

## 23. Another Reason For Failure

We want continue looking at the reasons why we keep falling into sin and do not grow spiritually. Perhaps this could solve the problem you are facing right now.

In our previous study we were considering the fact that, under grace there is no need for any of us to be mastered by sin. Grace is God's power that enables us to overcome. In fact, Romans 6:14 is such a clear promise: "Sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace." And if we do fall, if we are not growing spiritually by overcoming sins that we have been constantly defeated by in the past, as we considered in our last study, one of the primary reasons could be, and often is, the fact that we do not fear God.

You know, God has given all of us a private area in our life: it is our thought life. Nobody can enter in there; not even your wife or your husband. The thoughts that go on in your mind are a private area, and it is in that totally private area of your life that God tests you to see whether you fear Him or not. And that is how God is testing the entire human race.

Consider for a moment, supposing your thoughts sounded out loud like your words (I am sure God could have made man in such a way that our thoughts sounded out loud just like our words do), would you then be more careful with your thoughts? Then why are you not careful when your thoughts are silent and other people cannot hear? Does it mean that you are not bothered if God hears it, but you are only concerned that men should not hear it? That is an indication that we fear men more than we fear God. I am convinced that, one of the most

## 23. 我們犯罪跌倒的又一個原因

接下來我們想繼續探討,為什麼我們會一再的跌倒,陷在罪裡,為什麼我們的靈命總不長進。或許這對你當下面臨的問題能有所幫助。

前面的學習我們看到,在恩典之下的我們,是不需要被罪所奴役的。「恩典」是神賜給我們用來勝過罪的力量。實際上,羅馬書 6 章 14 節清楚的說出了神的這個應許:「罪必不能作你們的主,因你們不在律法之下,乃在恩典之下。」在這樣的情況下,假如我們仍然總在同一件舊事上跌倒,那麼最有可能的原因就是,我們缺乏對神的敬畏之心。

你知道嗎,神為每個人都預備了一塊非常私人的空間:就是我們的思想空間。沒人能到你那一窺究竟,就算是你的丈夫或妻子都不能。你腦子裡的想法是非常隱秘的私人空間,然而你生命這個最隱秘的空間,正是神用來考驗你是否敬畏祂的領域。神對所有人類的考驗都在於此。

請你花一分鐘做個假想,若是你腦子裡的想法,像說話一樣所有人都能聽見(我敢肯定,神若想把我們造成那樣,根本不成問題),那樣的你會不會對自己的想法也格外當心?那麼現在的你,一切想法都寂靜無聲,也沒人能一窺究竟,為什麼似乎你對自己的想法就沒有那麼當心?這是不是代表,你其實不介意神是否聽到,而只介意人是否聽到?這表明了,你畏懼人勝過畏懼神。我可以非常肯定的說,你與我生命中最需要建立的事情之一,就是對神的敬畏之心。

important things that you and I need to develop in our life is the fear of God.

David said in one of the Psalms, 'Come, my children, I will teach you to fear God.' We have to learn, through developing our senses, to fear the presence of God, who is always with us wherever we are; who hears every thought that passes through our mind as loudly as other people can hear our words. It is not just that we need to fear God as much as we fear other men - that itself would bring a terrific deliverance, but certainly we have to fear Him more. In fact, one of the sins mentioned in Romans 1:25 is that, people worship the creature more than the Creator; they worship a man's opinion more than God's opinion. We are all basically like that.

You know, from childhood, we grow up being afraid of people's opinions; we want to impress people. We are not so concerned about impressing the Lord, and the result of that is that we keep falling into sin. If we are going to be careless in our thought life, in our inner attitudes and motives, which nobody can see but God, there is never going to be any purity in our life. We are just going to be defeated constantly. Here is the number one reason why many people never make progress in overcoming sin, because they have never sought to develop the fear of God in their life.

Now let me give you a second reason. The Bible says in Romans 1:17 that "The righteous man will live by faith." All progress in the Christian life is by faith. For example, in the letter of Jude, verse 24, it says, "Jesus can keep you from falling", if you don't believe that, it is never going to take place in your life. If you don't believe that God is intensely interested in your living in victory over sin, you are never going to experience it in your life. If you don't believe that sin is a serious matter, you are not

大衛王在他的一首詩歌裡說到,「眾弟子啊,你們當來聽我的話。我要將敬畏耶和華的道教訓你們。」這份敬畏,是需要我們學習的,通過訓練我們的感知,來敬畏神的同在,因為無論我們在哪裡,都逃不開神的同在。就像人能聽見我們響亮的說話一樣,神能聽見我們每個人腦裡閃過的每個念頭。我們不止該像畏懼人一樣去畏懼神(那本身已經能帶給我們巨大的解脫了),實際上我們該對神有更加更加的敬畏。羅馬書 1 章 25 節指出來,人的一條罪就是,敬拜受造之物,而不去敬拜造物之主。我們向他人的看法俯伏下拜,勝過在意神對我們的看法,基本上每個人都是這樣的。

從童年起,我們就成長在對他人意見的畏懼之中,這使我們總想要取悅他人,給別人留下好印象。然而我們卻並沒有那麼努力的去取悅我們的主,結果就是,我們一再的跌進罪裡。如果在思想領域,這個除了上帝沒有人能看見的領域,我們非常疏忽,那麼我們將永遠無法擁有聖潔的生命。一再被罪擊垮也是自然的事情。對於在「勝過罪」這件事上一直沒有長進的人們來說,第一大原因就是他們從來沒去試圖培養過自己對神的敬畏之心。

現在我還想告訴你第二個原因。《聖經》羅馬書 1 章 17 節告訴我們「義人因信得生」。基督徒生命的一切成長都是靠著信心的。比如猶大書 24 節說到,「主耶穌能保守你們不失腳」,然而假如你不相信這話,它就永遠不會在你生命裡實現。假如你不相信上帝極其渴望讓你過著勝過罪的生活,你的生活就永遠無法體驗什麼是勝過罪。假如你壓根不信對神犯罪是非常嚴重的事情,你的人生是不可能勝過罪的。我們必須對神的話語有信心。

going to overcome sin in your life. We need to have faith in the Word of God.

Let me give you one or two examples which should prove to you why sin is so serious.

In the beginning of the history of the human race, when God created Adam and Eve, He gave them only one commandment - not ten, just one commandment. He told them not to eat the fruit of a particular tree; that was all. They lived with one commandment. One would think that they could have enjoyed life so much because of that beautiful garden with everything available, and all they had to do was keep one commandment. That was not at all difficult, was it? But they disobeyed that one commandment, probably on that very first day. And what was the result?

Did God give them a second chance? No. He didn't say, 'Ok, let's overlook your failure; you probably didn't realize how serious it was. I will give you one more chance.' There was no second chance. Now, if our children make a mistake, we would give them a second chance. God never gave Adam and Eve a second chance. He turned them out of the garden immediately. Is it because God is not compassionate? Do you think you are more compassionate than God as a Father when you give your child a second chance or a third chance? - Certainly not. There is no one in the universe more compassionate and more merciful than God. If you have a little compassion in your heart, you got that from God; it is a little drop in the ocean of God's compassion. God loved Adam and Eve intensely. Why didn't He give them a second chance then? - Because sin is so serious. It is not a light thing!

So right in the beginning of the Bible, you see the seriousness of sin in this one act of God in not

下面請允許我給你舉兩個例子,來說明為什麼對神犯罪是極其嚴重的事情。

在人類的歷史之初,神創造了亞當和夏娃,並且給了他們僅有的一條誡命——不是十條,而是僅僅一條。祂告訴兩個人,不要吃那棵特定樹上的果子,就這樣而已。亞當和夏娃生活在一條誡命之下。有些人可能會想,他們生活的得多麼幸福啊,生活在那樣一個美麗的院子裡,生活所需應有盡有,唯一需要的就只是持守那唯一的誡命。這應該一點都不難吧,不是嗎?然而他們卻違背了這唯一的誡命,而且很有可能就在他們生命的第一天。結果呢?

