

GROWTHguide

FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 10, 2015

"Getting Past Your Personal Failures"



REFLECTION AND STUDY

MONDAY | Read Psalm 38:4 and 1 John 1:9

All of us have done something we consider to be a failure; maybe it was something we said or should have said, something we did or should have done. Maybe we were asked to do something and the outcome wasn't what we planned, causing us to feel pain and disappointment.

- Have you ever felt as David did when he wrote Psalm 38:4?
- Have you ever done something you are totally ashamed of, something that you wish you could undo?
- Do you forgive yourself for your past failures?

Remember that God's grace overpowers any sins or failures we produce. Give your failures to the Lord today and ask the Lord to help you forgive yourself.

TUESDAY | Lamentations 3:19-20 & Philippians 3:12-14

Fatalism is a belief that human beings are powerless to change our fates. It manifests itself in phrases like, 'Nothing can be done about it', 'I can't change what happened so why bother?', or 'What is the use? I have to live this way no matter what.'

- Have you ever had a fatalist mentality?
- Resentment, bitterness, hopelessness, and despair can all come from a fatalist mentality. Have you ever felt this way?
- Do you think more about your past failures and less about God's promising future?

Pray and ask God to help you let go of the past and grab hold of His blessings for the future.

WEDNESDAY | Read Proverbs 20:30

The Apostle Paul may have desired to forget his past when he helped imprison and destroy Christians, but it was important for him to view his past in light of how the Holy Spirit transformed him for the future. This became Paul's testimony, and God wants us to do the same, to witness how we are different today because of Christ's work in our lives. Pastor Bob challenged us to 'fail forward.' As Christ followers we have the opportunity to not only learn and grow from our failures, but to rest in the powerful hands of the One who lifts us up and restores us despite our failures.

- Do you choose to live in the past or the future?
- Do you accept your failures and move forward in your life?
- Do you believe that our loving God can take your greatest shame, pain, and embarrassment, or deepest hurt and most fatalistic failure to reveal a reversal of life?

As the Lord to help you accept your past failures and use them to reveal a reversal of life.

THURSDAY | Read Jonah 1-3

On Sunday, Pastor Bob reminded us that no failure is ever final by looking at the example of Jonah. God sent a great fish that swallowed Jonah up and headed him back the other way. Sometimes our failures swallow us up, but when they spit us out, we get moving in the right direction. If we let him, God can use them to direct us.

- How has God used your failures to direct you?
- Have you ever felt like your failures were final?

Pray and ask God to use your failures to prod you, push you, and prompt you.

FRIDAY | Read Romans 8:28-29 and Isaiah 64:8

Pastor Bob called our attention to verse 29 of Romans 8 by saying that God uses things for good; to make us like Christ, to mold us into the image of Jesus, and to build our character. God is the potter and we are the clay, He is continually molding us into His image.

- How has God used your past to perfect you?
- What is God's number one purpose in your life?

Ask God to mold you into His image and to help you see how He is using your past to perfect you.

SATURDAY | Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

We have learned this week that every saint has a past and every sinner has a future. Some people, like the Apostle Paul, have failures they never lose—they carry it with them their entire lives. Paul reminds us that God makes us strong when we are weak. He demonstrates the need to give thanks to God for our failures, since they help us to rely on God. Remember that no failure is ever final, and if we confess our sins, God will forgive us.

Ask God for forgiveness for your failures and give thanks for them, asking God to use them to mold you into His image.

SUNDAY

Today is your "Sabbath" and a time for reflection. How has God been speaking to you over the week? Use what the Lord has said to you to remold and reshape your life. If you are having trouble hearing God's voice, slow down or even stop what you are doing so that the busyness of life's demands do not squelch the whispers of God's language of love upon your heart.