

Introduction: Sometimes God asks us to remember ... and sometimes God asks us to forget.

- Isaiah 43:18, “This is what the Lord says, ‘Forget the former things do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing!’”

- Philippians 3:13 “One thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize in Christ Jesus.”

When the Bible tells us to forget something, it means that we should not to _____ our _____ on those things anymore.

I. Can We Move Past Our Failures?

Past failures can _____ our self-worth, _____ our confidence, and burden us with guilt and shame.

It is possible to overcome these regrets and move forward. It is possible to find healing, _____ and _____ through our Christian faith, no matter what we’ve done.

II. Peter’s Restoration

1) Notice that Jesus is the one who takes the _____ and He brings up Peter’s failure.

“Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time.” The wound has to be _____ in order to heal properly. Peter needs to be confronted and feel the _____. That is the first step toward restoration.

2. Jesus gives Peter a new positive experience to _____ the previous one. Peter is given a new _____ to help cover up the old. The memory had to be relived and then it could be removed. This is the gospel way, which takes both _____ and _____ seriously at the same time.

3. Peter’s calling re-affirmed. Jesus tells Peter 3 times to “Feed my sheep.” In other words, God still wanted to use Peter. Peter still had a _____, a _____ to do.

In the rest of the Bible, Peter _____ about this failure again. We might even say that he was able to “forget” about it.

III. Applying to Our Lives

- How does Jesus take initiative to confront our sinful failures today?

- How might Jesus redeem our regretful memories?
Example – AA Step 9 – “making amends”

- Is there any sinful failure that can disqualify a person from their calling?

Peter’s restoration and re-commissioning can give each us _____ and encouragement that our past failures do not need to _____ us from serving the Lord in many, many kinds of ways

Conclusion:

We should be _____ for how we have denied our Savior. But, then we also need to be _____ that we can move forward.

“If the Son has set you free, you are free indeed.”