

Whenever We Fail, It's Not the End of the World!

Pastor's Desk – January 1, 2017



As this year comes to an end and we reflect on all we did, there may be some stuff that we are not so happy about, some disgusting ones, and some failures that we deeply regret and may be condemning ourselves for. Well allow me to encourage you by saying that failures are not necessarily the end of life, nor the end of the world. I realize, no one likes to fail, but criticizing ourselves and being miserable about it is not the solution either. The question that remains to be answered is: what do I do whenever I blew it really bad, specially in the things of God? Well, the Lord Jesus knew we'd go through moments like these, so He left something on the record, so we may learn from it.

We read in the book of Mat 26:69-74: *While Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, a servant girl came up to him and said, "You were with Jesus from Galilee. But in front of everyone Peter said, "That isn't so! I don't know what you are talking about! When Peter had gone out to the gate, another servant girl saw him and said to some people there, "This man was with Jesus from Nazareth. Again, Peter denied it, and this time he swore, "I don't even know that man! A little while later some people standing there walked over to Peter and said, "We know that you are one of them. We can tell it because you talk like someone from Galilee. Peter began to curse and swear, "I don't know that man!" Right then a rooster crowed."* This was one of those low moments in Peter's life history! Nevertheless, he did right afterwards. The Bible says: Mat 26:75 and Peter remembered what Jesus had said, *"Before a rooster crows, you will say three times that you don't know me."* Then Peter went out and cried hard. He cried hard in repentance afterwards and asked God forgiveness for that messy moment! And do know what? The Lord forgave him. Luke 24:34 And they learned from the group that the Lord was really alive and had appeared to Peter. What a wonderful Savior is He! In John 21:15-18 Peter had to do some reaffirmation to undo the three times he denied the Master, and went on to become the greatest apostle to the Jewish community in his days.

Sometimes we allow failure to define us, when all that may be needed is some hard repentance, crying and turning around for the Lord not only to forgive us, but to use us again! Many times, we fall short in our relationships, we struggle with sin and many occasions with the things of God. Jesus forgave repentant Peter for his big failure, and used him to perform many miracles and, through Peter, brought thousands into His kingdom!

I believe that the Lord is calling on you and I to reflect on the past year, and if we blew it, repentance from the heart will do it. Failure isn't the end; it may be just the beginning of a great and powerful new era in our spiritual walk. Our loving God will gladly restore those who sincerely and earnestly return to HIM, and will use us again.

Lift up your head and let the Lord start a new chapter in your spiritual journey with Him. Failure is not the end!

Pr. Paul Santos - Happy New Year!!!