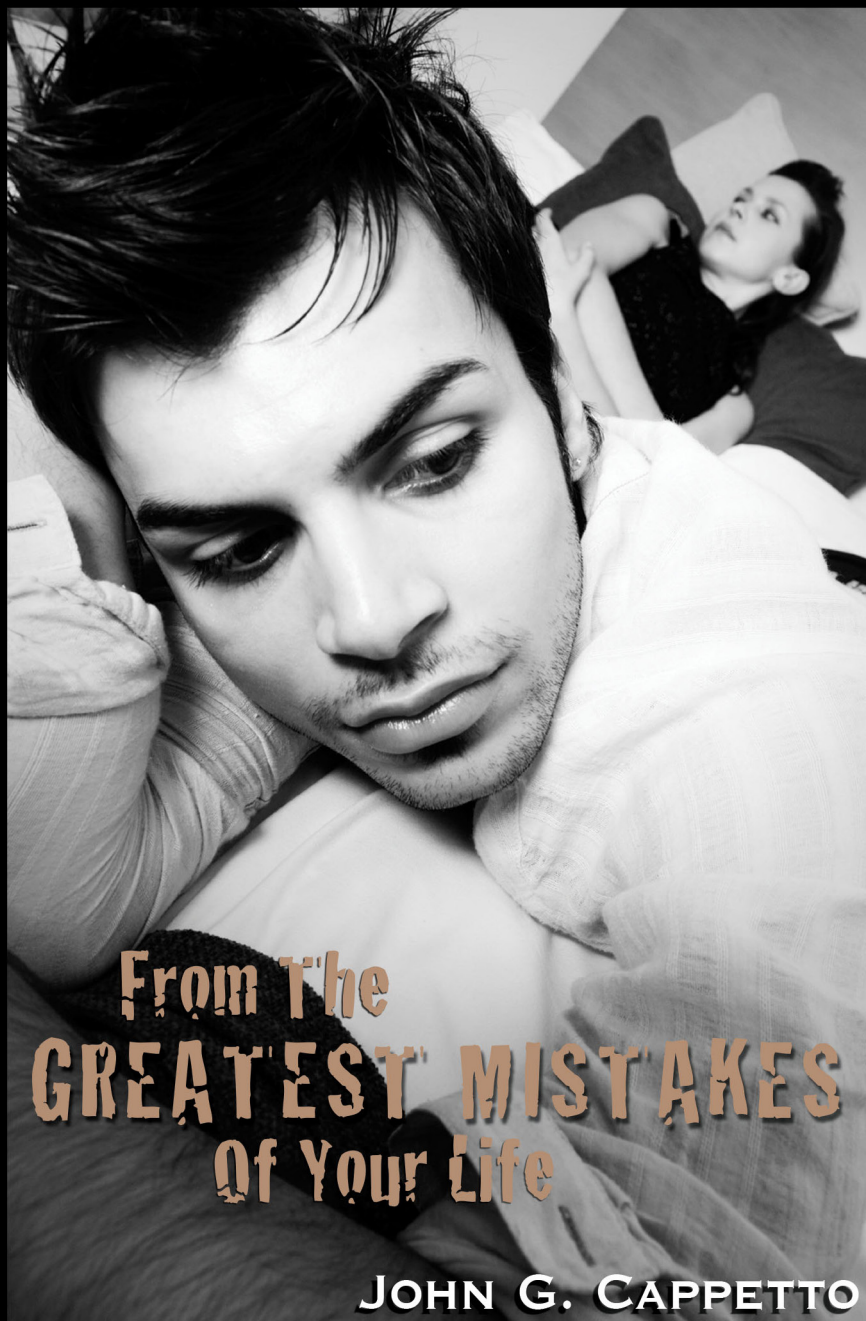


How To Recover



From The
GREATEST MISTAKES
Of Your Life

JOHN G. CAPPETTO

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Published by Bush Publishing/www.bushpublishing.com

Tracie Maltezo, Editor and Designer

FIRST EDITION

SECOND PRINT

Printed in the United States of America

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bush
PUBLISHING
& associates

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Introduction

The Bible says, *“But when sin grew worse, God’s grace increased.”* (Romans 5:20 NCV)

There is hope for everyone! Don’t let anyone talk you out of your faith in the mercy of God to fully restore you from your past sins and mistakes! You are loved! God’s mercy and grace is very real, and He will make you stand!

My heart goes out to all who have fallen and who are having a hard time getting back up. Men may not encourage you to fully get back up after a fall, but God does. Notice what God says: your *“sins and iniquities will I remember no more.”* (Hebrews 10:17)

What did Jesus say to the woman caught in the act of adultery? *“I do not condemn you, **go your way and sin no more.**”* (John 8:11, emphasis added) If this woman was told to go on about her way after committing sin, then the Lord is saying the same to those who have fallen today. **“I don’t condemn you! Go your way and sin no more!”**

Whether people have told a lie or committed murder, we can all relate to needing to recover from some kind of mistake. A lot of people believe that their dreams are over and they will never be able to fulfill what they were born to do. Some people feel that the sins they committed were just too awful to recover from. Even some preachers have given the impression that full recovery is not possible for some people, leaving a “no hope” scenario for those who messed up.

