

# Falling

Part 1 – Sunday, March 10, 2024

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

- Falling is part of life.
  - There is not one of us here that hasn't fallen down several times in our lives.
  - Falling can hurt, especially the older you get.
  - At different stages in our lives we have been more susceptible to falling than at others.
  - We are going to look at 7 stages of life and how our physical falls are very much like our spiritual stages and their respective falls

**In our first lesson we will be looking at our first stages of life, both physical and spiritual.**

- **Infancy to Toddler** – This is the stage of our growth where the most falls should/will happen
  - Infants don't really have many falls without help
    - They are held more than not
    - They just figuring out that life is
    - They are so innocent, even their messes aren't a big deal
    - If they fall, it is usually due to their caretaker
    - This time of being taken care of is vital
      - An infant doesn't know what to eat
      - Can't change its own diaper or clothes
      - This is a time to depend on others for their needs

- If someone doesn't help meet those needs, not only will they not grow, but death is looming
- Toddlers have learn to crawl before they can walk
  - This is the time of life where there are the most falls
  - As the toddler learns to crawl and walk, it must have help and guidance
    - They need to be taught to take steps
    - They need someone to help hold them up to gain the strength to walk
    - They knock into things and make messes
    - They fall so frequently it can be both funny and scary for those leading them
    - Falls don't seem to hurt much at this age
    - Falls don't leave many scars at this age
    - The most important thing a toddler is taught when learning to go forward is when you fall, you get up
  - Toddlers are nowhere near independent
    - They need teaching
    - They need feeding
    - They need to be cleaned up
    - They need help healing
  - With each fall...
    - They gain strength
    - They gain knowledge
    - They get up a little quicker
    - They learn what not to do...eventually

**With each of these we can see the spiritual application...**

- **Spiritual Infancy to Toddler** – This is the stage of our growth where the most falls should/will happen
- **What is used to give strength to help the newborn in Christ to grow?**
  - **1Peter 2:1** Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,
  - 2** As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:
  - 3** If so be ye have tasted that the Lord *is* gracious.
  - As a newborn babe in Christ...
    - If God was SO Good to bring you new life...
    - Put the old way of life down (verse 1)
    - And allow God's Word to give you strength to learn to walk with Christ! (Verse 2)
    - And don't be offended by the truth that YOU NEED HELP
  - Infants in Christ shouldn't really have many falls
    - They should be held more than not
    - They just figuring out what life in Christ is
    - They are so innocent in what they don't yet know, even their messes aren't really a big deal
    - If they fall, it is usually due to their caretaker
    - This time of being taken care of is vital
      - An newborn in Christ doesn't know where to go in God's Word to be fed
      - A newborn doesn't know how to shed its old dirty clothes for their robe of righteousness
      - This is a time to depend on others for their spiritual needs

- If someone doesn't help meet those needs, not only will they not grow, but death is looming
- **Toddlers in Christ have learn to crawl before they can walk**
  - **This is the time of life where there are the most falls!**
  - As the toddler learns to crawl and walk, it must have help and guidance
    - They need to be taught to take steps
    - They need someone to help hold them up to gain the strength to walk
    - What they don't need is judgment or contempt for their falls and mishaps
    - They knock into things and make messes
    - They fall so frequently it can be both funny and scary for those leading them
    - Falls don't seem to hurt much at this age
    - Falls don't leave many scars at this age
    - The most important thing a toddler is taught when learning to go forward is when you fall, **you get up**
  - Toddlers are nowhere near independent
    - They want so much to be like the "big kids"
    - They are unaware of their immaturity
    - They still need teaching
    - They still need feeding
    - They still need to be cleaned up
    - They still need help healing
  - But, With each fall...
    - They gain strength
    - They gain knowledge
    - They get up a little quicker

- They learn what not to do...eventually
- I hope we can walk away today with a greater understanding of where we are in our spiritual maturity
  - If you're young in Christ, don't be in such a hurry to reach maturity that skip vital steps to reaching maturity
    - Don't allow immaturity to keep you from maturing, allow the caretaker God has in your life to help you
  - If you're mature enough to be a caretaker... BE ONE
    - Allow God to use you to help someone learn to walk in Christ
    - Don't be the one that watches them fall again and again while never helping place safeguards in their lives
  - Let us all keep our eyes on our Savior as He is the only One that truly helps us reach any level of maturity