



Part 5: Surviving Personal Failure

These will not keep you from failure:

- Spiritual _____ (Matt. 17:3-5)
- Spiritual _____ (Matt. 16:16-18)
- Spiritual _____ (Mark 14:31)

“Peter declared, ‘Even if all fall away, I will not.’” Mark 14:29

“Those standing near said to Peter, ‘Surely you are one of them...’ He called down curses on himself, and swore, ‘I don’t know this man you’re talking about.’” Mark 14:70, 71

How to get back up when you fall:

1. Remain _____
“I’m going fishing,’ Simon Peter told them, and they said, ‘We’ll go with you.’ ...but they caught nothing... Jesus stood on shore, but they didn’t realize it was him. He called, ‘Friends, no fish?’ ‘No,’ they answered. He said, ‘Throw your net on the right...’ They did, and couldn’t haul it in for the size of the catch.” John 21:3-6

2. Run _____
“John said to Peter, ‘It’s the Lord!’ As soon as Simon Peter heard him, he wrapped his cloak around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. They saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread... Jesus said to them, ‘Come and have breakfast.’ Jesus ...served them.” John 21:7, 9, 13

3. Reveal _____
“Jesus said, ‘Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?’ ‘Yes, Lord,’ he said, ‘you know that I love you.’ Jesus said, ‘Feed my lambs.’ Again Jesus said, ‘Simon son of John, do you truly love me?’ He answered,

‘Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.’ Jesus said, ‘Take care of my sheep.’ The third time he said to him, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me?’ Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time... He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.’” John 21:15-17

4. Receive _____
“Jesus said, ‘Feed my sheep. ...Then he said to him, ‘Follow me!’ John 21:17-19

“Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them... When Peter saw him, he asked, ‘Lord, what about him?’ Jesus answered, ‘If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me.’” John 21:20

Daily Meditations

Here’s a chance to “take it home”: Thought provoking questions about this weekend’s topic!

This week’s memory verse: *“So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall! No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it. “ 1Cor. 10:12-13*

Monday

Look back over your notes. How could you relate to the story of Peter?

Which of the four points is most difficult for you to do when you’ve fallen? Why?

Read John 21:3-20. What encourages you most in this passage? Why?

Thank God today that the Bible deals with real life. Thank God for the examples of people who fell and got up again. Ask Him for strength for today. Be honest about your struggles and ask God to help you choose what is right each step of the day.

Tuesday

Read John 21:3-6 & Heb. 13:3. Why do you think people who have fallen shy away from Christian friends?

Why do you think it’s important to remain in contact with other Christians when you’ve fallen in some way?

How does staying in fellowship with other Christians help and encourage you?

Think about your life right now. How might you be attempting to hide part of your life from your friends? What is one practical thing you can do this week to “come clean”?

Recall a time when a friend/spouse/family member shared a personal failure with you. What was your response? How did (or didn't) that reflect Jesus' response to Peter?

What changes can you make in your own attitude to ensure that your actions and reactions towards those in your life reflect Christ?

Thank God today for the body of Christ. Thank Him for your friends. Ask God to help you live honestly with Him and with those around you. Pray that you will be the type of friend that people can share freely with and receive encouragement from.

Wednesday

Read Matt. 11:28-30, John 21:7-14 & Heb. 4:15-16. What do these verses say about running to God when you've fallen?

Why do you think it is difficult to believe that you can run to God when you've fallen?

How do these verses encourage you to turn to God with your weaknesses and failures?

Thank God today for His mercy. Thank Him that you can run to His open arms of love. Ask Him for the faith to believe that and the humility to do that!

Thursday

Read Psalm 62:8, 142:1-5 & John 21:15-17. What three things encourage you most in these passages?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What prevents you from pouring your heart out to God?

How can you apply these verses to your relationship with God? What impact can this make on your daily life?

How does Jesus' response to Peter encourage you?

What do you learn from Peter and Jesus' relationship that you can apply to your relationship with God?

Thank God today that He always listens to you. Talk to Him honestly about the corners of your heart that you've been afraid to show Him. Pray that you will trust God's good heart and love for you.

Friday

Read John 21:17-20. What command did Jesus repeat to Peter in these verses?

Peter struggled with comparing himself to the other disciples. How does Jesus' command solve that struggle?

Spend some time in honest evaluation today. How do you struggle with comparing yourself to others? What does Jesus' command, “You follow me” mean to your life right now?

Thank God for His involvement in your life. Ask Him for the strength to keep your focus on the command to follow Him.

Saturday

Please pray for this weekend's services, particularly for all the special activities during the Christmas season! *Pray that what we do and say will reach people with the Good News of God's transforming grace. Thank you!*