

Falling

Part 2 – Sunday, March 17th, 2024

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

- This is our second lesson on the subject of “Falling”.
 - Falling is a part of life.
 - There is not a one of us that would be unable to share a story or two of an outrageous fall they have had.
- Last time we looked at the first stage of life, both physical and spiritual.
 - Infancy to toddler...the stage before walking truly starts to take place.
- This stage doesn't have too many falls, and very few are self-inflicted, but are due to those left to care for us.
- Today, we will be looking at our 2nd stage of life and remember, we are looking at the physical side and then will apply it to our spiritual life.

- Toddler to Small Child – This is the stage where the majority of falls happen in one's life.
 - Taking the first steps
 - This is scary
 - Help is needed
 - Encouragement is needed
 - The next steps get easier
 - Fear is less likely
 - With each step taken another is desired
 - This is great for momentum
 - But direction is sporadic

- The more one is encouraged the more likely they are to walk more
- Falls are eminent
 - Missteps are frequent
 - Tripping over unseen obstacles
 - At times others are responsible for a fall
 - Negligent caretaking
 - Obstinate fellowship
- With development comes daring feats
 - As we mature, we attempt new things
 - Running and jumping become common
 - Climbing often is followed by falling
- Getting up is almost never an option
 - Some will lie there waiting for help
 - Some will work hard to get back upright
 - Some will linger for various reasons
 - Self-pity
 - Anger
 - Denial
- Many falls become repetitive
 - We often return to the action that led to the fall
 - This could be to learn what not to do
 - This could be due to a unnatural desire to fall
 - Caretakers must encourage us, dare to walk again, often to return to what brought on the fall
 - Falling isn't always failure
 - Falling is just a natural by-product of doing
 - What we are doing must be learned, as well as why

Now, let's look at the spiritual side of this point in our Christian lives...

- Falling is...
 - Allowing a besetting sin to make us stumble through losing 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
 - **1 Kings 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**
- Now let's get to our 2nd Stage in this Falling Series...
- The First Year or Two – This is the stage where the majority of falls happen in one's life.
 - **2Corinthians 5:7** (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)
 - Faith in God's Word
 - Faith in what we see in our brothers and sisters
 - Faith in the steps our caretakers give us to take
 - Taking the first steps
 - This is scary (letting God give direction)
 - Help is needed (bible reading, leadership from others)
 - Encouragement is needed (more of the same)
 - The next steps get easier
 - Fear is less likely
 - With each step taken another is desired
 - This is great for momentum
 - But direction is sporadic
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 - Falls are eminent
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 - Self-pity
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- Many falls can become repetitive
 - We often return to the action that led to the fall
 - This could be to learn what not to do
 - If our fall is one of a sinful choice, these are falls we should strive to safeguard ourselves from
 - If our fall is one of trying to succeed in our walk with God, we must “get back on the proverbial horse”
 - Be vigilant to know what brought on the fall and keep striving to walk with God
 - This could be due to a unnatural desire to fall
 - These are sinful choices that have become bondage, or an addiction
 - We need caretakers to watch for us here and give them authority to do so
 - We need to seek help in our walk to be vigilant to keep from reoccurring falls
 - Caretakers must encourage us, dare to walk again, often to return to what brought on the fall
 - The desire is not to take the fall again
 - The desire is to know how to keep from the fall
 - Falling isn't always failure

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- What we are doing must be learned, as well as why