

Getting over Shortcomings

It's true that we often feel like we are failing, or coming short, of who we are supposed to be, or what we are to do. I recently came into possession of a book called "Failing Forward" by John Maxwell. It was so intriguing that I just had to get this book. What I noted is that all leaders, just like anyone else, experience failures, but they don't allow those failures to stop them. Instead, they used them as a sign of what not to do. Even Thomas Edison who invented the light bulb said, "Well, I found 2000 ways not to make a light bulb." Biblically speaking, some failed to do what they were supposed to do.

David numbered the people when God said, "No" (2 Samuel 24). God then sent Gad the prophet, giving David three options of punishment: 1) seven years of famine, 2) fleeing three months from your enemy as they pursued, or 3) three days of pestilence. David told God that it wasn't Israel's fault, he took the blame and requested for God's mercies. In just one day of pestilence, there were 70k men died but then God had mercy and did no more. David then prepared an altar of repentance. Though David failed, he did not utterly fall; he held himself accountable yet didn't wallow in the misery of his failure. Samson also failed and it immediately cost him. But in the end, Samson was vindicated. Although he died, he victoriously overcame his enemy.

We are given the promise, Psalm 37:24 *"Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: For the LORD upholds him with His hand."* Because Jesus is in your life, there is a great Grace that is pronounced upon you. Romans 3:23 says, *"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."* To be utterly cast down means that you cannot get back up. But because of Christ, even though you fall, you fall short, you fail, doesn't mean that you've done a permanent job of it. Jesus Christ is here to lift you out of any shortcomings you may have. Jesus is counting on you arising out of that place that Satan keeps calling you back into! There is *all* power, and *all* grace, and *all* of His powerful love, to help you overcome *any* obstacle that you face. Jesus lives in you, believes in you, and is here to help you get over your shortcomings so that you don't remain feeling like a failure.

Please don't define yourself as a failure! Satan would love your help in beating yourself up. Know that you are mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds as described in 2 Corinthians 10:4! Your biggest enemy are the thoughts in your head that demons have planted. To overcome, repent and exercise 2 Corinthians 10:5... cast down those thoughts, imaginations... or everything that is contrary to the Word of God. For God says that you *are* made an overcomer by the blood of the Lamb and the word of your testimony (Rev 12:11).

Dear Jesus,

I know that they are in the struggle for life. The enemy wants them to think that they are a total failure, but they are not. They have not utterly fallen! You are right here to extend a hand to them just as you did to Peter when he was sinking in the water during the storm. You will lift them from every failure and every loss of hope. You will sustain them and keep them—even in the hardest of their struggles. They are not a failure! They are not an embarrassment to you! They are fighting for their life, and you are here to help. You see them as an overcomer, now I pray let them see themselves as you see them. For they are more than a conqueror! May they feel your strong hand lifting them right now. Let the warmth and light of your presence break the darkness around them. For they belong to you—and you never fail! I feel your love over them, shifting their feelings from feeling like a failure. Surely, it's not the end of the world for them. Those failures will now be the pavement for the road to their successes. Yes, and amen!

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Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

Romans 8:37