

Spiritual Failure and Forgiveness

WHAT CAUSES OUR SPIRITUAL FAILURES?

1. WE OVERESTIMATE OUR _____

Matthew 26:31-35 “*Jesus said ‘Tonight every one of you will desert me. For the Scripture says that when the shepherd is killed, the sheep will be scattered. BUT after I’ve been raised from the dead, I will go ahead of you to Galilee and meet you there.’ Then Peter boasted, ‘But Lord, even if everyone else fails you, I will NEVER deny you!’ Jesus replied, ‘Peter, the truth is that before this night is over, and before the rooster crows at dawn, you will deny knowing me three times.’ Peter insisted, ‘But Lord, I would NEVER do that! Even if I have to die with you I’ll never deny knowing you!’ And all the other disciples vowed the same thing.*”

1 Corinthians 10:12 “*If you think, ‘I am strong! I can handle this. I’d never fall for that temptation,’ then be careful! For you could easily fall too!*”

2. WE FEAR _____

Matthew 26:58, 69-70 “*Peter followed Jesus at a distance to the courtyard of the high priest's palace. He went in and sat down with the guards to see what was going to happen to Jesus . . . As he was sitting in the courtyard, a servant girl came up to him and said, ‘You were with Jesus of Galilee, weren’t you?’ But standing there in front of everyone Peter denied it. ‘I don't even know what you're talking about!’ he said.*”

Proverbs 29:25 “*It is a dangerous trap to be concerned with what others think of you, but if you trust the Lord, you’ll be safe.*”

3. WE SPEAK _____

Matthew 26:71-74 “*Then Peter went out to the entrance of the courtyard and there another woman saw him and said to those standing there, ‘This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.’ Again Peter denied it, and this time he swore an oath and said ‘I don't even know that man!’ But after a while, the men who had been standing there came over to Peter and said ‘We KNOW that you are one of them because your Galilean accent gives you away.’ Peter lost his temper and started cursing and swearing. He shouted ‘I don’t know the man!’ Immediately he heard a rooster crow.*”

WHAT SHOULD I DO WHEN I FAIL?

1. _____

Matthew 26:75 “*When Peter heard the rooster crow, he remembered that Jesus had said, ‘Before the rooster crows, you’ll deny me three times.’ Then Peter went outside and WEPT BITTERLY.*”

Psalm 51:17 “*The sacrifice God wants is a broken and contrite spirit, God will not reject a humble and repentant heart.*”

2. LET MY _____

Mark 16:10 (Easter morning) “*Mary Magdalene went and found the disciples together, grieving and weeping.*”

John 20:19-20 (Easter night) “*That evening the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus appeared in the middle of the group, and said ‘Peace be with you!’ . . . The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord.*”

Matthew 18:20 “Where two or three are gathered in my name I will be there in the midst of them.”

John 20:26 “A week later the disciples were together again meeting in a home.”

3. HUMBLY _____

1 Peter 1:3 “Because of his great mercy God has given us a new life by raising Jesus Christ from death. This fills us with a living hope . . .”

WHAT DOES JESUS DO WITH MY SPIRITUAL FAILURES?

Luke 22:31-32 “Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you like wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail. So when you have repented and turned back to me again, strengthen and build up your brothers.”

1. HE ISN'T _____

Psalms 103:14 (GW) “God certainly knows what we are made of. He bears in mind that we are dust.”

2. HE _____

Hebrews 7:25 “Jesus is able to save us completely because (in heaven) he lives to intercede on our behalf. He is always talking to the Father, asking him to help us.”

3. HE _____

Luke 22:32 “. . . so WHEN you have repented and turned back to me again . . .”

Proverbs 24:16 “For even though a righteous man falls seven times, he will rise again!”

Mark 16:6-7 The Angel said, “I know you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. But he is not here—he’s risen from the dead . . . Now go tell his disciples, AND tell Peter, that he’s going ahead of you to Galilee and he’ll see you there, just as he promised!”

4. HE SHOWS _____

John 21:9 “When they got to shore they saw that Jesus was cooking fish and bread over a charcoal fire. Jesus said, ‘Bring some of the fish you just caught.’ So Peter went back aboard and dragged the net ashore. It was filled with a 153 large fish, and yet the net had not torn. ‘Now come and have some breakfast!’ Jesus said. Now they were sure it really was the Lord! Then Jesus served them the bread and the fish. This was the third time Jesus had appeared to his disciples since he had been raised from the dead.”

Lamentations 3:22-23 “The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”

5. HE _____

OUR _____

TO _____

Luke 22:32 “When you have turned back to me, strengthen and build up your brothers.”

John 21:15 “After breakfast Jesus said to Simon Peter, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?’ ‘Yes, Lord, you know I love you,’ Peter replied. ‘Then FEED my lambs,’ Jesus said.

Matthew 16:18 Jesus: “Now I say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it!”