

Gaining Ground, Losing Ground & Going Forward

We have an inheritance in Christ –

- [Colossians 1:12](#) - Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.
- [Ephesians 1:3](#) – Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.

The Jews in the Old Testament had the land of Israel as their inheritance. The book of Joshua shows that they “took the land of their inheritance” step by step, city by city, victory by victory. –

- [Joshua 1:2-5](#) – (God speaking to Joshua) Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore arise, cross this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving them, to the sons of Israel. Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you, just as I spoke to Moses. From the wilderness and this Lebanon, even as far as the great river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and as far as the Great Sea toward the setting of the sun, will be territory. No man will be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you. I will not fail you or forsake you.

What happens if, in the process of walking into our inheritance, we lose a battle? Give into temptation? Put ourselves in a position where we are not strong enough to stand?

- [Joshua 6 & 7](#) – First the huge victory at the strong and mighty city of Jericho, then a great defeat at the tiny city of Ai.
- The lesson? You can still have a great defeat after a tremendous victory. You cannot put your guard down and coast on your victories. We need Jesus as our life every moment of every day. If we fall, we humble before God, identify why we stumbled, repent, and make changes, and then *get back up and go forward*.
- Don't think you have lost everything, that you lost all the ground that has been gained.

What Jesus said about dealing with temptation –

- [Matthew 5:29,20](#) – If your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out and throw it from you. For it is better that one of the parts of your body perish, than you whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand makes you stumble, cut it off and throw it from you.

Who stumbles? How many of God's children walk perfectly and never stumble? –

- [James 3:2](#) – For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well.

We must say the right things when we fall –

- [Proverbs 23:17,18](#) – My son, if your heart is wise, My own heart will be glad, and My inmost being will rejoice when your lips speak what is right.

Where is our Father when we stumble? What is he doing?

- [Psalm 37:23,24](#) - The steps of a man are established by the Lord, and he delights in his way. When he falls, he shall not be hurled headlong because the Lord is the one who holds his hand.
- [Psalm 73:21-24](#) – When my heart was embittered and I was pierced within, then I was senseless and ignorant. I was like a beast before You. Nevertheless, I am continually with You; You have taken hold of my hand. With Your counsel You will guide me and afterward receive me to glory.

If we stumble and do the wrong thing, what must we say to our own heart? –

- [1 John 3:18-20](#) – Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and in truth. We shall know by this that we are of the truth and shall assure our heart before him in whatever our heart

condemns us. For God is greater than our hearts and knows all things.

- When we stumble, we choose to come to the light and get extremely honest with God. We repent and do whatever is necessary to cut off the source of temptation and avenue of temptation. We believe that God is still with us. As we stand in his presence, *we assure our own heart* of our sincerity and God's forgiveness. We take God at his word even if our emotions still want to condemn us.

What is our attitude when a brother or sister gets "caught in any trespass"? –

- Galatians 6:1-3 – Brethren, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, each one looking to yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and thus fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.
- Hebrews 3:13 – But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "today," lest any one of you should be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

We walk in the light together. We don't do this on our own. –

- 1 John 1:7 – But if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

This is the attitude we must have to walk with Jesus –

- Philippians 3:12-14 – Not that I have already obtained it or have become perfect; but I press on in order that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet, *but one thing I do*: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

The 3-C's – Memorize these and speak them out loud when you use them

- 1.) **Confess** – To say the same thing as God says. To come directly before God and into the light that radiates from his face, and to agree with God. Quietly stand before your Father who is for you, and let his light search you and show you what you need to see and confess. He does this to help you. Then agree with God about what you did and the reason or reasons for why you did it. As soon as you bring yourself into the light and confess to your Father, it is immediately washed away. (1 John 1:5-9) *Let your faith and confidence rest entirely on that fact.*
- 2.) **Cancel** – When we deliberately sin and give into temptation, we give ground to the enemy. Ephesians 4:26,27 – Be angry and do not sin, and do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil a place. Tell the devil, "I am forgiven and cleansed from my sin by the blood of God's Son, Jesus Christ. Devil, I don't want you and I don't want your sin. In the name of Jesus I cancel and take back the ground that I gave to you. I bring that part of me and my life under the authority and control of Jesus Christ."
- 3.) **Command** – "Devil, you no longer have a place to operate in me. According to James 4:7, I submit to God, I resist you evil spirits, and you flee from me. Therefore, in the name of Jesus I command you to bind to yourself all your works and effects, and all of your associates and their works and effects, and to leave my presence now. Go, in Jesus name!"

Two more additional C's –

- 4.) **Commit** – Entrust and commit yourself and your life completely to God's care. Make a firm decision to trust him to keep and preserve you. Do everything you can to be encouraged, strengthened, and build up in him. *Put yourself under the Word of God and faith will arise and give you the victory.*
- 5.) **Continue** – If you fall, immediately get up and continue. Do not wallow, pout, complain, make excuses, focus on yourself, give up, or give in to sin. Jesus is right there with you, get up and walk on with him who loves you. Proverbs 24:16 - A righteous man falls seven times and rises again.