

LOVE GOD, even when we fail

LAST WEEK'S MESSAGE

When life goes smoothly, it's relatively easy to show our love for God. But when we stumble and fail, we often find ourselves turning away from Him. However, as we can see in the life of King David, failure need not be final. God declared David "a man after My heart" (Acts 13:22), despite his imperfections.

In 1 Chronicles 21:1-2, Satan influenced David to conduct a census in Israel. As a deceiver and liar, Satan preys on our weaknesses, tempting us with lies and false pretenses. Our discernment becomes crucial in such moments. Unfortunately, at that time David lacked this discernment. He instructed Joab to "number the people," seemingly harmless unless driven by wrong motives. His confidence shifted toward his armies, prompting God's warning through Joab (vv. 3-4). Despite Joab's attempts to correct him, David persisted. The numbers appeared favorable to David (vv. 5-6), but God was displeased with his grave error (v. 7). When we fail like David, how should we respond?

Repent

Repentance (from the Greek word METANOIA) signifies a profound change of mind and direction. Rather than making excuses or blaming others, true repentance involves admitting our mistakes. Consider the example of King David, who turned to God to confess his actions as "very foolish" (1 Chronicles 21:8). David assumed responsibility; he did not shift the blame to Joab. Repentance encompasses three essential aspects: Admit our sin and mistakes > Assuming Responsibility for our actions > Accepting Consequences.

In another instance, he wrote a deeply personal confession when he was younger (Psalm 51:1-4). He fully owned his mistakes, demonstrating genuine repentance by acknowledging his transgressions and iniquities. Sin always has collateral damage, affecting others in ways we may not immediately recognize.

The Bible reminds us that "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Proverbs 1:7). This fear acts as a shield, preventing us from making foolish decisions. True repentance involves more than mere sorrow; it leads to salvation. Unlike those who feel sorrowful only because they were caught (2 Corinthians 7:9-10), genuine repentance transforms hearts and eventually leads to complete obedience.

Obey

A.W. Tozer wisely states, "The Bible recognizes no faith that does not lead to obedience, nor does it recognize any obedience that does not spring from faith. The two are at opposite sides of the

same coin." Let's contrast King David with his predecessor, King Saul, whom God removed and replaced with David.

When Samuel confronted Saul for building a monument for himself (1 Samuel 15:12). Saul made excuses and declared that he had "carried out the command of the LORD." Samuel rebuked Saul for his disobedience, but Saul persisted. He blamed the people and even offered a seemingly "spiritual" excuse. Samuel's memorable reminder to Saul was clear: "To obey is better than sacrifice" (vv. 22-23). Samuel equated Saul's rebellion and insubordination to idolatry and witchcraft – actions detestable to God. This ultimately led to Saul's rejection as king.

Partial and delayed obedience is disobedience! The one who loves God is the one who keeps His commandments (John 14:21).

Worship

Worship is the proper response to who God is, what He has done, continues to do, and what He will do in the future. To truly worship, we must intimately know and experience God. It is a heart response that grows, as our knowledge of Him deepens. David's exaltation and acknowledgment of God reveal a high view of His greatness, majesty, authority, power, and rulership (1 Chronicles 29:10-13). David recognized that everything he possessed belonged to God and responded with gratitude.

Even when faced with God's merciful judgment, David understood that God's love, mercy, and compassion are unfailing (Lamentations 3:22-23). In a critical moment, when the angel of the LORD threatened pestilence upon Israel, King David faced a weighty decision (1 Chronicles 21:14-22). The consequences were dire, and David had to choose the form of judgment. To solve the problem of sin and pestilence, David was commanded to build an altar to the Lord on Ornan the Jebusite's field. Ornan offered the place for free, but David insisted on purchasing it because he did not want to offer to God what cost him nothing. David built the altar, offered sacrifices, and shed blood – the price of forgiveness. This very place later became the site where Solomon built the temple (2 Chronicles 3:1) – Mount Moriah, where centuries later, Jesus would willingly lay down His life for humanity. The altar of old foreshadowed the ultimate sacrifice – the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

When we surrender everything to God, even our mistakes, something disastrous can transform into a blessing. We allow His redemption to cover our faults and set us free. He truly deserves all honor, glory, and praise!

last week's memory verse

Nevertheless, King David said to Ornan, "No, but I will certainly buy it for the full price; for I will not take what is yours for the Lord, nor offer a burnt offering which costs me nothing."

1 CHRONICLES 21:24

discuss this message

How can you recover from sin or failure?

Why is repentance important? What does it mean to repent?

Why is worship important when it comes to recovery from sin/failure?

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May 9, Thursday, 10:00 AM, MPH

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Masterpiece: Women's Conference

June 22, Saturday

9:00 AM, Main Auditorium

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Sundays, 9:00 AM, 12:00 NN, 3:00 PM

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LIVESTREAM: YouTube & Facebook

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Across	 ccfacrossministries
W2W	 ccfwomen2women

YOU BEING HERE IS NO ACCIDENT!

God brought you here for His purpose.

God loves you.

He desires for you to have a meaningful life with Him in the present and gain eternal life with Him in the future.

Know therefore that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God, who **keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness** to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments – Deuteronomy 7:9

God is holy.

We are sinful, and our sin separates us from Him.

Everyone has sinned and is far away from God's saving presence. – Romans 3:23

God is merciful.

In His love, He made the only way for us to be reconciled to Him: through His son, Jesus Christ. Jesus had to die on the cross for our sins and be raised to life for eternity.

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. – Romans 5:8

I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. – John 14:6

God is gracious.

By placing our faith in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven of our sins and saved from eternal death.

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. – John 3:16

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. – Ephesians 2:8-9

Would you like to place your faith in Jesus Christ today?

Lord Jesus, I need You. I confess that I am a sinner. I believe that You died on the cross to pay for all my sins. With Your help, I will turn away from my sins. Please come into my life and be my Savior and my Master. I accept Your gift of eternal life. Make me the kind of new person You want me to be. Thank You for giving me eternal life. Amen.

God keeps His promises.

You can be sure that you have eternal life when you trust in Jesus.

And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life. – 1 John 5:11-13

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SATURDAY NIGHTS

5:00 PM

SUNDAYS

9:00 AM, 12:00 NN, and 3:00 PM

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