



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

“Making a Comeback”

(The Horribleness of Stubbornness, Part 4)”

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Making a comeback refers to the life of King David where he committed a grave sin but in the end, reconciled with the Lord. Psalm 51 shows David’s repentant heart and his request for God’s mercy. God forgave him and he continued God’s mission. As Christians, we must consciously watch ourselves so that we do not backslide and lose God’s assigned mission.

1. Who is King David? David was still young when he was anointed by the prophet Samuel as directed by God. He was famous for defeating Goliath from the Philistines and was known to be the man after God’s heart (Acts 13:22). God took care of David against lions, bears, and neighboring enemies. He received the Holy Spirit from God (1 Sam. 16:13). However, he was not immune to the temptations of Satan. Christians are reminded that at any time, Satan will tempt us (2 Pt. 5), and we should not be ignorant of his ways (1 Cor. 2:11).

2. David’s backsliding. Backsliding means returning to the old self after being in a relationship with God. For King David, he intended to stay in his castle instead of going to war, and he was tempted.

2.1 Backsliding is a gradual process. It is a series of choices that turns us away from God. Some noticeable things when we are in the process of backsliding:

2.1.1 Staying behind. King David didn’t go to battle and let his troops go to war. To us, this means not attending our community activities and work / service.

2.1.2 Idleness. When David stayed, he was idle and he fell into temptation. When we have idle time, we provide an opening for Satan to tempt us.

2.1.3 Distracted. David wandered through his castle and saw Bathsheba on the rooftop. Our

distracted causes us to look away from God’s instructions.

2.1.4 He didn’t flee from temptation. King David allowed the temptation to stay in his thoughts. We should never let temptation take over our thoughts.

2.2 Backsliding is a slippery slope. When we start engaging in backsliding, we commit more mistakes immediately.

3. David’s sins accumulated. David’s choice to succumb to temptation produced more sin for him. He sabotaged the marriage of Uriah and Bathsheba to cover up his sins (the latter was pregnant by David). David caused Uriah’s death in the war.

4. David’s devastating consequences. David’s sins had consequences. His baby with Bathsheba died; their other sons committed rape; the other murdered the rapist as a way of revenge. The worst was when his son wanted to take his throne.

5. David’s renewal. David’s life was renewed by the reminder of the Lord through Nathan. It was beautifully expressed in Psalm 51 for God’s mercy and re-dedication to the Lord. His sins brought consequences to him and also to his family’s generations (2 Sam 12:10).

Conclusion: God accomplishes a lot of things in our life only if we follow Him rightly (Eph. 3:20). However, our wrong choices can also lead to our suffering. We must be ready to be corrected to avoid the possibility of backsliding. Further, we need to be resilient against the temptation of Satan.

Reflection:

1. What are the most difficult temptations you are still trying to avoid in your life?
2. How do you keep your family safe against the temptations of Satan?

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