

## **SPIRITUAL FAILURE: THE BACKDOOR TO SUCCESS WITH GOD**

### **A. CERTAINTIES about Spiritual Failure & Success**

1. Regarding humanity, the playing field is level in the sense that \_\_\_\_\_ is a spiritual failure from \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen. 3; Ps. 51:5; Rom. 5:12) but God's redeeming \_\_\_\_\_ is also equally available to all (1 Tim. 2:4; Titus 2:11).
2. Regarding believers in Jesus Christ, \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ of spiritual failure and success. (1 Cor. 10:12-13; 2 Cor. 9:8; Gal. 6:1-4; 2 Peter 1:3-4)
3. Even when we sin and spiritually fail, the Holy Spirit is \_\_\_\_\_ us toward spiritual growth into the likeness and character of Christ and His will (Rom. 8:14; 2 Cor. 2:14; Gal. 5:18) because He is \_\_\_\_\_ us (Rom. 8:31, 34; Heb. 7:25; 1 John 2:1).

### **B. CLARIFICATIONS about Spiritual Failure & Success**

1. From God's perspective, spiritual success or failure is NOT a matter of . . .
  - a) \_\_\_\_\_. (1 Sam. 9:2; 15:17; 16:7; Luke 2:36-38)
  - b) \_\_\_\_\_. (Judg. 11:1-2; 1 Cor. 1:26-28)
  - c) \_\_\_\_\_. (Gen. 6:8-18 cf. 2 Peter 2:5; Isa. 6:8-11; Jer. 1; Ezek. 2:1-3:11; 1 Cor. 3:10-15; 4:1-5; 2 Cor. 5:12; 10:12; 2 Tim. 1:15; 4:1-5)
2. In our spiritual failure, we can either sin/fail but \_\_\_\_\_ it honestly to God, or we can sin/fail but be \_\_\_\_\_ and think we're \_\_\_\_\_. (1 Sam. 15:1-26; 2 Chr. 32:24-26; Prov. 28:13; 1 John 1:6, 8, 10)
  - *What is the gauge of spiritual failure vs. success? (Josh. 1:8)*
  - *What should we also realize about our sinful choices or failures? (1 Sam. 13:13-14; 15:23, 26, 28; 2 Sam. 12:11-14; 2 John 8)*

3. Simply because we may have failed the Lord in the \_\_\_\_\_ doesn't mean we're \_\_\_\_\_ that same sin or failure. (Rom. 7:24-25a; Gal. 5:16)

- *Who are some examples of this truth? (Exod. 1-3; Jonah 1-4; Mark 14:26-31, 66-72; John 21:15-17; Acts 13:5, 13; 15:36-40; 2 Tim. 4:11)*
- *Why does God allow us to struggle and even fail at times? (Rom. 5:20; 2 Cor. 4:15; Eph. 2:7)*

### C. CONCLUSIONS about Spiritual Failure & Success

*When we've spiritually failed as believers, we should . . .*

1. \_\_\_\_\_ our sin to the Lord while believing/claiming His promise of forgiveness. (1 John 1:9)
2. see ourselves \_\_\_\_\_ as God sees us, not in our sin and failure. (Eph. 1:3-7; Rom. 8:37; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; Col. 3:1-4)
3. learn to rely upon God's \_\_\_\_\_ instead of ourselves. (2 Cor. 3:5-6; 12:9-10; Phil. 4:13)
4. seek the will of God \_\_\_\_\_, realizing it's never \_\_\_\_\_ to be who God wants us to be and do what God wants you to do. (Matt. 6:33; 20:12; John 21:19-22; Eph. 5:16-17)
5. seek a growing relationship with God, to \_\_\_\_\_ Him, \_\_\_\_\_ Him, and \_\_\_\_\_ Him. (Phil. 3:10-14)