This kind of reasoning has crippled many people and prevented them from bouncing back into their calling, and it has hindered God’s work on the Earth. What if King David would have given up? What if he had received man’s counsel that said, “It’s over David. You have to step out of the ministry and find another job. God will not be able to use you anymore as a king and prophet”? Many people would not have been saved and powerfully helped through his ministry if he would have listened to such counsel.

God is the one we need to listen to when it comes to recovering from the greatest mistakes of our lives. He is not a man with limited compassion and understanding. In fact, the Bible says His mercy endures forever and His understanding is *infinite*.

The Bible also says, *“For as the heaven is high above the Earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him.”* (Psalm 103:11) We go, “Wow!” at how high the stars are above the Earth, and when we see the awesome mercy of God in operation, we will say the same thing. Wow!

God is love. And though there is penalty for sin, there is also abundant mercy for those who truly humble themselves and turn to the Lord with all their hearts.

This book was written to give people hope. Whether you have to overcome great condemnation or just those nagging thoughts and feelings that are holding you back from the next level, this book is for you. There is hope in God, and I pray that you will see and experience this supernatural hope that the world can’t give or take away!

To Whom Are You Listening?

If we listen *only* to what a man has to say, we will never fully recover from the mistakes we have made. But if we listen to God, we will totally recover from the greatest mistakes of our lives. In man's opinion, many will never recover and be able to resume certain positions and dreams; but God has something different to say.

Notice Psalm 113:7-8, which says, “[*The Lord*] raises the poor out of the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap and the dung hill, that He may seat them with princes, even with the princes of His people.” (AMP) From the dunghill to sitting with princes! This is what God can do—even if you are in the dunghill! He has a way of restoring people who have greatly messed up that the world just can't comprehend. God is *good*! His mercy endures forever!

King David committed adultery as well as murder, and because he totally repented with a broken heart and truly admitted his failure, God was able to restore him—even to the point of letting him remain king over Israel! David did

not have to step out of his God-ordained position. If he had been alive today going through now what he went through then, men would have deemed him disqualified from his position.

It is a dangerous thing to let men tell you what to do when men are not the ones who called you in the first place. Jesus has called many people to do certain things in life, and He is the only one qualified to remove them if He so chooses.

I realize that certain organizations may require a person to step down from a position, and in such situations you may have to consent. But quitting on what God called you to do would be another mistake. Taking the time to recuperate can be a good thing after an affair or other such sin, but to accept a “no chance of recovery” scenario can be a total rip-off.

Man says: “How can he stand up straight in front of a group of people after what he did?” But the Bible says if the Lord regarded iniquity, *who could stand?* Not one of us could stand upright with confidence and do anything if it had not been for the Lord’s mercies.

According to some people, they would be just fine on their own without the Lord’s mercy. But the Bible says the reason we are not consumed is because of the Lord’s mercies. Lamentations 3:22-23 says, *“It is of the Lord’s mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning. Great is Thy faithfulness.”* The goodness and mercy of God is the only reason *any* of us can stand and the only reason we are not consumed!

This understanding should eliminate all criticisms and judgments. Jesus said, *“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.”* (Matthew 5:7) You don’t want to be caught without mercy in the bank. Jesus did not say that everyone who needs mercy would receive it, but those who show mercy will receive mercy. It is so good to have mercy deposits in the bank for times when you deserve judgment!

There are people today who are not consumed, and yet they have no idea that it's because of the Lord's mercies. Even some of those people who mock God and make fun of Christianity are protected to a degree because of God's mercy. Some grandma or some praying saint halfway across the world is praying for such people, and God is still, to a degree, protecting them from destruction because of His amazing grace. It's interesting to think that some people are being protected by a God that they are blaspheming!

O, the amazing love of God! Where would any of us be without the Lord's goodness? I don't know of anyone who is making his own heartbeat. Do you? People need God and His mercy more than they have been acknowledging.

Man is Not the Head of the Church

Those who think they are qualified to enforce a person's removal from a position in the Body of Christ, the church, need to consider something that the Apostle Paul brings up in Romans 14:4 when he says, *"Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand."* (NKJV)

People need to learn to keep quiet when it comes to talking about the Lord's servants in a critical way. God is the judge, and He is the only one qualified to set one up and put another down. (See Psalm 75:7)

Many Church people today are like little children who grab Mommy and Daddy's spanking paddle and run after their brothers and sisters, attempting to correct them for their wrongdoing. A child is not qualified to correct another child. God Himself, as well as those He has placed in the Church as overseers and leaders, are the ones to take care of certain issues related to correction. It takes a person of love and years of experience in challenging matters like this to be able to correct in meekness and sincere concern for the fallen.

Psalm 130:3 says, *"If the Lord regarded iniquity, who could*

stand?" (NIV) Who could be restored to anything if it were not for the mercy of God? I do understand that after some mistakes, people may need a time of counseling and recuperation. But dismissal from a calling should be left up to the Lord Himself. Because He is so good and merciful, He is well able to make those who have fallen to stand again.

