

Restoring Grace

Lamentations 5:21 (NLT) "Restore us, O Lord, and bring us back to you again! Give us back the joys we once had!"

Mark 14:29 (NASB) "Even though all may fall away, yet I will not."

First: What causes believers to fall away?

1. OVER-CONFIDENCE

Jeremiah 17:9 (NLT) "The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is?"

1 Corinthians 10:12 (NASB) "Let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall. "

Proverbs 16:18 (NIV) "Pride goes before destruction. A haughty spirit before a fall."

2. LAZINESS.

Mark 14:37-38 (NASB) "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour? Keep watching and praying that you may not come into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Mark 14:38 (NASB) 6:41 "Keep watching and praying that you may not come into temptation"

3. Fear of DISAPPROVAL.

Mark 14:54 "Peter followed Him at a distance."

Mark 14:71(NASB) "But he began to curse and swear, "I do not know this man you are talking about!"

Proverbs 29:25 (NLT) "Fearing people is a dangerous trap."

Mark 8:38 (NLT) "If anyone is ashamed of me and my message in these adulterous and sinful days, the Son of Man will be ashamed of that person when he returns in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

4. CONVENIENCE.

Luke 14:54 (NASB) "Peter had followed Him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the officers and warming himself at the fire."

GOD'S RESPONSE - GRACE

Romans 8:1 (NASB) "Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. "

Second: Why doesn't God reject believers when they sin?

1. God's love is UNCONDITIONAL.

Lamentations 3:22-23 (NLT) "The faithful love of the LORD never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness;his mercies begin afresh each morning."

2. My salvation isn't based on my PERFORMANCE.

Romans 9:15-16 (NASB) "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." So then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy."



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Titus 3:5 (NLT) "He saved us, not because of the good things we did, but because of His mercy."

3. Jesus has already taken my PUNISHMENT.

Hebrews 12:5-6 (NLT) ""My child, don't make light of the LORD's discipline, and don't give up when he corrects you. For the LORD disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child."

1 John 2:2 (Ph) "When Jesus served as a sacrifice for our sins, He solved the sin problem for God, not only ours, but the whole world's."

4. Jesus understands my human WEAKNESSES.

Hebrews 4:15 (NASB) "For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin."

5. God doesn't hold on to GRUDGES.

Psalms 103 (NLT) "God will not constantly accuse us, nor remain angry forever. He has not punished us for all our sins, nor does He deal with us as we deserve. He is like a father to His children, tender and compassionate to those who fear Him."

Jeremiah 3:22 (NLT) "Come back to Me, you unfaithful children, and I will forgive you for being unfaithful."

Isaiah 1:18 (NLT) "Come now, let's settle this," says the LORD. "Though your sins are like scarlet, I will make them as white as snow. Though they are red like crimson, I will make them as white as wool."

Isaiah 54:7 (NASB) "With great compassion I will take you back."

Luke 22:31-32 (NLT) "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift each of you like wheat. But I have pleaded in prayer for you, Simon, that your faith should not fail. So when you have repented and turned to me again, strengthen your brothers."

Application:

How would you describe your walk with God?

Have you drifted in your walk with Christ?

What has God shown you is your biggest problem?

- Over-Confidence
- Laziness
- Fear of Disapproval
- Convenience

What do you need to do to return to an intimate walk with Christ?

What might you need to study further to be able to understand God's restorative mercy and grace

What has God said to you through this study?

What adjustments will you make to obey what God has shown you?

Memory Verse: Lamentations 5:21 (NLT) "Restore us, O Lord, and bring us back to you again! Give us back the joys we once had!"

