

Major Tests of Our Faith – Lesson Two

When Overtaken by Sin

Here is a matter uncomfortable for us to think about, but it can happen to all of us, and in fact, it does. Sin is not something unknown to any of us but is a formidable issue that each of us must face. The apostle John made it clear in this text, “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.” **1 John 1:8**. That being the case... we should think about what we need to do when we are facing a struggle with sin.

It is hard to admit our weaknesses, but whether we are willing to see them or not – the Lord does. It is better if we honestly look at ourselves and see our needs and weaknesses and face them straight up. The apostle Peter thought he was stronger than he really was, and the Lord told him about it. **Luke 22:31-34**

1. Did Peter think he could not fall?
 - a. What did Peter need to see about himself?

2. Why is it so hard to get up and try again when one has fallen into sin?

3. When Peter denied the Lord, **Luke 22:54-62**, what was his ‘saving grace’?

4. We know the sad story about Judas. **Matthew 27:3-5**
What did he do after committing his horrible sin (*besides killing himself*) ?

5. Hardly any sin is better known in scripture than that of David with Bathsheba. **Psalms 51:1-12**, gives a little insight on David’s attitude following that.
 - a. According to Psalm 51, what was David’s greatest need at that time in his life?

 - b. How would you describe his attitude toward his sin?

6. The Lord gives a powerful warning about our actions with other followers of Christ, in this case, if we cause one to sin - **Matthew 18:6-7**. What do we need to understand and do?

7. What can we do to help the person who has fallen in sin?
(Consider the following texts in your answer.)
- a. **Galatians 6:1**
 - b. **Ephesians 4:32**
 - c. **Luke 17:3-4**
 - d. **1 Thessalonians 5:14**
 - e. **2 Corinthians 2:6-11**
8. What can a person do to return to faithful service and to overcome this trial of his faith?
(Please provide Scripture(s) to support your answer.)
9. Read **Luke 15:11-24**, the story of the prodigal son.
- a. Describe the attitude with which the son returned to his father.
 - b. And, what about the father's actions toward the son?

SOUL SEARCHER... Think fairly and honestly

Can you think of someone you know who previously served the Lord but, after falling to sin never seemed to try again?

Is there anything I could do for him / her now to help draw them back?