Judging others, which includes criticizing others, is dangerous. Remember when Moses' brother Aaron and his sister Miriam were talking down on him because he had married an Ethiopian woman? The Bible says that God heard them criticizing Moses, and God called them on the carpet for it. Among other things, God told Aaron and Miriam that they should have been afraid of talking about Moses like that. Miriam became leprous that day.

We should fear what God says we should be afraid of. It is a serious thing to gossip about God's servants, even if they appear to be off at times.

The Bible specifically says, *"Touch not mine anointed and do my prophets no harm."* (Psalm 105:15) God warns all of us to not touch His anointed and to do His prophets no harm! Someone says, "Well, they did wrong, though. They need to be exposed so others can know of their sins." Well if that's the case, then everyone should expose all their own sins to the world, too, because what applies to one must apply to all. No! As a matter of Biblical fact, Jesus said these things should be done in private:

"Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican." (Matthew 18:15-17, emphasis added)

To Whom Are You Listening?

I say we obey Jesus and be very cautious about spreading other people's faults around. There is a proper Biblical way to deal with sin, and it's *not* by letting the whole world know.

Even after King Saul, who eventually killed himself on the battlefield, got crazy and actually tried to kill David more than once, David specifically charged the people who heard of Saul's fall, "*The beauty of Israel is slain upon thy high places: how are the mighty fallen! Tell it not in Gath, publish it not in the streets of Askelon.*" (2 Samuel 1:19-20a) David had no desire to have anyone find out about how Saul had fallen, even though Saul was totally off base in his murderous attempts against David.

James 5:16 says, if applicable, that we are to confess our faults to *one another*! Both are in the singular—*one another*. No doubt God does not want people spreading problems beyond the parties directly involved.

Love covers a multitude of sins. Let's stick with what God says, no matter what man thinks.

What God Says

What does God have to say about your sins once you have acknowledged them and forsaken them? What does God have to say about your life and your future? It is so very important to go to Him by going to the Bible and to find out for yourself so you can believe the truth and walk down the right road. Here are a few Scriptures that you can and should believe.

- "*Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits; who forgives **all** your sins and heals all your diseases.*" (**Psalm 103:1-3** NIV, emphasis added)
- "*Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will **abundantly** pardon.*" (**Isaiah 55:7** KJV,

emphasis added)

- *“I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.” (Isaiah 43:25 NIV)*
- *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9 NIV)*
- *“He [God] has not dealt with us after our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.” (Psalm 103:10 NKJV)*

The Devil Wants You Crippled

Not only will some men try and hold you back from full recovery, but the devil also will do his best to keep you in a state of feeling bad for past sins for which you have already asked God to forgive you. Just a side thought, but isn't it interesting to see people yielding to the devil and at the same time thinking they are doing God's will? The Bible says God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. Anyone condemning (criticizing and coming down hard on) others is not yielding to God.

God is not in the “making people feel bad” business. Though we do feel bad when we sin, it is important to understand that God is not the one making us feel condemned. God is our best friend when we blow it. In fact, running to God is the *best* thing you can do when you blow it. The most important thing you can do when you mess up is go to God. Being right with God is the number one, most important thing you should be concerned about.

You do not have to convince everyone you are right. God is the main one to convince that you have truly repented. When you have completely repented before God, it will be evident to other people. It may take a little while for *man* to see the change, but God will give people a sense that true

repentance is indeed complete, and then other people will begin to be able to restore trust in you.

People who have messed up should not try so hard to convince others that they are trustworthy again. God will give people a *sense* when they are worthy of trust again. When He sees true repentance, He will give people an inward sense that restoration has taken place.

For instance, a husband who has had an affair should not try and rush his wife to trust him again by constantly saying, “I repented, and God has forgiven me. Why don’t you trust me?” That is not the way it works. When you prove to God you are on the right road—and you are going to stay on the right road—then God will deal with your wife’s heart and let her know you are trustworthy again. And even if she does not accept it from the Lord, you should still not try and make her or anyone else believe you. Let God deal with people while you are living right before Him.

You should visibly clear yourself, but then the right way to consummate your true repentance is to leave it up to the Lord.

If you listen only to man—or even your own un-renewed mind—you may never fully recover from the greatest mistakes of your life. But if you will listen to God first and foremost, then you will without a doubt fully recover. His mercy endures forever!

Let No Man Take Your Crown

Jesus said in the book of Revelation that we are to let no man take our crowns (see Revelation 3:11). He is saying we can allow man to take our reward for serving the Lord if we let man talk us out of serving Him because of our shortcomings and sins. Jesus is warning us here that man will try to take our rewards for serving the Lord, and one of the ways it happens is if we let man tell us we can't be restored after we blow it.

Be very cautious about letting man tell you what you can and cannot do. If Jesus called you, then what man is qualified to tell you to stop doing what the Lord called you to do? Even if you have to go somewhere else and begin anew, don't stop doing what you believe in your heart the Lord is leading you to do.

Make Sure You Are Doing God's Will

Now, if you are just doing your own thing in life and you have not prayed about what God has for you, then you

should seriously reconsider what you are doing. God's plan for your life is amazing and has eternal rewards connected with it. The Bible says His plans are to prosper you and not to harm you. They are plans to give you a hope and a future!