神給他們第二次機會了嗎?沒有。上帝沒有去說,「哦好吧,讓我們忽略這次的失敗。或許你們還沒意識到問題有多嚴重。我再給你們一次機會。」沒有,神並沒有給他們第二次機會。神從來都沒給亞當和夏娃第二次機會。祂把兩個人立刻趕出了伊甸園。這難道說是上帝沒有憐憫慈悲嗎?在你給自己孩子第二次機會,第三次機會的時候,你覺得自己是位比神更加慈悲的父親嗎?你並不是的。這個宇宙裡沒有任何一位比上帝更加慈悲,更加憐憫。假如你心裡有一點慈悲,要知道你的慈悲是從神那裡得來的。它就像是上帝慈悲海洋裡的一滴水。上帝是深深愛著亞當和夏娃的。那麼為什麼祂卻沒有給他們再來一次的機會?原因就是,罪的後果是非常嚴重的。它不是件小事情!

《聖經》的一開頭,就讓我們看到罪的嚴重性,就是神沒有給亞當夏娃再試一次的機會。你知道很多小孩

giving Adam and Eve a second chance. You know, many children take some of commands or orders of their parents very lightly, saying, "Yeah, daddy and mommy won't mind even if I do it." Very often they are right. They disobey their parents and their parents don't take it seriously and they let them go. It is possible that Adam and Eve felt in the same way: 'well, God is a loving God after all, He won't take it seriously if we just slip up a little bit.' But they discovered that sin was serious. They discovered that one sin was enough to shut them out from God's presence forever. Sometimes people say, concerning their sin, 'well, that is only one sin.' But how many sins did Adam commit before He was shut out of God's presence - twenty, thirty, hundred? - No, not even two. Just one!

Why am I stressing this? I have found in my life that very, very few believers who believe that even one sin is serious. It says in Romans 6:1, "Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound". Again we see in Romans 6:15 (taking the literal translation) that, "What shall we say then? Shall we sin even once that grace may abound." Have you ever asked yourself that question, 'shall we sin even once?' I wish we could see how serious sin is, in Adam's time and in our time. That is the first proof that God takes sin very seriously; that a compassionate, merciful God could not give Adam and Eve a second chance. One sin shut them out of His presence permanently. Even if they never committed another sin in their whole life, they would still go to Hell; one sin was enough.

Now I want to show you a second example. The previous one was from the Old Testament. Now I will show you an example from the New Testament, and it is not something you don't know about. Why did Jesus die on Calvary's cross? What was the reason? - Sin. Supposing only one man had

兒,拿父母對自己的要求不當一回事,「沒事,爸爸媽媽不會介意的。」很多時候確實是這樣,他們不聽爸媽的話,爸媽也不當一回事,任憑孩子想怎樣就怎樣。或許亞當和夏娃也是這麼想的,「沒事,上帝是非常慈愛的,祂不會因為我們犯的這麼個小錯就大動干戈。」然而很快他們就看到了,罪的後果有多麼嚴重。犯一次罪,就足以使他們永遠的與神隔絕。人時常對自己罪的態度是,「嗯,就犯這麼一次。」但你看亞當犯了幾次罪爾後被上帝趕走的?二十次,三十次,還是一百次?不是,連兩次都不是。就一次!

我為什麼在反復強調這個?那是因為我生平只遇到過極少數的信徒,相信即使對神犯罪一次也是極其嚴重的。羅馬書 6 章 1 節說到,「我們可以仍在罪中,叫恩典顯多嗎?」接下來第 15 節又說,「這卻怎麼樣呢?我們在恩典之下,不在律法之下,就可以犯罪嗎?斷乎不可!」你們之中是否有人曾經問過自己,「我該對神犯罪嗎?哪怕一次?」我真的希望人們能夠意識到,罪,是件多麼嚴重的事情,無論是亞當的年代還是我們的年代。這位充滿慈愛,充滿憐憫的神,都不能給亞當和夏娃第二次機會,這證明了罪的嚴重性。一次犯罪,導致了永遠被從上帝的面前驅逐。即便他們從那之後再沒犯過罪,這一次,已經足夠讓他們墮入地獄。

