



ABUNDANT LIFE – RECOVERING FROM A FALL

By
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Learn from Saul

■ His religious life

– Philippians 3:4-6 (NKJV)

- ⁴ though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so:
- ⁵ circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, *of* the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee;
- ⁶ concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

Learn from Saul

■ His confidence

– Acts 23:1 (NKJV)

¹ Then Paul, looking earnestly at the council, said, “Men *and* brethren, **I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day.**”

Learn from Saul

■ His conversion

- Lord appears (Acts 9)
- “Arise and be baptized” (Acts 22)
- Sent to the Gentiles (Acts 26)

Learn from Saul

■ His reflection

- When Saul determined that he sinned by trying to destroy the church, what did he do?
 - He didn't kill himself – he repented and obeyed God!
- **But what would others think?**
 - He didn't care! He only wanted to be right with the Lord!

Learn from Saul

■ His reflection

– When he reflected on what he had done, he said:

■ ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God *which was* with me. (1 Corinthians 15:10)
(NKJV)

And in

■ 1 Timothy 1:12-16 (NKJV)

- ¹² And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting *me* into the ministry,
- ¹³ although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did *it* ignorantly in unbelief.
- ¹⁴ And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.
- ¹⁵ This *is* a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.
- ¹⁶ However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.

**He could have allowed his sin to
destroy him; but he allowed it to
drive him to greater dedication to
the Lord and his cause!**

Learn from Peter

- **Peter was a notable disciple of the Lord**
 - **He left all and followed Jesus' call to follow Him**
 - **Matthew 19:27 (NKJV)**
 - ²⁷ Then Peter answered and said to Him, “See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?”

Learn from Peter

■ He confessed that Jesus was the Christ

– Matthew 16:15-17 (NKJV)

- ¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”
- ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”
- ¹⁷ Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

Learn from Peter

■ He willingly obeyed Jesus

– Luke 5:4-5 (NKJV)

- ⁴ When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, “Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.”
- ⁵ But Simon answered and said to Him, “Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; **nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net.**”

Learn from Peter

– His impulsiveness

- When Jesus told His disciples about His sufferings, Peter dared to say, “Be it far from you, Lord; this shall not be unto you.”

Learn from Peter

■ When told that he would deny Jesus he replied:

– Luke 22:31-34 (NKJV)

- ³¹ And the Lord said, “Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift *you* as wheat.
- ³² But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to *Me*, strengthen your brethren.”
- ³³ But he said to Him, “Lord, I am ready to go with You, both to prison and to death.”
- ³⁴ Then He said, “I tell you, Peter, the rooster shall not crow this day before you will deny three times that you know *Me*.”

Learn from Peter

- **His sin (John 22:54-62; Mt. 26:69-74)**

Learn from Peter

What did he do after such a humiliating sin? Suicide? Quit the Lord? No, repentance!

Learn from Peter

■ His repentance

– Matthew 26:75 (NKJV)

- ⁷⁵ And Peter remembered the word of Jesus who had said to him, “Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.” **So he went out and wept bitterly.**

– Luke 22:32

- ³² But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when **you have returned to Me**, strengthen your brethren.”

Can God ever use a person after a terrible sin?

- **Paul – took the gospel to the world**
- **Peter – opened the doors of the kingdom to the Jew first and then to the Gentiles (Acts 2, 10)**

If sin is in your life – do what you need to do to get right with the Lord! He will receive you back! (Lk. 15:20-24)