



HAVING FAILED GOD, WHAT DO I DO? By: *David W. Lankford*

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Psalms 37:23-28, "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the Lord upholdeth him with his hand. I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread. He is ever merciful, and lendeth; and his seed is blessed. Depart from evil, and do good; and dwell for evermore. For the Lord loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved for ever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off". I don't suppose that there is one individual that is reading this newsletter that has not somewhere in their Christian life failed God in some way. As badly as we may hate to admit it, we have all stumbled in one way or another. Regretfully, some sins may be greater than others, but the truth is, every born again child of God along our Christian journey has failed God. As long as we are incarcerated in this flesh, we are going to have many battles, and they will not cease until we see Jesus face to face or go by the way of the grave. I know that some of you reading this newsletter have many times struggled with the same weaknesses over and over again. It is in those times of weakness that we give into trial and temptation, and we sin and grieve the Holy Ghost. No true believer ever really enjoys sin because their spirit and the Holy Spirit are both grieved when you transgress the laws of God. Satan is a master at bringing condemnation and crushing guilt into one's conscience. Satan

condemns us, but the Holy Ghost convicts us. Satan will make you feel that once you have failed God there is no need in trying to continue in your faith. But that, my friend, is the very reason that we live under the dispensation of grace. No matter how grave the task, no matter how great the trial, and no matter how great the temptation, God's grace is always sufficient for the child of God. We read in **Hebrews 11:24-25, "By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season".** I would be derelict if I did not conclude as the scriptures have concluded, there is pleasure in sin but only for a season. Satan desires that the child of God gratify their flesh and give into sinful temptation and gratification. But just as soon as the believer, the child of God has grieved the Holy Ghost they wish a thousand times that they had never given into that sin and temptation. We must be like Moses, for he refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter. But notice, the scripture says, he chose rather to suffer affliction. Had you rather choose affliction, or had you rather enjoy pleasure in sin for a season? You see, it all boils down to what one really desires and wants in the time of temptation. The choice is yours. You must never underestimate the grace of God because his grace is always sufficient for the believer. We read in **2nd Corinthians 11:30, "If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern my infirmities".** When trial, pain,

sorrow, or temptation embark your soul: are you going to be like Paul and glory in the things which concern your infirmities? Paul said in **Romans 8:18, "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us".** The thing that you are having to endure is not worthy to be compared to the glory that will be revealed in you at Christ second advent. One of the greatest things that people must do when having failed God is to make up their mind that they will not fall into that trap again. Jesus said in **Matthew 6:24, "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other".** Simply put, you cannot serve sin and serve Jesus Christ continually all the days of your life. Jesus said in **John 8:34, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. And the servant abideth not in the house forever but the Son abideth for ever".** If you want to abide forever then allow the Word or God to abide in you. Allowing the Word of God to abide in your life will negate sin and its dominion over your life. The psalmist prayed in **Psalms 119:133, "Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me".** My friend, this is one verse that I pray daily, that Satan nor sin could ever have dominion, authority, or lordship over my life. Paul the apostle declared in **Romans 6:14, "For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace".** As a child of God, you must learn to keep your body and your

mind in subjection to the grace of God. Paul declared in **1st Corinthians 9:27**, **"But I keep under my body, and bring it into the subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway"**. The word subjection in the Greek means, to bring one's life into the servitude of the Lord Jesus. Thus, you cannot serve sin and serve God at the same time as a lifestyle. As the psalmist declared, though one falls he is not utterly cast down or totally destroyed. Why?, because the Lord God upholds the believer with His grace because His grace is entirely sufficient. Your weakness is a divine opportunity for the power and spirit of grace to be made manifest in your life. If it had not already been for the Lord on your side, where would you be today? The battle for the most part is concentrated in one's mind. Paul said in **2nd Corinthians 10:3-5**, **"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds;) casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ"**. You see, Paul understood, that we are not fighting flesh and blood, but rather spiritual darts fired from the enemy against one's mind and conscience. *If people could ever fully learn to wholly submit their minds to Christ and forgive themselves as Christ has forgiven them, victory would be certain!* Satan is a master at creating deadly guilt, bitterness, and, unforgiveness in the believers mind. Yes, Satan will try and bring up your past, but whatever God has

forgiven you of, He remembers it no more. The psalmist declared in **Psalms 103:10-12**, **"He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy towards them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him"**. If God has forgiven you -and he has -and if he has shown you great mercy, then you, my friend, must forgive yourself. Do not let Satan condemn you and destroy your walk with God through condemnation. Whom the Son hath set free is truly free indeed! Forget the past, embrace the present, and God will take care of your future. Throughout the entirety of the scriptures, we have seen that many saints have miserably and terribly failed God. However, God, being our heavenly Father is quick to restore, redeem, and edify his children. Just like a parent, God does not want you to fail and be destroyed, thus he magnifies his grace in your life daily. Having failed God, we must lift up our eyes unto the hills from whence cometh our help. Because our heavenly Father is a God of restoration and a God of redemption, he will save us. If you will be like the psalmist David and reflect over the past years, you will realize that you are still here today because His grace has truly been sufficient in your life. If it had not been for the Lord on your side, Satan would have already devoured and destroyed you. But you, my friend, are a living testimony; having failed God somewhere in your life, He has brought you through time and time again. In closing, the psalmist

declared in **Psalms 147:11**, **"The Lord taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy"**. How great His mercy is to us all. If you, my friend, have failed God, repent in Jesus name and He will forgive you and then you must forgive yourself. It is a terrible thing to fall and fail God, but it is far worse to stay in the cesspool of sin! Get up in Jesus name, for He said He would never leave you nor forsake you, and that is the gospel truth. We cannot measure His love nor His grace. But if you will not quit then He will not let you go. Jesus said in **John 15:13**, **"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends"**. And Paul the apostle declared in **Ephesians 2:4**, **"But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us"**. Thank you so very much from the bottom of my heart for your love, prayers, and financial support for The Voice of Evangelism. Please remember to keep the radio and TV ministry in your prayers so that we might reach many souls here in this end time hour. Remember, His grace is sufficient.

Serving With You All,

Pastor David W. Lankford

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