

Time to Dream - Part 2

The Past

03/09/2020

- Past mistakes
- Moving forward despite a questionable past
- The evidence of your salvation is not in your obedience but in your desire to obey

Joshua 1:8 (NIV) "Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful"

James 3:2 (NIV) We all stumble in many ways

2 Tim. 3:14-17 (NIV) But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

How to Recover:

1st) I Honestly **ACCEPT** responsibility for my actions.

Psalms 51:4 (NIV) Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.

4 Causes of Failure

1) **PRIDE** - Mark 14:29 (ESV) Peter said to him, "Even though they all fall away, I will not."

- Weak men cannot handle power. It will either crush them, or they will use it to crush others

2) **FATIGUE** - Mark 14:37 (ESV) And he came and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not watch one hour?"

- Sometimes the most spiritual thing you can do is take a nap

3) **FEAR** - Mark 14:54 (ESV) *And Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest.*

Proverbs 29:25 (MSG) The fear of human opinion disables; trusting in God protects you from that.

4) **PLEASURE** - Mark 14:54b (ESV) *And he was sitting with the guards and warming himself at the fire.*

- Anytime I place comfort before character, I'm going to make poor decisions
- Discipline yourself now and you'll have pleasure later on in life

2nd) Humbly Ask for God's Forgiveness and **MERCY**.

Psalms 51:1-4 (NIV) Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;

Psalms 51:5 (CEV) I have sinned and done wrong since the day I was born.

- This is why understanding the grace of God changed my life

Eph. 2:8-9 (NIV) For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast.

3rd) Gratefully accept God's **GRACE** and forgive myself.

Eph. 1:7-8 (CEV) Christ sacrificed his life's blood to set us free, which means that our sins are now forgiven. Christ did this because God was so kind to us. God has great wisdom and understanding,

J. Gresham Machen - "The very center and core of the whole Bible is the doctrine of the grace of God."

"Grace" is the most important concept in the Bible, Christianity, and the world.

"Grace is free sovereign favor to the ill-deserving." (B.B. Warfield)

"Grace is love that cares and stoops and rescues." (John Stott)

"[Grace] is God reaching downward to people who are in rebellion against Him." (Jerry Bridges)

"Grace is unconditional love toward a person who does not deserve it." (Paul Zahl)

Titus 2:11 (NIV) "the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives" Spiritual growth doesn't happen overnight; we

2 Peter 2:18 (NIV) "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"

3 Points on our mistakes:

1) Jesus **KNOWS** about your failures before it happens.

Matt. 26:34 (NIV) "Truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times."

Rev. 3:8a (CEV) I know everything you have done

2) Jesus **PRAYS** for you before it happens.

Luke 22:31-32a (NIV) Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. 32 But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail.

3) Jesus knows you're going to **RECOVER**.

Luke 22:32b (NIV) And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.

Why does my failure not invalidate God's dream?

A) Jesus **PAID** for my sins.

1 John 2:2 (MSG) "When Jesus served as a sacrifice for our sins, he solved the sin problem for God, not only our sin, but the whole world's sin."

B) God's acceptance isn't based on my **PERFORMANCE**.

Titus 3:5 (NLT) "He, Jesus saved us, not because of the good things we did, but because of his mercy."

C) God's calling is **UNCONDITIONAL**.

Romans 11:29 (NIV) for God's gifts and his call are irrevocable.

Romans 8:1 There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus