

HOPE FOR MY FAILURES

Hope for the Future: Part 6

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*"I am a symbol of failure to all mankind; when [people] see me they shake their heads. Help me, O Lord my God! Save me because you are loving and kind."
(Psalm 109:25–26, The Living Bible)*

David's Most Famous Failure (2 Samuel 11-12):

- David failed to campaign with his army.
- David failed to control his passion.
- David failed to correct his mistake.
- David failed to confess his sin.

THE FACTS OF FAILURE (Psalm 32 & 51)

1. FAILURE IS NORMAL.

"There was a time when I wouldn't admit what a sinner I was. But my dishonesty made me miserable and filled my days with frustration." (Psalm 32:3, The Living Bible)

"Have mercy on me, O God...For I recognize my rebellion; it haunts me day and night...For I was born a sinner— yes, from the moment my mother conceived me." (Psalm 51:1,3,5 NLT)

"Indeed, we all make many mistakes." (James 3:2a, NLT)

"There is no one on earth who does what is right all the time and never makes a mistake." (Ecclesiastes 7:20, GNB)

2. FAILURE ISN'T FATAL.

"The steps of good men are directed by the Lord. He delights in each step they take. If they fall, it isn't fatal, for the Lord holds them with his hand." (Psalm 37:23–24, The Living Bible)

"Even if good people fall seven times, they will get back up." (Proverbs 24:16a, CEV)

"In times of trouble, God is with us, and when we are knocked down, we get up again." (2 Corinthians 4:9, CEV)

3. FAILURE CAN BE FRUITFUL.

HOW GOD USES FAILURE

TO EDUCATE ME

"...we should always pray whenever we find out that we have sinned. Then we won't be swept away..." (Psalm 32:6, CEV)

"Against you, and you alone, have I sinned; I have done what is evil in your sight. You will be proved right in what you say, and your judgment against me is just." (Psalm 51:4, NLT)

"A man who refuses to admit his mistakes can never be successful." (Proverbs 28:13a, The Living Bible)

TO MOTIVATE ME

"The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God." (Psalm 51:17, NLT)

"Sometimes it takes a painful experience to make us change our ways." (Proverbs 20:30, GNB)

"Now I'm glad—not that you were upset, but that you were jarred into turning things around. You let the distress bring you to God, not drive you from him..." (2 Corinthians 7:9, The Message)

TO CULTIVATE ME

"Our God, you bless everyone whose sins you forgive and wipe away. You bless them by saying, "You told me your sins, without trying to hide them, and now I forgive you." (Psalm 32:1–2, CEV)

"Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow." (Psalm 51:7, NLT)

"Give me back the joy of your salvation. Keep me strong by giving me a willing spirit. Then I will teach your ways to those who do wrong, and sinners will turn back to you." (Psalm 51:12–13, NCV)

ACTION:

BRING SOMEONE TO EASTER SERVICES!