

Celebrate Recovery

With Joshua Sargent

Central Theme:

How can we recover and rediscover our true identity in Christ after we've failed or faced intense pressure?

I. Facing the Voice of Religious Criticism

- Many people, like the blind man in Scripture, are told by “religious folks” that it doesn't take all of that passion or persistence, but they don't understand the depth of your journey and what you've come through.

II. Enduring the Enemy's Attacks & the Temptation to Quit

- The enemy wants you to give up, feel unheard, and abandon your calling.
- Despite repeated attacks and whispered lies, God's promises remain for those who choose to press on.

III. Our True Identity in Christ

- Recovery is not your identity; your identity is found in being made righteous through Jesus.
- Because of Christ, we're brought back into relationship with the Father and made new, no matter how we've performed.

IV. Peter's Journey—From Boldness to Denial

- Peter was courageous and outspoken, yet under pressure, he denied Jesus, even swearing and cursing.
- Despite failing publicly and bitterly regretting it, Peter's journey did not end in shame.

V. Jesus' Mercy & Restoring Power

- After the resurrection, Jesus made a point to call Peter by name and restore him.
- Even after turning back to former ways or feeling disqualified, Jesus comes to us, reminds us of our calling, and invites us into renewed purpose.

VI. Standing Up Again: Recovery in Community

- On the day of Pentecost, Peter stood up, not alone, but with the eleven. The power of God and community gave him strength to rise and lead.
- True recovery involves standing together, encouraging one another, and never leaving anyone behind.

VII. The Ongoing Call to Build and Sustain Your Spiritual Fire

- Maintaining spiritual passion requires continual feeding—through worship, prayer, and obedience.
- No matter how many times you've failed, God's mercy is new every morning. You're invited to stand up, return to Jesus, and let Him finish the good work He began in you.

Key Scriptures Referenced:

- Matthew 26:69–75 (Peter's denial)
- John 21 (Restoration of Peter)
- Mark 16:7 (Go tell the disciples—and Peter)
- Acts 2:14 (Peter stands up with the eleven)

Takeaway:

Even if you feel like you've denied or disappointed the Lord, there is restoration, mercy, and a new beginning waiting for you. Don't run from Jesus—run to Him, let Him restore you, and take your place among the faithful once again.