

When it comes to sin, we are all capable of avoiding it. Even in complete love, faith and devotion to God, we can fall, but God is not shocked by this which is why He sent His Son to die for our sins. We get back up again, and we start over. But we should know that we cannot do it alone. We must keep our eyes on our Savior, following and obeying Him and laying aside the sin that inevitably leads to spiritual failure.

Read Galatians 5:22-23 Have you lost the "joy" of your salvation? Have you become somewhat distant from God? Have you taken God for granted? Or perhaps have you never really gotten to know him. Our ultimate victory in Jesus is assured, but complete victory will only come when we are out of this world of temptation and safe in the arms of the Lord in heaven. That same grace is available to all who have failed the Lord. We all are sinners, but Jesus is a greater Savior!

God is still in the business of doing the impossible and turning failure of our human abilities into triumph according to HIS will and purpose. Confess any failure that prevents you from obediently serving God and ask him to help you build a loving, intimate, personal relationship with him through our Savior Jesus Christ. The indwelling Holy Spirit will minister to you and help restore the joy of your Salvation... Call out to him in repentance and receive the joy God desires for you.

April 15, 2018

Series: **Whatta Comeback**

Down But Not Out

Pastor Rick Rufenacht



### **Peter became broken**

Ps 51:17      Ps 147:3      Ps 34:18

### **Peter stayed connected**

John 20:2      Ecc 4:9-10      Pr 17:17      1Pe 4:8

### **Peter appealed to God's mercy**

Jer 9:24      James 2:13      Mt 12:32      Mic 7:18

### **Peter didn't quit**

John 21:1-3      Eph 2:10

We were all born sinners, and we all fall short of God's grace and mercy. What are the next steps after our failures?

Read Luke 22:54-62

If we will repent of our sin and failures, God will restore us and use us again in His service.

The turning point for Peter involved two things: the crowing of the rooster, which reminded him of Jesus' prediction; and, the Lord's turning and looking directly at Peter. What a look that must have been! Normally a guilty person won't look you in the eye. But the Lord turned, looked at Peter and Peter looked at the Lord. Peter instantly fell apart in repentance and godly sorrow over what he had done. He went out and wept bitterly. How do you think the Lord would look at us when we have sinned? How does sin make you feel?

-The path of restoration requires repentance - The process.

**Remembrance of God's Word.**

"Peter remembered the word of the Lord" (Luke 22:61).

Read 1 Sam 15:23; Psalm 119:105, Ps 119:11

What part does the Word of the Lord play in the process of repentance?

· **Conviction of our sin.**

The Lord's look penetrated down to Peter's conscience. Jesus didn't have to say anything. Peter was deeply convicted in his heart. He didn't try to paper over it or make excuses or rationalize it away.

Read John 16:7-11

Why is conviction necessary?

Why do we sometimes wrestle so much with the idea of conviction?

· **Godly sorrow over sin.** Read 2 Cor 7:10

When you realize that you have sinned against a Savior who loved

us enough to die for us, how does that make you feel?

What is the difference between godly sorrow and worldly sorrow? Why do you think only godly sorrow leads to repenting?

· **Appreciation of God's abundant grace.** Read Psalm 51:10-11 and 1 John 1:9

How would you define a pure heart? How does God purify our hearts?

After a failure and when we ask for God's mercy, how do we keep from rehearsing that past sin or failure? Or should we stop rehearsing it?

How can one truly totally receive the forgiveness that God gives? What if you feel "I've sinned too badly; I just can't accept God's forgiveness and grace". What causes you to feel the sin it too bad?

Possibly Peter remembered the word of the Lord, which included the fact that he would be restored because of Jesus' prayers for him. Read Luke 22:32. What amazing grace, that Christ chose Peter and us, knowing full well how we would fail Him! His grace saved us, and it keeps us unto the day when we shall be with Him forever.

**Start Walking in a new Direction**

Repentance means to change your mind or turn around and go the other way.

Read Matt 3:8

What does that verse indicate about our action after failure?

What does "fruit of repentance" mean to you? What did Jesus mean?