

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. 我们犯罪跌倒的又一个原因

接下来我们想继续探讨，为什么我们会一再的跌倒，陷在罪里，为什么我们的灵命总不长进。或许这对你当下面临的问题能有所帮助。

前面的学习我们看到，在恩典之下的我们，是不需要被罪所奴役的。“恩典”是神赐给我们用来胜过罪的力量。实际上，罗马书 6 章 14 节清楚的说出了神的这个应许：“罪必不能作你们的主，因你们不在律法之下，乃在恩典之下。”在这样的情况下，假如我们仍然总在同一件旧事上跌倒，那么最有可能的原因就是，我们缺乏对神的敬畏之心。

你知道吗，神为每个人都预备了一块非常私人的空间：就是我们的思想空间。没人能到你那一窥究竟，就算是你的丈夫或妻子都不能。你脑子里的想法是非常隐秘的私人空间，然而你生命这个最隐秘的空间，正是神用来考验你是否敬畏祂的领域。神对所有人类的考验都在于此。

请你花一分钟做个假想，若是你脑子里的想法，像说话一样所有人都能听见（我敢肯定，神若想把我們造成那样，根本不成问题），那样的你会不会对自己的想法也格外当心？那么现在的你，一切想法都寂静无声，也没人能一窥究竟，为什么似乎你对自己的想法就没有那么当心？这是不是代表，你其实不介意神是否听到，而只介意人是否听到？这表明了你畏惧人胜过畏惧神。我可以非常肯定的说，你与我生命中最需要建立的事情之一，就是对神的敬畏之心。

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

大卫王在他的一首诗歌里说到，“众弟子啊，你们当来听我的话。我要将敬畏耶和華的道教训你们。”这份敬畏，是需要我们学习的，通过训练我们的感知，来敬畏神的同在，因为无论我们在哪里，都逃不开神的同在。就像人能听见我们响亮的说话一样，神能听见我们每个人脑里闪过的每个念头。我们不止该像畏惧人一样去畏惧神（那本身已经能带给我们巨大的解脱了），实际上我们该对神有更加更加的敬畏。罗马书 1 章 25 节指出来，人的一条罪就是，敬拜受造之物，而不去敬拜造物之主。我们向他人的看法俯伏下拜，胜过在意神对我们的看法，基本上每个人都是这样的。

从童年起，我们就成长在对他人意见的畏惧之中，这使我们总想要取悦他人，给别人留下好印象。然而我们却并没有那么努力的去取悦我们的主，结果就是，我们一再的跌进罪里。如果在思想领域，这个除了上帝没人能看见的领域，我们非常疏忽，那么我们将永远无法拥有圣洁的生命。一再被罪击垮也是自然的事情。对于在“胜过罪”这件事上一直没有长进的人们来说，第一大原因就是他们从来没去试图培养过自己对神的敬畏之心。

现在我还想告诉你第二个原因。《圣经》罗马书 1 章 17 节告诉我们“义人因信得生”。基督徒生命的一切成长都是靠着信心的。比如犹大书 24 节说到，“主耶稣能保守你们不左脚”，然而假如你不相信这话，它就永远不会在你生命里实现。假如你不相信上帝极其渴望让你过着胜过罪的生活，你的生活就永远无法体验什么是胜过罪。假如你压根不信对神犯罪是非常严重的事情，你的人生是不可能胜过罪的。我们必须对神的话语有信心。

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

下面请允许我给你举两个例子，来说明为什么对神犯罪是极其严重的事情。

在人类的历史之初，神创造了亚当和夏娃，并且给了他们仅有的一条诫命——不是十条，而是仅仅一条。祂告诉两个人，不要吃那棵特定树上的果子，就这样而已。亚当和夏娃生活在一条诫命之下。有些人可能会想，他们生活的得多么幸福啊，生活在那样一个美丽的院子里，生活所需应有尽有，唯一需要的就只是持守那唯一的诫命。这应该一点都不难吧，不是吗？然而他们却违背了这唯一的诫命，而且很有可能就在他们生命的第一天。结果呢？

