

What To Do When We Fall

- *I John 1:3-10*

- This morning, we will be discussing, at least in my opinion, one of the most securing passages that we find in the Bible.
- Over & over in scripture we are given the promise that God is willing and able to forgive our sins, but we first must acknowledge them ourselves & confess them. Many today find it difficult to even get to this point.
- It has been well said by many Pastors, “One of the hardest things in winning people to Christ is first getting them lost.”
 - You see, the problem with today's society is we all have a burden of guilt without a sense of sin.
 - What I mean by that is, we feel bad when we sin & do wrong. It affects us in many ways both mentally & physically.
 - But we don't see ourselves as sinners needing to be forgiven, we just see ourselves as people who made mistakes who need to be fixed.
 - And so what do we do? We constantly are trying to fix ourselves and somehow compensate for the problem without getting cleansed and without getting forgiven.
 - Science tells us that people sometimes do wrong b/c of their genetic background or the genes that they were born with.
 - The sociologist tells us that the problem is environmental & is a result of the world we are living in that people do wrong.
 - The psychologist and the psychiatrist, he does his best to remove the guilt feeling from our lives. But neither he nor anyone else can remove the guilt that sin leaves in our lives. Only the cleansing power of Jesus Christ is the answer to this sin problem.
- **READ SCRIPTURE**
- There are a couple of things that John gives us here that can help us when we fall & he gives us direction on how to get back in a right standing with God when we sin.
- 1. Sin Must Be Exposed To The Light. (v.6)
 - a. Don't Deny Your Sin - “If we say ...”
 - i. What he's talking about here is people who deny their sin.
 1. A man, a woman, a boy, a girl who is truly saved, been born again, his sin is forgiven and forgotten.
 2. Then he lets some sin get in his heart and his life. And he comes to church on Sunday morning.
 3. He sits here and sings these songs. We open up the Bible and you may even get an “Amen” out of him. People greet him and say how you doing? “I'm doing great, things are just fine.”
 4. John tells us that he is lying. And he knows it. But, he begins to lie to others because he cannot confess what is in his heart.
 - ii. And there are folks like that sitting here this morning.
 1. You know that your heart is not right with God, but for some reason you are more concerned about what the person beside you thinks of you than you do a Holy God.

2. You don't want your wife to know it, your husband to know it, your children to know it, your mom and dad to know it, so you're just acting like everything is just fine.
- iii. But look at v.8 ...
- b. Don't Make Allowance For Sin - "We deceive ourselves..."**
 - i. Now, if you tell that lie long enough you're going to begin to believe it. You're going to begin to say yeah, that's true. I'm alright.
 1. You make some allowance for your sin and you deceive yourself.
 2. You get to the point where you convince yourself that everything will be OK, (don't forget, you're still walking around with unconfessed sin) & you begin believing your own lie.
 3. "I make mistakes from time to time, I'm not perfect." But all along we are avoiding the issue of sin.
 - ii. But this sin isn't finished yet. Look at v.10 ...
- c. Don't Argue About Sin - "We make him a liar, and his word is not in us."**
 - i. It's bad enough we lie to ourselves & even worse when we lie to those closest to us; but now John tells us that we go as far as to lie to God Himself.
 - ii. The Holy Spirit says that's a sin. And we say it's not a sin. So you make God a liar. You're calling God a liar. And so what you do is try to hide your sin.
 1. This church, is one of the most dangerous things we can do with the sin that is in our lives is to hide it.
 2. To say to others and to say to ourselves, and to say to God that there is no sin in our lives.
 - iii. John says, if we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another.
 1. What does light do? The closer you get to a bright light the more imperfections show up in any object.
 2. If you want to know whether there is any sin in your heart and in your life today, just expose it to the light. Ask the Holy Spirit of God to show you if there is any sin & He will convict you of any sin that's in your heart and in your life today.

2. Dealing With Accusations & Convictions

a. Be Obedient To God's Conviction

- i. You might be here today & you are struggling with the sin of your past & you say, "I am being convicted of that sin."
 1. Here's my question to you today, "Have you asked for forgiveness for that sin? I mean have you specifically asked God to forgive you for that sin?"
 - a. If you say, "No, I haven't asked God to forgive me." Then be thankful for the convicting power of God & that He cares enough about you to chasten you when you do wrong.
 - b. Today, you need to make it a point to get to this altar & ask Him for forgiveness.

b. Don't Listen To Satan's Accusations

- i. If you say, "Yes, I have asked forgiveness for my sin, but God is still convicting me."

- ii. That my friend cannot be. Often times we mistake the Holy Spirit's conviction with Satan's accusations. Once your sin has passed under the blood, God has no reason to accuse you anymore. What you are experiencing is the accusations of Satan himself.
 - i. Revelation 12:10 – "the accuser of our brethren"
- 2. If you have told a lie ...
- iii. If we have sin in our lives today, the best thing we can do is expose it to the Light of God.

3. Sin Must Be Confessed To The Lord. (v.9)

a. What is confession?

- i. The word, confess here means to say the same thing.
- ii. A confession of sin is not just an admission of sin. It is an agreement with God about that sin. When the Holy Spirit of God says, "there is the problem", then you confess that sin specifically & agree with God that you have sinned against Him.

b. How often should we confess?

- i. For most people, once a day is never too much. But more importantly, confess your sins immediately, just as soon as you commit them & the Holy Spirit begins to convict you.
 - 1. Don't just save up all of your sins for Sunday morning confession. At the moment of your sin & the Holy Spirit convicts you, that it is the time to get things right with God.
 - 2. When you get a speck of dust in your eye, do you wait till the end of the day or the end of the week to get it out? No way! You get it out immediately, right?
 - 3. That's the way you do with your sin. Because as a child of God it should be uncomfortable to go around living in sin or with unconfessed sin in your life. It really should make you miserable.
 - a. "Lord, I am sorry for that wrong attitude."
 - b. "For that wrong thought."
 - c. "I'm sorry that I have sinned against You."
 - d. Don't just come to church, feel bad for what you've done & leave here with that load of sin. Confess it today!

c. What if God doesn't forgive me?

- i. "If we confess our sins, he is **faithful and just** to forgive us our sins,"
 - 1. **Faithful:** One of the very attributes of God is that He is a faithful God who will always keep His promises. He has no choice but to keep His promises b/c that is who He is ... He IS Faithful.
 - 2. **Just:** Because of His faithfulness, He must forgive us. And b/c He is just, it's not enough just to offer forgiveness, He must then cleanse us "from all unrighteousness."
 - 3. We are not making God do these things; He is bound by His own covenant to us b/c Jesus has paid the full price of our *sin* and of all our *sins* at Calvary. God has accepted the blood of Christ as full payment for both our sinful condition and our sinful conduct.
- ii. Now for some, those 2 words, faithful and just, is sort of like a "license" to sin.
 - 1. I can go & do as I please b/c I know God will always be there to forgive me.

- iii. But in actuality, those 2 words should do just the opposite; they should keep us far from sin b/c of the great price that was required for the forgiveness of our sins.
 - 1. For each of your sins and my sins, Jesus died.
 - 2. And what God calls clean let no man call unclean. It will be gone, never ever to be brought up against you anymore. "... He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness".