

# Falling Forward



**'What should a believer do when he falls in sin?'**

**'How can I overcome sin?'**

## 1) Sin is inevitable

- ✓ **Anyone who asks that kind of question is spiritually healthy**
- ✓ **The normal Christian life = Spirit vs flesh**
- ✓ **The self-righteous person is unwilling to admit to, or thinks his sin is less than others**
- ✓ **The question is not whether Christians sin, but what we do about it when we sin, or when others do**
- ✓ **Every Christian will fall into sin. *'For a righteous man may fall seven times and rise again, but the wicked shall fall by calamity'* (Prov.24:16)**

## 2) When a Christian sins, they should fall forward

- ✓ **To fall forward means to fall into the arms of God's love**
- ✓ **Typically, God is seen as full of anger towards us because of sin. *'For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness'* (Rom.1:18). We *'...were by nature children of wrath...'* (Eph.2:3)**
- ✓ **In the Bible sinners warned to flee from the wrath to come**

- ✓ **But this refers to those outside of Christ**
- ✓ **All has changed because of the gospel**
- ✓ **All reason for God to be angry with us is removed**
- ✓ **God is now revealed as love**
- ✓ **And the great work of the gospel is to present this truth to God's people**
- ✓ *'But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life' (Titus 3:4-6)*

✓ **This is what John says also, 'In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins' (1 John 4:9-10)**

✓ **God does not love us because Jesus died for us; Jesus died for us because God loves us**

✓ **It is through Jesus God's love reaches us**

✓ **We need to rightly divide the Word. Be clear about the covenant we are in**

➤ ***"For this is like the waters of Noah to Me; for as I have sworn that the waters of Noah would no longer cover the earth, so have I sworn that I would not be angry with you, nor rebuke you. For the mountains shall depart and the hills be removed, but My kindness shall not depart from you, nor shall My covenant of peace be removed," says the LORD, who has mercy on you'***  
**(Isa.54:9-10)**

➤ **Jesus came to reveal the Father**

➤ **As long as we see the Father as harsh and angry, we can never enjoy a relationship with Him**

- **Ignorance of God's love is the cause of all our sadness. Failing to believe His unconditional love because of our sin is a greater sin than our sin**
- **Satan rejoices when he can get us to doubt God's love**
- **His main tool in accomplishing this is wrong teaching**
- **Some think that fear-manipulation will keep people out of sin**
- **When people sin, their greatest need is not to be frightened by God's anger, but to be drawn by His love. It is the goodness of God that leads to repentance**



**\*When a Christian sins they need Jesus like the sick needs a doctor. When a sick person goes to a doctor, he doesn't get angry with him. He doesn't attack the patient but the sickness**

**\*Moses got angry with Israel when he smote the rock. *'It went ill with Moses on account of them; because they rebelled against His Spirit, so that he spoke rashly with his lips'* (Psa.106:32-33)**

**This was like crucifying Christ afresh, i.e. bringing judgment upon those for whom Christ has already been judged**

**\*When we sin, we sin against the Law. When we despair because of our sin, we sin against grace**

**\*Be humbled by your sin, but not discouraged**

### 3) Everything has changed because of Jesus

**'What shall we do when we fall into sin?'**

***'My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world'***

**(1 Jn.2:1-2)**

***'We do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need'***

**(Heb.4:15-16)**

**\*Peter fell forward**

**\*He didn't call out to the other disciples to rescue him, but to Jesus**

**\*From the moment Peter left the boat He was coming to Jesus - that's faith**

**\*When he began to sink, he cried, 'Lord, save me!'**

**\*Jesus always responds to faith. He will not cast out any who come to Him**

**\*When Jesus took Peter's hand, he was safe. The two were joined. Nothing could separate them**



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**\*The Church has not created an environment where people can feel comfortable about confessing to failure**

**\*Yet the NT teaches this is the norm, '*Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed*' (Jas.5:16)**

**\*People, instead go underground. They pretend and struggle alone**

**\*Deceptive people develop defence mechanisms**

**\*The Christian's only defence is Jesus**

**\*In our disposable society, we are quick to throw away people who have fallen**

**\*God doesn't do that.** *'The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; for the LORD upholds him with His hand'* **(Psa.37:23-24)**

**\*He turns our mess into His message. E.g.**  
**Peter:** *'Satan has desired to have you that he might sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren'*  
**(Lk.22:31-32)**

**David:** *'Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit, then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners shall be converted to You'* **(Psa.51:12-13)**