

OVERCOMING YOUR PERSONAL FAILURES (PAST)

⁴ My guilt overwhelms me, it is a burden too heavy to bear.

Psalm 38:4

“Every saint has a past, and every sinner has a future.”

HOW DO WE OVERCOME OUR PAST?

1. Recognize that your biggest sins are not too big for God's grace.

⁹ But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.

1 John 1:9

³⁴ I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.

Jeremiah 31:34

2. You are not what you have done; you are who God says you are.

¹⁷ Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone and a new life has begun.

2 Corinthians 5:17

JESUS PREDICTS PETER'S DENIAL

³¹ Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift each of you like wheat. ³² But I have pleaded in prayer for you, Simon, that your faith should not fail. So when you have repented and turned to me again, strengthen your brothers. ³³ Peter said, Lord, I am ready to go to prison with you, and even to die with you. ³⁴ But Jesus said, Peter, let me tell you something. Before the rooster crows tomorrow morning, you will deny three times that you even know me.

Luke 22:31 – 34

THE WOMAN CAUGHT IN THE ACT OF ADULTERY

⁹ When the accusers heard this, they slipped away one by one, beginning with the oldest, until only Jesus was left in the middle of the crowd with the woman.

¹⁰ Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, where are your accusers? Didn't even one of them condemn you?

¹¹ No, Lord, she said. And Jesus said, Neither do I. Go and sin no more.

John 8:9 – 11

THE CHILDREN OF GOD

¹² But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. ¹³ They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.

John 1:12 – 13

3. You cannot change your past, but Christ can change your future.

¹² I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. ¹³ No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

Philippians 3:12 - 15