Some people are not sure that God's plans are really that good and enjoyable. Well, God Himself says that when we follow His plan for our lives, we will experience more peace, joy, and prosperity than we can contain, as well as everlasting life! The devil is a liar. God's way is the *best* way!

No matter what kind of adjustments you may have to make to be in God's perfect will, it will be worth it. As you *see* Him who is invisible, you will make those adjustments like Moses did. Check it out:

"Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible."

(Hebrews 11:24-27 NKJV)

Moses saw something (Someone), and it gave him the power to make choices that have eternal value. Moses moved on with the plan of God for his life because he saw the Lord through the eyes of faith, but he also moved on because he learned to forget those things that were behind, such as when he killed the Egyptian man.

Moses had to get over this terrible time in his life if he was to go on with the plan of God to deliver the Children of Israel from bondage. Moses could have talked himself out of being used of God because of this incident, but he chose to believe in the mercy of God. And he achieved one of the world's greatest accomplishments—freeing Israel from slavery.

What would have happened if Moses had let the devil or man talk him out of full recovery?

Killing someone is a huge issue! Moses *killed* a man, and it was not self-defense either—though he was helping a Hebrew out who was being beaten by an Egyptian. He tried to hide this act, but Pharaoh found out and then sought to kill Moses. I'm sure when God wrote the sixth commandment in the presence of Moses that Moses felt that one deep in his soul.

Moses could have just given up and said, "I've messed up too badly for any chance of recovery—especially of doing what I thought the Lord wanted me to do. I guess I will just settle for a low-key life so people won't harass me for trying to do great things after knowing how badly I messed up." Thank God he did not follow such thinking!

Some People Never Recover, Though They Could

Some people have let men, the devil, and even their own un-renewed minds talk them out of being restored after a fall...and they have never returned to what God had for their lives. That's sad.

You must go to God yourself and talk to Him about your life and your calling in life. And whether anyone else agrees or not, obey the Lord! Respect men and their wisdom, but look to the Lord for yourself. Ultimately, let Him help you make the final decisions in your life. You can talk to God personally. Pray to Him about your standing and your future. Read the Bible in an attitude of meekness and follow your heart.

Remember that Jesus said not to let men take your crown. They may try, but don't you let them. There is only one Head of the Church, and it is Jesus Christ. Go to Him and find out what the next step is.

Men can give you good advice, there is safety in the multitude of counselors, and we thank God for good godly

counsel. But when it comes to fulfilling your divine destiny, make sure you are hearing from the Lord for yourself as well.

The devil wants nothing more than to stop God's people from moving on after a fall. He first tells people that it's really not that big of a deal to give into a pleasurable sin. And then when they fall for it, he changes his tone and goes into the condemning mode, with one charge after another to beat them down.

We read in the Bible, *"Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins."* (1 Peter 4:8 NLT) I am certainly not advocating never dealing with sin, but I am saying there is a Biblical way to do so—and it's not through exposing and accusing. It's through non-public communication and loving restoration. **Love covers a multitude of sins!**

Honor Can Be Restored

The Bible says that a *good* man falls seven times and gets back up. Notice, it's a good man that falls. Yes, good people fall at times, and it does not mean they are now bad! A *good* man falls seven times...but he gets back up!

Falling into sin does not mean you are wicked or bad. It may simply mean you have not learned how to live separate from sin yet. Notice that after a fall, the good people get back up! They do not stay in some sort of crippling state, never to be restored. The clear implication here is that we *can* get back up and go on as planned. Restoration is absolutely available to all who have fallen, no matter how severe the fall was.

King David, who did some awful things such as committing adultery and murder, is found many years later just before he dies. **The Bible says David died in a good old age, full of days, riches and honor. Honor can be restored!**

Yes, David went through great pain and heartache because of his sins, but did you notice that to this day God still

calls David a man after His own heart? David did not just comfortably sail through his mistakes as though they never happened. He hurt much because of his failures, but God in His great mercy restored him mightily! There is hope for anyone who will humble himself or herself before the Lord and make adjustments.

The book of Micah says, *“Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the LORD shall be a light unto me.”* (Micah 7:8) This is the attitude that will aid you to full recovery—everybody has fallen, but not everyone has gotten back up.

You have to have an attitude that you will not be defeated even when you fall. And then tell the devil and anyone else who says there is no hope, “Don’t laugh at me. I shall arise! God will make me stand! His mercy endures forever and I trust and hope in Him!”

Of course, we must admit we sinned—primarily before God—and forsake it, but then we must also have faith in God’s great mercy and stand up straight and declare to the devil, “I shall arise!”

A friend of mine made a statement I knew was a revelation from God because it was so simple to understand and yet it brought immediate freedom and faith to go on in life with hope. “When you really blow it and just make a mess of things, there are three things you need to do: Admit it, quit it, and then forget it.”

1. Admit it.

2. Quit it.

3. Forget it!

Many people do the first two, but a haunting sense of past sins still determines their lot in life. They admit it, and maybe even quit it, but they have a hard time forgetting it.

