

A Fresh Start with God ~ *beginning again, moving forward*
Week 3 – *How do I handle my failures? What do I do when I mess up again?*
October 22, 2006

As a Christ-follower, how should I respond to temptation?

1. Remind myself that I am no longer doing life alone

- ***I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished....*** *Philippians chapter 1 verse 6 (899)*
- ***I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.***
Philippians chapter 4 verse 13 (901)

2. Realize that Jesus already defeated Satan

The Son of God came to destroy the works of the devil. *1 John chapter 3 verse 8 (942)*

3. Ask myself, “What would Jesus do in this situation?” (*then think about Jesus, NOT my temptation!*) - ***Clothe yourself with the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. And don't let yourself think about ways to indulge your evil desires.*** *Romans chapter 13 verse 14 (867)*

4. Deliberately choose God's way!

The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so you can endure.

1 Corinthians chapter 10 verse 13 (876)

What do I do when I fail?

- ***The Apostle Paul said, “I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate.”*** *Romans chapter 7 verse 15 (862)*
- ***Not a single person on earth is always good & never sins.***
Ecclesiastes chapter 7 verse 20 (508)

1. Keep reminding myself that God is gracious!

The Lord...is gracious in all he does. The Lord helps the fallen and lifts those bent beneath their loads. *Psalms 145 verses 13 & 14 (479)*

2. Admit that I messed up

- ***Everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard (Jesus' sinless life).***
Romans chapter 3 verse 23 (859)
- My failures are a simple reminder to me that I need Jesus. That's why I need to “own” my failures.

(over)

3. Give thought to why I failed

Jesus said, "It is what comes from inside that defiles you. For from within, out of a person's heart, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, wickedness, deceit, lustful desires, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these vile things come from within; they are what defile you. Mark chapter 7 verses 20 - 23 (767)

4. Confess my sin to God. Ask him for forgiveness - **If we confess our sins to God, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.**

1 John chapter 1 verse 9 (941)

- to "confess" is to agree with God as to the ugliness of the sin and to purpose to turn from sin (literally to turn around) in that area of my life
- "cleanse" is to wipe clean, make pure
- **When I refused to confess my sin, my body wasted away, and I groaned all day long. Day & night your hand of discipline was heavy on me. My strength evaporated like water in the summer heat. Finally, I confessed all my sins to you & stopped trying to hide my guilt. I said to myself, "I will confess my rebellion to the Lord." And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone. Psalm 32 verses 3 - 5 (427)**

5. Get up & keep moving forward!

- **I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past & looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race & receive the heavenly prize....**

Philippians chapter 3 verses 13 & 14 (901)

- "forgetting the past" - I can't literally forget it, but I can refuse to live in it, to be constantly reminded of it, to be defined by it
- "press on" to relentlessly chase after

6. Adjust my course

Get wisdom - **A house is built by wisdom & becomes strong through good sense.**

Proverbs chapter 24 verse 3 (498)

Choose to believe what God believes about me

- **We are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. Ephesians chapter 2 verse 10 (896)**
- **My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. Galatians chapter 2 verse 20 (891)**

Next week: How do I discover, understand & follow God's specific plan for MY life?

This study is based on the "Fresh Start" curriculum from Saddleback Church in California where Rick Warren is the lead pastor. Rick is the best-selling author of The Purpose Driven Life & Saddleback is a dynamic church that God is working thru to change tens of thousands of lives around the world.

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