

Sun Valley Bulletin

Sun Valley Church of Christ

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The Righteous Falls Seven Times ... and Rises Again

The difference between a righteous man and a wicked man is not that a righteous man never falls. Good men are often the target of envious or ambitious men who dedicate themselves to bringing them down. They lie in wait to ambush the dwelling or home of the righteous. It may be a calculated lie spread around about him designed to discredit him or his business. He may lose his job or a client for his business. The deception may work even though it is not fair and many may believe that the innocent is guilty. Childish or petty men may take advantage of some weakness of the good man causing him to stumble and even sin. **Proverb 24:15-20** warns the wicked that he has no future. The righteous on the other hand will get up again every time that he falls.

Peter believed that nothing could make him fail, but Jesus just told him: ***"Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may 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."*** And then a little later, sure enough, Peter weakened under the threat

of wicked men, and denied he even knew Jesus. He fell. He went away and wept bitterly. But! he got back up again, hearing that Jesus' tomb was empty and some had seen angels who declared He was alive. Peter became a champion of righteousness after that.

All Christians sin, but we have Jesus in heaven pleading our cause, **1 John 1:7-2:1**. If we say we don't sin, we are liars, but if we confess our sins, He will forgive us our iniquities. There is nothing to gain and everything to lose, if we minimize our guilt or pretend our sins were not as bad as the sins of others. We get up off the shameful floor where our failures have thrown us, and forgiven, we try again, God being our Helper.

Paul puts it this way: ***"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief."*** **1 Timothy 1:15** but then he continues in **Philippians 3:13** ***"forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."***

The problem with self-absorbed wicked men is that ***"evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived."*** **2 Timothy 3:13**
Which are you? tp

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