If this is you, then you have to know that it is the will of God for you to forgive yourself and move forward. Reason and logic (and maybe even professional people) will tell you that you will always have this burden on your back because of the awful things you have done. But I dare you to boldly believe in the goodness and mercy of God and the precious blood of Jesus to totally forgive you and cleanse you from *all* unrighteousness. And then to also forgive yourself and *forget it!* If you keep looking back at past failures and mistakes, you will end up hurting yourself and others.

The Apostle Paul said we are to forget those things that are behind and to reach forth to those things that are before us. Have you ever noticed that the rearview mirror is so much smaller than the windshield in your car? It's because where you are going is what you must focus on, not where you have been. You can crash and hurt—or even kill—yourself and others by focusing too much on the rearview mirror in your car. You can also do similar damage if you are focusing on your past sins.

People need to understand this and quit bringing up little reminders of their own sins—or the sins of others who have already repented—that the blood of Jesus has already washed away. Really, if you think about it, it is disrespectful to the faithfulness of God to keep talking about and worrying about past sins after repentance.

Remember, 1 John 1:9 says, *“If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from ALL unrighteousness.”* (Emphasis added)

It's not what you've *done* that counts. It's what you *do afterwards!* You can't change what has happened, but you can recover through faith in the mercy and grace of God! Remember, if you are a believer in Jesus, then God is your Father, and He loves you even more than any earthly father could love his child.

He also said He will *never* leave you nor forsake you.

“Never” includes when you blow it! God does not bail on His kids when they totally mess up! God promised that He will *never* leave you nor forsake you! Even if everyone else chooses to leave, your Father will still be right there with you, restoring you and holding you every step of the way.

While in the recovery process and resisting lies of a “no hope” scenario, remember that there are people who have done things much worse than you have but who have fully recovered, and many of them are way better off than you are right now. There is hope, my friend. Just like others have fully recovered, you can too!

Anyone Can Be A Vessel Of Honor

Paul told Timothy that in a great house there are not only vessels of honor, but also vessels of dishonor. He then said that if a man cleanses himself from dishonorable things he could be a vessel of honor, set apart and enabled for the Master’s use and prepared for every good work.

Is there any hope for people of dishonor? Yes there is! Paul was inspired of the Holy Spirit to write this, and he wrote it to dishonorable vessels! He said if people purge themselves from dishonorable things that they *will* become vessels of honor, ready for the work of the Lord! Honor can be restored! God is big enough to do it.

Don’t think that the dishonor you have walked in means that there is no hope of being restored. The power and love of God can produce the miraculous. He can do what no man can do. God can clean a person so perfectly there is not even a feeling of guilt anymore for past sins and then use that person mightily for His glory! **Honor can be restored!**

An Extreme Case

There is a king in the Bible who did evil in the sight of the Lord. His name was Manasseh. He was king over the cities of Judah, and he did some of the worst things I have ever heard of. He caused his children to pass through the fire, and he also used enchantments and witchcraft, dealt with a familiar spirit and wizards, and did much evil. He made his people to sin worse than the heathens, and he rejected God's correction time and time again.

However, an amazing thing happened in this man's life. Because of living in such a way, he finally ended up being captured by his enemies and brought into affliction. The Bible says in his affliction he humbled himself greatly before the Lord, and he prayed for help.

Now, many people would say there is no hope for a guy like this and that he should just die and leave the Earth, but check it out. God got him out of affliction and brought him home and back to his kingdom, and Manasseh lived out his life. Wow! That's mercy!

God doesn't see anyone as too far gone! God has the power and mercy to restore anyone and actually help him or her live a good life without even being haunted by past sins. No wonder it is called the Gospel—the Good News!

Anyone can be restored like this king, because anyone can humble himself or herself greatly before the Lord. Humbling yourself means to come low before the Lord and admit your sins and make any and all adjustments necessary to truly repent. Manasseh did this and was restored...even after all the wicked things he did. **He humbled himself greatly!**

No one has ever used up all the Lord's mercy. No one has messed up so badly that there was not enough mercy to fix it.

So don't let the devil or any man tell you there is no hope for restoration. If Manasseh can be restored, then anyone can be restored!

Did you know that some people go down in life after they blow it...simply because they *believe* they *must* go down? They don't *have* to go down, but because they *believe* they have to, they go down!

You don't have to go down after you blow it. You can be restored! Don't believe the lie that says you can't be restored! Don't believe it! **Believe what God says.**

He said He would forgive *all* your iniquities and heal all your diseases! He said He would abundantly pardon you! He said He would not remember your sins any more after you confess them to Him.

What matters is what God says, and **God says you can be restored!**

Mature People

Restore

The Bible says that spiritual people (mature people) are in the restoring business, not in the condemning business. Mature people care and want to help. They know that if it were not for the mercy of God, we would all have been consumed a long time ago. Young and immature people don't understand this yet. They have not been around long enough to grasp the power of such things.

Don't get me wrong—spiritual people do not condone sin. It's just that they don't condemn those who have. Condemnation does not come from God. The Bible says that God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world would be saved (John 3:17). Anyone condemning others is not yielding to God.

There is a better way to deal with those who have sinned, and it's called *restoration*.

