

I Fall, I Rise

Last week was the Sandwich Fair. Roger and I are both very involved in it. Roger is there from early morning until late night working very hard every day. I am there many hours but not as many as he is.

Today though I am thinking of myself and people I worked with this week. At the Fair I work with a couple of organizations, so I won't elaborate on which one I am speaking about. I found myself in the midst of a group of people, who talked badly about each other, were mean spirited and backstabbing. Now frankly, I don't know or care what they might have said about me, but I found myself willing to gossip with them about the others. When I realized that I was engaging, I immediately stepped back. I told Roger that I did not want to be a part of that group anymore because I do not like who I was when I was with them.

It seemed to start with one person telling me what happened in the last shift of workers and how inept they were. It's sneaky. The person telling me was just "reporting" what happened. Yet, it soon goes into character assassination, in my opinion. Each time I would catch myself and think 'do not add to this, it's gossip'. But often I would find myself saying "yes that person made many mistakes during this shift".

This morning, after the long week of eating unhealthily, being on my feet most of every day, and walking way too much, I came across a bible verse that God certainly gave me as I felt that I tried and failed in this area every day. Prov. 24:16. for though the righteous fall seven times, they rise again, but the wicked stumble when calamity strikes.

Who among us has not stumbled repeatedly? We all struggle with something. I certainly try to be transparent when I talk to you. I do not want you to think that I think I am better. I also want you to be able to see that we all struggle in many areas so that you do not feel alone. I am a sinner, and so are you. But by the grace of God, we have this forgiving, amazing God who allows us to fall, but helps us to rise again. We are sinners in need of a savior. It doesn't matter what you struggle with. Some call it a "besetting sin". Hebrews 12:1. If you fail over and over you are not alone. We fall, but we rise with God's help to fight those things again. Life

on earth is a struggle in so many ways. Isn't it amazing that we have a God who loves like a brother, a parent, a friend. Always there to lift us up.

Romans 7:15 I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.

Thank you, Lord, for the gift of salvation. Thank you for the knowledge that you will always be there when we fall to help us up again. Amen.

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