Isaiah 2:22 (NIV)
Stop trusting in mere humans, who have but a breath in their nostrils. Why hold them in esteem?

Jeremiah 17:5 (NLT)
This is what the Lord says: “Cursed are those who put their trust in mere humans, who rely on human strength and turn their hearts away from the Lord.”

Jeremiah 17:7 (NLT)
“But blessed are those who trust in the Lord and have made the Lord their hope and confidence.”

Psalm 63:8 My soul clings to You.

Deuteronomy 10:20 You shall fear the Lord your God; you shall serve Him and cling to Him.

I. Causes of a Leader’s Moral Fall

A. Causes Common to All Believers
   1. The f__________, a.k.a. the sinful n_____________
   2. The w_____________
   3. The d_____________
   4. N______________ of the means of p__________________

B. Causes Peculiar to “Public” Christians or Spiritual Leaders
   1. P______________
   2. An e_____________________ mentality
   3. The tension between career and h__________________
II. How We Should View and React When a Leader Falls

1. With _______________

2. With f _______________ because such occurrences are to be e _______________

3. With d _______________
   a. Some will excuse or blame
   b. Some will repent
   c. Some are proved to be p _______________

III. Applications

1. Place your t _______________ in God, not in __________

2. _______________ for your spiritual leaders

3. Value spiritual f __________ over spiritual g __________

4. _______________ to _______________

Scripture References:

I Peter 2:11 Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul.

I John 2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

I Peter 5:8 Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Proverbs 27:21 (NLT)
Fire tests the purity of silver and gold, but a person is tested by being praised.

I Timothy 3:6 Not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil.

II Peter 2:2 Many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be maligned.

I Peter 2:15 Such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men.

Matthew 7:21-23 “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. 22 Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ 23 And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.’”

I John 2:19 (NIV) They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us.