A perfect example of the restoring love of God is found in Luke Chapter 16 where a father divided his inheritance

to his two sons. The younger one took his portion and left for a time of riotous living and a life of partying and lasciviousness. He spent his entire inheritance on harlots and loose living!

Write the guy off, right? He wasted his father's inheritance, which he had saved for decades so he could bless his sons with a good start in life. What a bum, right? Wait a minute. Let's see what happened.

Could there be restoration for someone who was in the father's house and then left to live with harlots? God only knows what took place in those parties. Who knows what kinds of things may have transpired there.

Well, one day this guy found himself in a pigpen, feeding the pigs because he ran out of money and was hoping to eat what the pigs were eating. Talk about a sad ending! In the pigpen, the younger son came to himself and realized that back home even his father's servants had it way better than he did in that pigpen. He decided to rise up and hope for some kind of restoration...that maybe he could at least be one of his father's servants.

So off he goes, back home with head bowed and heart humbled. As he got near his father's house, his father saw him a long way off and *ran* to meet him. This is the only place I know of in the whole Bible where we have a picture of God Himself running.

The father in this story is how God is in life. The father *ran* to his broken son who had just wasted his entire inheritance on riotous living and harlots, yet the father runs to meet him! What a picture of the love of God toward those who have messed up their lives and hope for mercy!

The Bible says God delights in mercy. He takes pleasure in restoring those who have totally messed up their lives. It is not a burden for God to forgive and restore. He *delights* in mercy! (Micah 7:18)

The story goes on to say that the father welcomed his wayward son back into the family by putting sandals on his feet, a ring on his finger, a robe on his back, and by killing the fatted calf for a homecoming party. What a picture of God's mercy and love toward those stained by sin!

God loves us! Don't let anyone tell you there is no hope. God is called the God of hope. There is no such thing as "no hope" with Him.

Yes, what this younger son did was wrong. Yes, it cost him. But when he turned to the Lord in true repentance, he was lifted up out of the pigpen into beautiful places fit for royalty. That is how good God is.

God did not come to beat us up. He came to lift us up!

Now, if a person continues on in a life of sin, the Bible says that sooner or later judgment must come. It's not that the Lord is going to clobber people who refuse to repent, but He will allow Satan to harass them when they keep choosing to hang out in his territory.

Let's face it; if you get out from under the umbrella, you are going to get wet...and it won't be the umbrella's fault. When a person gets away from God and chooses to live in dangerous places, then that person is going to experience dangerous things.

Let's be the mature ones who are actually concerned for those who fall and not mad. Let's be in the restoring business, considering ourselves lest we also be tempted (see Galatians 6:1).

The Accuser of the Brethren

The Book of Revelation, the last book in the Bible, calls the devil the accuser of the brethren. The devil is in the accusing business. He is always accusing God's people, day and night. People who are in the accusing business are obviously yielding to the *accuser*.

Remember, spiritual people are in the restoring business, not the accusing business.

Some people think they are doing God's will by trying to expose other people's sins. They think that if they don't expose things, then things won't be dealt with. That is nothing more than lack of faith that God is big enough to deal with His family problems. Many of God's kids are walking around swinging Daddy's paddle when they have zero authority to do so. God has set up ways to deal with His people's sins, and it's not having just anyone throwing Scriptures around in judgment at those who have fallen.

Here is a revelation that many have not seen—the Bible says

love *covers* a multitude of sins! Love *covers*. Not, “love exposes.” Satan is the accuser; love covers. Which side are you on?

Love covers a multitude of sins. Love deals with those who have fallen in private, because love cares about those who have sinned. **Many people deal roughly with those who have fallen into sin, because they really don't care—they are just upset.**

You have to be qualified to correct others. You just can't start throwing Scriptures at those who have missed it. You will get in trouble with God if you do.

Remember what the Book of Romans says: “Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.” (Romans 14:4 NKJV) Judging one another in this area is dangerous. You can really get in trouble with God by judging His servants.

Jesus said, *“Judge not, that you be not judged.”* (Matthew 7:1 NKJV) And the Apostle Paul said that those who judge others of sin are guilty of the same sins. Wow! The person judging may not have committed the physical act like the one he is criticizing, but the New Testament says you can commit the same sin in the heart before it ever becomes a physical act.

God is the Father of His family. Let's let Him do any correcting that needs to be done.

God has put instructions in the Bible for leaders and mature people in this area of reproofing and rebuking, but it's dealing with people who are presently still in sin, not for those who have stopped and repented. You deal differently with someone who is still in sin and has not repented than you do with someone who has acknowledged his or her sins and has stopped sinning.

The big issue here is this: **Has repentance taken place?** If it has, then who are we to judge or keep bringing up a

person's past sins? And that goes for our own as well! **Who are we to keep bringing up sins of the past that the blood of Jesus washed away?**

If people keep asking you about your past sins, you do not have to keep answering. Being silent is not a sin! Jesus kept silent at times when He was being questioned about His life and ministry. Ecclesiastes says that there is a time to keep silent and a time to speak.