神给他们第二次机会了吗？没有。上帝没有去说，“哦好吧，让我们忽略这次的失败。或许你们还没意识到问题有多严重。我再给你们一次机会。”没有，神并没有给他们第二次机会。神从来都没给亚当和夏娃第二次机会。祂把两个人立刻赶出了伊甸园。这难道说是上帝没有怜悯慈悲吗？在你给自己孩子第二次机会，第三次机会的时候，你觉得自己是位比神更加慈悲的父亲吗？你并不是的。这个宇宙里没有任何一位比上帝更加慈悲，更加怜悯。假如你心里有一点慈悲，要知道你的慈悲是从神那里得来的。它就像是上帝慈悲海洋里的一滴水。上帝是深深爱着亚当和夏娃的。那么为什么祂却没有给他们再来一次的机会？原因就是，罪的后果是非常严重的。它不是件小事情！

《圣经》的一开头，就让我们看到罪的严重性，就是神没有给亚当夏娃再试一次的机会。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

儿，拿父母对自己的要求不当一回事，“没事，爸爸妈妈不会介意的。”很多时候确实是这样，他们不听爸妈的话，爸妈也不当一回事，任凭孩子想怎样就怎样。或许亚当和夏娃也是这么想的，“没事，上帝是非常慈爱的，祂不会因为我们犯的这么个小错就大动干戈。”然而很快他们就看到了，罪的后果有多么严重。犯一次罪，就足以使他们永远的与神隔绝。人时常对自己罪的态度是，“嗯，就犯这么一次。”但你看亚当犯了几次罪尔后被上帝赶走的？二十次，三十次，还是一百次？不是，连两次都不是。就一次！

我为什么在反复强调这个？那是因为我生平只遇到过极少数的信徒，相信即使对神犯罪一次也是极其严重的。罗马书 6 章 1 节说到，“我们可以仍在罪中，叫恩典显多吗？”接下来第 15 节又说，“这却怎么样呢？我们在恩典之下，不在律法之下，就可以犯罪吗？断乎不可！”你们之中是否有人曾经问过自己，“我该对神犯罪吗？哪怕一次？”我真的希望人们能够意识到，罪，是件多么严重的事情，无论是亚当的年代还是我们的年代。这位充满慈爱，充满怜悯的神，都不能给亚当和夏娃第二次机会，这证明了罪的严重性。一次犯罪，导致了永远被从上帝的面前驱逐。即便他们从那之后再没犯过罪，这一次，已经足够让他们堕入地狱。

下面我要给你举第二个例子。第一个例子来自旧约。现在我要指给你看新约里的例子，并且我肯定这是你已经知道的。主耶稣为什么死在十字架上？原因是什么？原因是“罪”。假想一下，如果人类历史上只有一个人犯了一次罪，那么你认为主耶稣会不会降世，为那一个人的一次罪而死？我相信祂会的。

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?

你知道吗，耶稣不止是为了全世界人无法计数的罪而死。就算只有一个人，只犯了一次罪，若要救那人，祂也需要来为那一次的罪而死，来偿还那罪的代价。我们在经上读到，在耶稣死前的三个小时，太阳都黑了。正午像半夜十二点。为什么变得像午夜？为什么太阳变得像沥青那么黑？那是因为神转过了脸，不去看祂的儿子。在永恒里，这是从没发生过的，天父与子，从来都是完美的亲密合一，从无间断。然而在那三个小时里，天父却转过脸不看祂的儿子了，切断了儿子与祂的关系。耶稣在那三个小时里所承受的，是被神抛弃所产生的极度痛苦，耶稣在十字架上经历的就是我们所知道的地狱。

这一切说明了什么？说明了罪的极度严重性，耶稣基督需要承受如此的折磨。如果我们相信神所说的，就会非常严肃去对待罪的问题。假如你的手上长了大麻风，你会无视它吗？还是会赶快去看医生？假如你胃痛怀疑自己得了癌症，你会怎么做？不着急看医生做检查吗？为什么这样的情况下，我们会急匆匆，第二天立刻请假去看医生？那是因为我们知道严重性。假如你的血检报告查出了艾滋病毒，你会无视它吗？

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.

我们中有谁相信，罪比前面提到的所有事都更加严重？你相信神所说的吗？这就是很多人跌倒的第二个原因：他们根本就不信，不信罪的严重性，不信神说恩典能帮助你胜过罪。从今天起，请你开始严肃的对待神所说的每一句话，然后看你的生活将有怎样的改变。