

You Need to Fail!

The writer of Hebrews reminds us, "...without faith, no one can please God" (Hebrews 11:6). I don't think whether we have faith is not is our problem—we all have faith, even the most committed atheist places their faith or trust in something.

The real question is: **What or who are we placing our faith in?**

Peter's Journey of Faith

Today, we are looking at Jesus through the eyes of Peter. Until the cross, Peter believed in Jesus, but his faith was ultimately in himself rather than in Jesus as his Saviour.

Like Peter, we often place our faith in the good things God has given us rather than in God Himself. Consider the following passages and reflect on what Peter put his faith/trust in:

- **John 1:41-42**
- **Matthew 16:13-20**
- **Mark 14:27-31**

Questions for Reflection:

- What do these passages reveal about Peter's identity?
- How did these things shape Peter's view of himself and his relationship with others?

The Necessity of Failure

Jesus tells Peter that he must fail:

"Lord, why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you." Then Jesus answered, "Will you really lay down your life for me? Very truly I tell you, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times!" (John 13:37-38)

Jesus knew that Peter's failure was absolutely necessary. Without it, Peter would continue striving to prove his worth rather than surrendering to the grace of Jesus.

Personal Reflection:

- Can you recall a time when failure brought you to a deeper reliance on Jesus?
- How did that experience change you?

Boasting Only in the Cross

Paul, who had his own journey of misplaced faith, wrote:

“May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is the new creation.” (Galatians 6:14-15)

Paul understood that there is only one thing worth boasting in: **the cross of Christ**. What did it take for you to realize that salvation comes through Jesus alone?

Love and Grace Through Failure

When Jesus told Peter he would deny Him, it was right after Jesus gave a new commandment—to love as He loves. True love like Jesus’ is impossible until we first receive and embrace His grace.

Have you truly accepted Jesus’ saving grace? Whether for the first time or the hundredth, the number doesn’t matter—what matters is surrendering afresh.

A Prophetic Word

Recently, during a time of prayer and fasting with other churches, we received a prophetic word:

I saw a firm and good foundation, like a building site. Together, we were shaping bricks and blocks to build upon this foundation. God said: ‘The time to start creating the blocks is now. I will place them into position soon. Just start shaping them—be meticulous, tender, and caring. I desire a structure that will last and weather the storms. These blocks represent relationships. Begin forming strong bonds, especially with those who do not yet believe, as they will be part of this lasting building of the Lord.’

I believe we all desire to be people who reach out in love to others. As we surrender to Jesus’ saving grace, we can’t help but respond—just like we saw last week when Mary anointed Jesus.

Her love for Jesus overflowed into action, just as our love for Jesus can’t help but lead us to love others as He has loved us.

Let’s embrace our failures, surrender afresh to His grace, and extend that same grace to those around us.

Take time to:

- Thank Jesus for His saving grace.
- Ask Him to pour out His grace in fresh ways.
- Pray for hearts that are open to receiving and sharing His love.

Reflection Question: Is there a “failure” in your life that Jesus wants you to recognize, so that you can fully accept His saving grace?