual forces of “gravity” in our lives.

I. Without a daily renewal of our faith the “gravity” of worldliness will win.

- A. We must understand that in this physical world our human flesh left on its own will push us towards fleshly things. **(Rom 8:5-7)**
 - 1. To follow the world all you have to do is nothing.
 - 2. Remember that Satan is the ruler of this world. **(Jn 12:31; 14:30)**
- B. The Bible describes this “pull of gravity” as “drifting.” **(Heb 2:1-3)**
 - 1. The pull of gravity is hardly noticed.
“Church members are like automobiles--they start missing before they quit.”
 - 2. The opportunity of gravity is pure neglect.
 - 3. We need the energy of God to counteract the force of gravity! **(1 Jn 5:4)**
- C. The Lord tells us how to stay supplied with His power. **(Rom 12:1-2)**
 - 1. We must choose to renew! Here is where overconfidence can destroy us.
 - 2. God’s spiritual laws demand that we deny one power and choose to supply the other! **(Rom 8:12-13)**
 - 3. Those who have yet to find a joy in worship and personal Bible study are in trouble.
 - a. It is like exercise in the physical realm. Was it easy starting out? **(Heb 5:12-14)**
 - b. The spiritual “couch potato” will be overcome by “gravity.”
 - c. The goal of this church is to equip you to be able to “overcome gravity.” **(Eph 4:14-16)**
 - d. This great work will not be accomplished by the fads of carnal religion.

II. Without an application of God’s word to our weaknesses we will fail.

- A. We need also to see our specific weaknesses to overcome gravity.
 - 1. What were the weaknesses of Simon before his baptism? **(Acts 8:9-11)**
 - 2. Even though he genuinely believed and was baptized, Satan tempted him immediately through his previous weakness. **(Acts 8:18-23)**
 - 3. He became envious and bitter from the loss of the earlier worldly rewards.
- B. What are your weaknesses?
 - 1. If we are thinking at all we should be able to identify them.

2. In the world you are taught to run from them and deny them. **(Eph 4:17-18)**
 3. Because of God's grace we can look with open eyes where we stand in our struggle against the flesh. **(Eph 4:20-24)**
 4. By knowing our weaknesses we also will learn where "gravity" will strike first!
- C. Kinds of weaknesses.
1. Weaknesses of the flesh. **(Heb 12:1)**
 2. Weakness of personality. (Ex. Peter, James and John)
 3. Weakness of knowledge and wisdom. **(Jas 1:5)**

III. Areas where "gravity" must be understood and overcome

- A. In our marriages.
1. When we are first married we tend to let "gravity" pull us to a single lifestyle.
 2. Remember, marriage is for two. **(Mt 19:6)**
 3. We can never stop "learning" our mate or "gravity" will destroy the relationship. **(1 Pt 3:7)**
 4. Are you willing to learn and yield? Are you living as two or one?
- B. In our working with others.
1. "Gravity" will make us harsh judges who write others off.
 2. God's power teaches us longsuffering, love and forgiveness. **(Col 1:10-11)**
- C. In our jobs.
1. "Gravity" will make us selfish men who "take what they can get."
 2. The Lord gives us power by an awareness of His presence. **(Col 3:22-25)**
- D. In understanding the "gravity" of apostasy. **(2 Pt 3:1-3)**
1. Watch out when men shift the focus from what the Bible says to the personality of "brotherhood watchdogs."
 2. Even if a man has a terrible reputation I still need to be tested by the scriptures. How many have rejected the gospel because of "hypocrites in the church?"
- E. In reaching the lost. **(2 Tim 2:24-26)**
1. Many have never seen it done therefore "gravity" is all they know.
 2. We must have leadership to show us the way to be like Jesus in seeking the lost.
 3. In the church the pull of gravity may not be overcome! Is that true here?

IV. Spiritual qualities that overcomes gravity

- A. Humility. **(1 Pt 5:5-6)**
1. Are you teachable? Are you approachable?
 2. Are you angry at the thought of changing?
- B. Longsuffering. **(Jam 5:7-10)**
1. Are you a "grumbler?"
 2. When you see your own weakness you will be merciful. **(Jas 2:13)**
- C. Zeal. **(2 Cor 7:11)**
1. We should rejoice at hard preaching that pricks our hearts.
 2. We should be thankful for the friend who corrects us.

Conclusion: Will you choose the easy way of sleep or the challenging way of faith?
(Rom 13:11-13)