Other people may feel the urge to question you about your past mistakes and sins, and you just need to be led by the Holy Spirit as to what you say or don't say. As long as you are willing to do or say anything the Lord wants you to do or say, you are in a good place. You do not have to reveal everything and every detail of every sin you ever committed just because someone wants to know. Be wise...and be led.

How To Overcome Sin

We must be able to overcome sin, or why would God require we repent when we do sin? Why would He hold us responsible for sinning if we could not help it? If we could not help it, then God would be unjust to require us to repent. The very fact that He says we are to repent tells us we did not have to mess up.

Man is not supposed to be some kind of victim, always at the mercy of sin and demon powers. Romans 6:14 says that sin shall not have dominion over us! It also says that we have power over all the power of the devil and nothing shall by any means hurt us. Many do not know this, and therefore they still fall prey to every lust that comes their way.

Here are some major keys to overcoming sins and habits that seem so relentless. Knowing what I am about to share with will make you the victor and no longer the victim.

First of all, when people see who they really are, it will

transform them from the inside out. The Bible says that as a man thinks in his heart, so is he (Proverbs 23:7). How you think determines how you live. What's on your mind has a lot to do with what's in your life. The Bible says so. Notice: As a man thinks in his heart, so is he!

If you think you are a victim, then you will live like a victim. Therefore, the truth is that you were made in the image and likeness of God, and you are much stronger and more capable of living an overcoming life than you imagined! Think about it. You are made in the image and likeness of God! Isn't that much better than thinking you came from slime in the sea? Give me a Bible break! Man is more than what evolution teaches. We are the offspring of God! We are made in His image and likeness!

Of course you can overcome sin and addictions! You are a powerful, victorious person. You are the offspring of God, with more authority over these evil forces than most people believe!

You have to renew your mind to this truth so that you will stop believing you are a victim and start believing you are a victor! God says you are more than a conqueror and a world over-comer! This is who you really are!

Romans 12:2 says that transformation will take place in our lives when our minds are renewed with God's Word. Don't just gather information of these Bible truths. Let them change your thinking. Keep going over them until you see life differently. **Learning is not changing.** Expect the Holy Spirit to help you actually change from the inside out supernaturally as you behold the wonderful truths of who you *really* are in Christ!

A major key to overcoming sin is to see that Jesus' death, burial and resurrection eternally broke the power of sin! By His shed blood we are free from being slaves to Satan and sin, and we can actually fight against these powers successfully. We are no longer helpless against sin. Through Jesus Christ, we can say "No!" and refuse to give in. Sin may try to persist,

but, thank God, we win!

Another key to living an overcoming life is to see yourself as royalty, which is the Bible truth. If you are a believer in Jesus, then the Bible says Jesus has made you a king and a priest unto God and that you are to reign in this life through Jesus Christ. Hmm. Reign over what? Demons! Disease! Sin and all the works of the devil!

However, if you think you are a dirty old worm, then you won't do much reigning...though you are, in reality, a king. Proverbs says, "*It is an abomination for kings to commit wickedness.*" (Proverbs 16:12) People who do not see themselves as the kings that Jesus made them will keep slipping into sins of the flesh because they do not view themselves rightly. They continue to see themselves as dirty and as victims to sinful desires...and they live accordingly. When you realize you are royalty, it will affect your lifestyle! When you realize you are a king or queen, then it will be an abomination for *you* to commit wickedness, which is a major key to not messing up again.

This is another reason why people keep falling into the same sins over and over again—the sins they keep falling into are not an abomination to them. They actually like the sin and how it makes them feel while they are sinning, and therefore the needed resistance is not there to overcome.

You will absolutely stay away from what is an abomination to you. For instance, eating cow manure would be an abomination to most people, right? Right. We stay away from what is an abomination to us. Now, since some sins are pleasurable for a season, we must get to the place where we understand the full picture of what sin does to us and to others and how it is connected to death.

Overcoming sin has a lot to do with *hating* sin. The New Testament says, "*Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.*" (Romans 12:9) The Apostle Paul did not say, "Try to stop sinning. Push it aside and hope it doesn't happen again." *No!* He said *abhor* it!

We who love the Lord are supposed to hate sin! The Bible says so. Jesus Himself loved righteousness and *hated iniquity*. Hating sin is a key to overcoming sin.

Just remember how terrible sin must be for the Lord to shed His blood to free us from it. It must be extremely terrible! Just think of all the rewards you forfeit if you keep choosing sin instead of holiness. You really should read the book of Revelation, Chapters two and three and see what is waiting for the overcomers.

A Royal Law for a Royal People

God has given us a royal law because we are a royal people. James said we have a royal law to keep called “love one another as we love ourselves.” (See James 2:8) It is a royal law for a royal people. The Book of 1 Peter says we are a chosen generation and a *royal* priesthood (1 Peter 2:29). This is what God says, and it is what we should believe and say also. When we do, life will be what it is supposed to be—victorious!

Another major key to living above sin and all its pressures is to really *see* the Lord. In John’s third letter to Christians he says, “*He who does evil has not seen (discerned or experienced) God [has enjoyed no vision of Him and does not know Him at all].*” (3 John 1:11 AMP)

Think about it. Why do people commit sin? It is because they have not seen Jesus or known Him. Seeing the *real* Jesus will change a person from the inside out.

