

We All Fall, But We Don't Have to Stay Down

Here's the embarrassing truth: David messed up big time. His affair with Bathsheba and the cover-up that followed was a moral train wreck that flew in the face of all that God expects of His people. But what sets David apart from others isn't his mistakes, though this is tough for me to comprehend, it's his response when he was called out. Nathan showed him the true depth of his sin, and David responded with profound remorse and repentance.

In Psalm 51, David pours out his heart to God: "Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me" (Psalm 51:10). He didn't deflect or make excuses for his wrongdoing. He owned it. He mourned over it. He turned toward the Lord and sought His forgiveness.

We're not any better. As human beings in a fallen world, we are sometimes going to mess up, sometimes big time. Sure, most Christians will probably never arrange to kill someone to cover up a sex scandal (hopefully), but we engage in sins, struggle with rage issues, we gossip, we lie, we commit all types of sin in alarming numbers. This cannot and will not ever be hidden from God. Own up to them by opening your heart to God with humility and repentance.

These failures may be commonplace, but that's not a license for us, people of God, to keep sinning. It's a reminder to be humble, to confess, to change, and to seek restoration with God through the power of Christ's sacrifice. It's a reminder to keep getting up, no matter how many times you fall down. The mark of a Christian is not perfection. It's repentance.

By: Don Jacobs