

#5 "When You Need A Second Chance"

1. _____ is the best choice.

Jonah 1:1-3a (NLT) The LORD gave this message to Jonah son of Amittai: "Get up and go to the great city of Nineveh. Announce my judgment against it because I have seen how wicked its people are." But Jonah got up and went in the opposite direction to get away from the LORD....

2. Failure isn't _____.

Jonah 2:10 (NLT) Then the LORD ordered the fish to spit Jonah out onto the beach.

Jonah 3:1-3 (NLT) Then the LORD spoke to Jonah a second time: "Get up and go to the great city of Nineveh, and deliver the message I have given you." This time Jonah obeyed the LORD's command and went to Nineveh, a city so large that it took three days to see it all.

What are the steps of spiritual recovery?

- **SINCERE SORROW.**

2 Corinthians 7:10 (NIV) Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.

- **HONEST OWNERSHIP.**

Psalm 32:3-6 (Living Bible) There was a time when I wouldn't admit what a sinner I was. But my dishonesty made me miserable and filled my days with frustration. All day and all night Your hand was heavy on me. My strength evaporated like water on a sunny day until I finally admitted all my sins to You and stopped trying to hide them. I said to myself, "I will confess them to the Lord." And You forgave me! All my guilt is gone. Now I say that each believer should confess his sins to God when he is aware of them, while there is time to be forgiven. Judgment will not touch him if he does.

James 5:16 (NLT) Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and wonderful results.

● **FAITH in God's FORGIVENESS.**

Zechariah 3:1-4 (NLT) Then the angel showed me Jeshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD. The Accuser, Satan, was there at the angel's right hand, making accusations against Jeshua. And the LORD said to Satan, "I, the LORD, reject your accusations, Satan. Yes, the LORD, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebukes you. This man is like a burning stick that has been snatched from the fire." Jeshua's clothing was filthy as he stood there before the angel. So the angel said to the others standing there, "Take off his filthy clothes." And turning to Jeshua he said, "See, I have taken away your sins, and now I am giving you these fine new clothes."

● **Rebuilding CONFIDENCE and CHARACTER.**

John 8:10, 11 (NIV) Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

● **RE-ENGAGEMENT with God and others.**

Proverbs 24:16a (NIV) For though a righteous man falls seven times, he rises again....

When you fail, be on guard against 3 enemies that will keep you down:

1. HARNESS.

Hebrews 3:13 (NLT) You must warn each other every day, while it is still "today," so that none of you will be deceived by sin and hardened against God.

2. PROCRASTINATION.

Hebrews 11:25 (NLT) He [Moses] chose to share the oppression of God's people instead of enjoying the fleeting pleasures of sin.

3. Destructive SHAME.

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

Revelation 12:10-11 (CEV) Then I heard a voice from heaven shout, "Our God has shown His saving power, and His kingdom has come! ... Satan accused our people in the presence of God day and night. Now he has been thrown out! Our people defeated Satan because of the blood of the Lamb and the message of God. They were willing to give up their lives."

Zechariah 13:1 (NIV) On that day a fountain will be opened to the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and impurity.

3. _____ brings _____.

Jonah 3:4, 5, 10 (NLT) On the day Jonah entered the city, he shouted to the crowds: "Forty days from now Nineveh will be destroyed!" The people of Nineveh believed God's message, and from the greatest to the least, they declared a fast and put on burlap to show their sorrow. When God saw that they had put a stop to their evil ways, He had mercy on them and didn't carry out the destruction He had threatened.

What do messengers of grace look and act like?

A gracious person is:

- GRATEFUL.

Luke 7:47 (NIV) Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven – as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.

- A RESTORER.

Galatians 6:1 (NLT) Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself.

- SAFE.

2 Corinthians 3:6 (NLT) He has enabled us to be ministers of his new covenant. This is a covenant not of written laws, but of the Spirit. The old written covenant ends in death; but under the new covenant, the Spirit gives life.

Hebrews 4:14-16 (NIV) Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

- **COMPASSIONATE.**

Mark 6:34 (NIV) When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.

- **AN ENCOURAGER.**

Ephesians 4:29 (NIV) Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.