

Falling

Part 4 – Sunday, April 7th, 2024

Proverbs 24:16 For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again:

- We're now halfway through our spiritual growth process as we tackle our 4th lesson on this subject of "Falling".
- I want to remind us of a few thoughts before we proceed.
 - Falling doesn't always mean failing.
 - Everyone falls, and everyone fails, but that doesn't mean we stay down or quit trying.
 - Falling is an unfortunate part of our learning to walk and can often be painful, but our falls often times are our best teacher.
 - Once again, we will look at the physical stage of life and then hopefully make some spiritual applications.

What does the Bible say when it comes to our walking...

Psalm 15:1 LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?

2a He that walketh uprightly

Psalm 128:1 Blessed is everyone that feareth the LORD; that **walketh** in his ways.

Psalm 37:23 The **steps** of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.

31 The law of his God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide.

Romans 8:1 *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who **walk** not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*

2Corinthians 5:7 *(For we **walk** by faith, not by sight:)*

Galatians 5:16 *This I say then, **Walk** in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.*

3 John 1:4 *I have no greater joy than to hear that my children **walk** in truth.*

- **The Bible has much to say about how we walk, maybe God would rather us not fall?**
- Our 4th stage is one where most falls are because of a choice, not an accident or lack of ability

Teen to Young Adult (13-21ish)

- Falls are now from greater heights and at greater speeds for those who are active, those who try to accomplish more
- or more frequent and/or less consequential for those who don't try to accomplish much
 - At this stage of life is where we find a greater separation in individual identity
 - Some are extremely coordinated – less likely to fall
 - Some are moderately coordinated – more prone to fall
 - Some are just not coordinated – more likely to fall
 - These identities then cause us to make a choice on whether we allow our individuality to cause us to

- lift up our fellow man
 - leave them behind
 - or just be-little them
- These separations from levels of aptitude can hurt attitude
 - Those who can do more develop a greater self-worth
 - This in turn can cause their falls to be more public and more injurious
 - Those who are more moderate may develop a self-worth but tend to mix w/both crowds
 - Their falls are more frequent but noticed less
 - Those who are lacking ability often become self-deprecating
 - They feel unworthy of the doers
 - They may associate w/the moderate but they struggle w/true fellowship
 - Their falls happen often
 - This keeps them from trying
 - They need to understand coordination can be taught and achieved
- Falls are often also due to lack of fear/knowledge or understanding of consequences
 - This lack of natural fear causes us to push what we do know and test the boundaries of life and ability
 - This can be a lot of fun but when things eventually don't work out it because we pushed too far it brings a lot of pain
- Falls at this stage often bring greater injury requiring more time for healing
 - This can keep us from fully getting up at times
 - This can keep us from desiring to try again

- This is where our fellow man can truly be a help or a hinderance
- When we identify each other as equals we can move forward together
 - This is how we hold one another up
 - This is how we keep one another from falling
 - This is how we become a utopic society
- **Falling is...**
 - Allowing a besetting sin to make us stumble through loosing focus on where we are going
 - **Hebrews 12:1** Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,
 - 2** Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.
 - Making a way for us to do what we want, or falling by choice
 - **Romans 13:13** Let us **walk** honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.
 - 14** But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and **make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.**
 - Feeling useless because of perceived failure
 - **1Kings 19:9** And he came thither unto a cave, and lodged there; and behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said unto him, What doest thou here, Elijah?

10 And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.

- **God's Reply to Elijah 1Ki 19:18** "Yet I have left *me* seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him.
- **Falling happens, our choice is whether we get back up stay down**

The Early Prime Years

- *This can be subject to an individual's physical age of salvation*
 - *Naturally a child saved at an early age may not mature spiritually much faster than they do physically*
 - *An individual saved beyond childhood should be entering this stage of spiritual maturity after 4-5 years*
- Falls are now from greater heights and at greater speeds for those who are active, those who try to accomplish more
 - When you settle that the Word & the Spirit are the authority
 - That your life is not your own
 - That you will serve Christ in whatever way HE chooses
 - Satan has taken notice
 - Obstacles to test faith and oppression in temptation WILL become a regular part of life

- Or falls are more frequent and/or less consequential for those who don't try to accomplish much
 - When we don't attempt to do much, our faith is not strengthened, therefore falls are more frequent
- At this stage of life is where we find a greater separation in individual identity
 - Some are extremely strong in their faith – less likely to fall
 - Some are moderately in exercising their faith – more prone to fall
 - Some are just do not live by faith – most likely to fall
- These identities then cause us to make a choice on whether we allow our individuality to cause us to
 - lift up our faith family by example and exhortation
 - leave them behind because they are too difficult
 - or just be-little them because we are too different
- These separations from levels of aptitude can hurt attitude
 - Those who have strong faith could possibly develop a greater self-worth
 - This in turn can cause their falls to be more public and more injurious
 - **Proverbs 16:18** *Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.*
 - Those who are more moderate in faith may develop a self-worth but tend to mix w/both crowds
 - Their falls will be more frequent but noticed less
 - But how does God feel about a middle of the road Christian?

- **Revelation 3:15** I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

- Those who choose not to live by faith often become self-condemning (they are spiritually uncoordinated)
 - **Romans 8:1** *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*
 - They feel unworthy of those strong in faith
 - They may associate w/the middle of the roaders, but they struggle w/true fellowship
 - Their falls happen often
 - This keeps them from trying
 - They need to understand coordination can be taught and achieved
- Falls are often also due to lack of fear/knowledge or understanding of consequences
 - This lack of natural fear causes us to push what we do know and test the boundaries of doctrine and convictions
 - This can be a lot of fun but when things eventually don't work out it because we pushed too far it brings a lot of pain
- Falls at this stage often bring greater injury requiring more time for healing
 - This can keep us from fully getting up at times
 - This is where our faith must give us strength to wait on the Lord to lift us up
 - More than likely the fall was preceded by pride

- Christ tells us in **Luke 14:11** “For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.”
- This can keep us from desiring to try again
- This is where our Family in Faith can truly be a help or a hinderance
 - When we identify each other as equals we can move forward together
 - This is how we hold one another up
 - This is how we keep one another from falling
 - This is how we become a utopic society
- **This 4th Stage is where so many Christians decide to plateau.**
 - **Often it is because they have been mis-identified**
 - **We may identify as one are of faith, but how would Christ identify us?**
 - **If we would find our identity in Christ, we would understand that we all fall short of His glory,**
 - **and that He and He alone will help us to learn not to fall anywhere but in His arms.**