

January 28, 2021

For all have sinned and fall short of the Glory of God. Romans 3:23

Come now, let us settle the matter,” says the LORD. “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool. Isaiah 1:18

The shame that sinful behavior creates is designed to tempt us to avoid facing that behavior—usually through continued sinning and temporary pleasure escapes. Sin shackles every person differently, but the one commonality is that pride becomes the unbreakable shackle—because pride prevents us from acknowledging the shameful behavior. Humility and repentance, on the other hand, melts away those shackles and overcomes the shame with beautiful, God-given resolution and forgiveness.

That is why Jesus says: ***To the one who comes to me, I will NOT, under any circumstances, send away!*** *John 6:37*. He is not waiting to rub our faces in our bad behavior. That is why HIS GRACE is sufficient for OUR WEAKNESS. *2 Corinthians 12:9*

But when we try to be strong (which many of us have tried to be) and overcome our temptations by ourselves --without His help-- then we are actually hurting ourselves. *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. Ephesians 2:8-9*. True repentance and turning away ***relies on help from God***, giving up on *pride of self* and *self-importance*. Acknowledging that the mountain is too tall, the bridge too far, the path too long – that we can’t do it by our prideful selves– is the only way to succeed.

Sometimes, however, it seems that all we have is our pride. We don’t want to let go of it, because without it, what will we find? His word tells us what we can expect: *You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever Psalms 23:5-6*.

His Word also clearly states that *Pride goes before destruction, Proverbs 16:18*. Let us not allow pride to cement us inside its prison. Pride will not save us. It weakens us. When we humble ourselves and admit our needs, then the Lord and His power can come down and transform us and make us whole again in ways that are unimaginable on the losing side of the battle. Not only this, but it keeps us in a compassionate and humble state, willing to forgive others of their shortcomings and preventing us from falling into the trap of playing judge.

Give the sin battle to the Lord, because Jesus said: *In this world, you will have trouble, but take heart! I have overcome the world. John 16:33*.