下面我要給你舉第二個例子。第一個例子來自舊約。現在我要指給你看新約裡的例子,並且我肯定這是你已經知道的。主耶穌為什麼死在十字架上?原因是什麼?原因是「罪」。假想一下,如果人類歷史上只有一個人犯了一次罪,那麼你認為主耶穌會不會降世,為那一個人的罪而死?我相信祂會的。

committed only one sin in the history of the human race, tell me, do you think Jesus would have come down from heaven to die for that one man, for his one sin? I believe He would have.

You see, it is not just that He took the sins of the whole world - millions of sins. If only one man had committed only one sin, Jesus would still have to come and died to save that one man, from that one sin; from the consequences of that one sin. When Jesus died, just before He died, for three hours, we read, the sun was darkened. At 12 noon it became like midnight on the earth. Why did it become like midnight? Why did it become pitch-dark at 12 noon? - Because God turned His face away from His own son. In all eternity that had never happened. God the Father and the Son were in perfect fellowship for years. But for three hours the Father turned away His face from His son; broke fellowship with His son. What Jesus endured during those three hours was the agony of being forsaken by God, what we would call Hell on the cross.

What does that prove? That sin is extremely serious that Jesus Christ had to suffer so much. When we believe the Word of God we will take sin seriously. I am absolutely convinced, dear friends, that many of us have not overcome sin because we haven't seen the seriousness of sin. If you have got a leprous patch in your hand, what would you do? Would you ignore it, or would you rush to the doctor? If you felt a pain in your stomach, which you thought might be cancer, what would you do? Would you delay in going and getting an x-ray or a scan done and get a doctor's opinion? Why do we rush; why do we take leave from our work the very next day and go to the doctor? Because we know these things are serious. Supposing your blood test shows that you have got AIDS, what would you do, just ignore it?

你知道嗎,耶穌不止是為了全世界人無法計數的罪而死。就算只有一個人,只犯了一次罪,若要救那人,祂也需要來為那一次的罪而死,來償還那罪的代價。我們在經上讀到,在耶穌死前的三個小時,太陽都黑了。正午像半夜十二點。為什麼變得像午夜?為什麼太陽變得像瀝青那麼黑?那是因為神轉過了臉,不去看祂的兒子。在永恆裡,這是從沒發生過的,天父與子,從來都是完美的親密合一,從無間斷。然而在那三個小時裡,天父卻轉過臉不看祂的兒子了,切斷了兒子與祂的關係。耶穌在那三個小時裡所承受的,是被神拋棄所產生的極度痛苦,耶穌在十字架上經歷的就是我們所知道的地獄。

這一切說明了什麼?說明了罪的極度嚴重性,耶穌基督需要承受如此的折磨。如果我們相信神所說的,就會非常嚴肅去對待罪的問題。假如你的手上長了大麻風,你會無視它嗎?還是會趕快去看醫生?假如你胃痛懷疑自己得了癌症,你會怎麼做?不著急看醫生做檢查嗎?為什麼這樣的情況下,我們會急匆匆,第二天立刻請假去看醫生?那是因為我們知道嚴重性。假如你的血檢報告查出了愛滋病毒,你會無視它嗎?

How many of us believe that sin is more serious than all these things? Do you believe the Word of God? Here is the second reason why many people fall: they do not believe; they do not believe that sin is serious; they do not believe God's Word that with grace you can overcome sin. Take God's Word seriously from today onwards, every Word of God, and see if it doesn't make a difference in your life.

我們中有誰相信,罪比前面提到的所有事都更加嚴重?你相信神所說的嗎?這就是很多人跌倒的第二個原因:他們根本就不信,不信罪的嚴重性,不信神說恩典能說明你勝過罪。從今天起,請你開始嚴肅的對待神所說的每一句話,然後看你的生活將有怎樣的改變。