When Saul of Tarsus saw the real Jesus, it changed him from a persecutor of Christians to one of the most sold-out Christians our world has ever seen! Seeing Jesus as He really is will change the hardest heart into a heart of love.

If you are still struggling with sins that seem to keep holding on or you know someone who is, then pray for a revelation of Jesus Christ. Then read your Bible and go to a Bible-believing church. The more you see Jesus, the more you will

walk in victory over sin.

Moses endured and overcame high-level temptations by *seeing* Him who is invisible. Hebrews 11:27 says, *"By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him (God) who is invisible."*

I was upset a while ago about certain people who were totally blowing it, and I actually became unrighteously angry about it. The Lord reminded me that being angry and critical about it would not help things one bit. He reminded me that if I would *pray* that they get a revelation of Jesus and really see Him for who He is that then things would get better *from their insides out*.

When people *see* Jesus, they will know His goodness; and it is the goodness of God that leads people to repentance (Romans 2:4).

The more you see and know the Lord, the stronger you become. *"They that do know their God shall be strong and do exploits."* (Daniel 11:32)

Who God Uses

It is amazing to see in the Bible who God used to do great and mighty things. As you read this list of people God has used, you may think that there is no way He could use someone like that. As you read this list, you will also see that there is hope for you as well if you have struggled with forgetting the past.

What would you think if I told you that God uses people who have committed murder or those classified as adulterers, harlots, drunkards, people who have denied Jesus, blasphemers, the demon-possessed, and other very imperfect people to do great things for Him on the Earth? You may think, *no way!*

Yes way! This list is right out of the Bible! He has used people who fall into every category I just mentioned. Of course, they did not *continue* in such practices all their lives, but they did come from such backgrounds. It is amazing how powerful the mercy and grace of God is to clean someone up from such a destructive lifestyle and make them fit for royal places and

such high level ministry. Truly amazing grace!

- King David was restored after committing murder and adultery, and when he did die, he died in a good old age, full of days, riches, and honor.
- Moses was restored after killing a man and went on to be one of the greatest men of God in the history of this planet.
- Rahab, who is found in the hall of fame of faith in Hebrews Chapter 11, was a harlot.
- Noah was found drunk and uncovered in his tent.
- Paul the Apostle was restored after he hauled Christian men and women to jail for professing Christ. He also wasted the Church, injured Christians, and blasphemed.
- Peter denied the Lord three times while he was already the Lord's disciple. He recovered, became a great apostle, and his legacy lives on forever.
- The madman at Gadara was restored, and Jesus Himself even placed him in the ministry, despite his life of running around the graveyard naked and totally demon-possessed.

All these people did great things for the Lord!

Whether you fall into one of these categories or some other category of sins of the past, know that God is big enough to restore you and even use you to do great things for Him before you leave this Earth. **We have yet to see the fullness of God's mercy.** No one has used up all the mercy of God.

Dare to believe that you can be restored and finish the race He

has called you to finish. Look at these who had to overcome haunting memories of the past and receive strength and hope to move forward in your own race.

It makes me cry to see how good the Lord is even in my own life after all the mistakes I have made. It is one of the most touching things to see the grace of God in operation, restoring a life so far broken beyond human repair. If people could see this one powerful attribute of God, they would run to Him in a heartbeat.

- You can recover from the greatest mistakes of your life!
- God loves you more than your mind can comprehend.
- He will never leave you nor forsake you.
- He believes in you when you lose faith in yourself.
- His mercy endures forever.

How Many Times Will God Forgive You?

God would not expect you to do something He would not do. He told you to forgive people who do you wrong when they repent. He said to forgive them even if they sinned against you 490 times in a day (see Matthew 18:22). God will forgive *you* no matter how many times you have blown it...if you truly repent.

The Bible says that Jesus came to set us free! Even if you are in a prison or jail cell, He can and will help you to know and experience this amazing freedom, which the world can't give or take away! A friend of mine was convicted for crimes that got him life without parole, but God got him out supernaturally quickly, and now he is preaching and teaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ everywhere. He has a wonderful family, and even a plane to travel in.

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How To Recover From The Greatest Mistakes Of Your Life

This book is written to give you hope! No matter how badly you might have messed up and sinned, the Bible says honor can be restored! It's not what man says that ultimately counts. It's what God has said that counts!

We all know that persisting in a sinful lifestyle will end up in some form of destruction, but we also know from the Bible, true repentance can lead to a full recovery in God's eyes and eventually in man's as well. A part of true repentance is knowing you can recover with the Lord's help. Hope has the power to change a person more than law can ever accomplish.

"For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did. By the which we draw near to God."

Hebrews 7:19

In this book you will discover:

1. Honor can truly be restored even after grossly messing up.
2. Judging others can be very bad for one's health.
3. God uses some of the most unlikely people.
4. Why some people fully recover and why some don't.
5. How to overcome sin once and for all.

HONOR CAN BE RESTORED



For twenty-three years, John Cappetto and his wife, Carla, have been Pastors of Faith Heights Church in Grand Junction, Colorado, a Word Of Faith Church that is bringing the uncompromising Word of God to this generation.



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