

TALKING POINTS

STARTING OVER - REGRET

LEANING IN

Sometimes, in the barren place, as Christians we feel we should be immune to failure due to our relationship with God.

God often allows us to fail for a variety of reasons - our own character development, for His own purposes, for something He wants to do in our lives or the lives of others around us.

God allows the process of failure in our lives - He just doesn't want us to stay there. All of mankind - believers and unbelievers alike are subject to problems in this life. No exceptions.
Life is not a continuous ramp up - it's more peaks and valleys we all go through. God never promises a life without failure.

But, God *does* provide promises to see us through the barren place of failure and regret. We just have to trust Him.

Read John 16:33

How does failure affect your opinion of God?

LIVING IT OUT

Since we all fail, where do we start the recovery process? Here are four starting points to overcome failure and regret:

Choose Between Regret Or Repent - we have to own our mistakes and move on from them, not stay stuck in whatever sin we're holding onto. Don't live in regret, change direction.

Read Acts 3:19, Proverbs 28:1

Why is regret such a powerful force to keep us stuck in the past? How do we let it go?

Change Our Focus From The Past To The Future - whether positive or not, we can get stuck in the past. We are to start making decisions based on the future. As believers, our best days are yet to come.

Read Philippians 3:13-14

In the midst of these difficult days, what is a future event you can look forward to?

Believe In The Promises Of God Regarding Us - God has no limits, whatever issue you have is not too much for God. Here are six promises God has made to us:

God will provide for our every need

God's grace is sufficient for us to deal with whatever we're facing

God will always provide a way of escape from temptation

God will provide victory over death

God promises all things work for the good for those who love Him

God promises eternal life

Read Philippians 4:19, 2 Corinthians 12:9-10, 1 Corinthians 10:13, 1 Corinthians 15:57, Romans 8:28, John 3:16

Have you ever experienced a promise of God come true in your life?

Remember The Cross - God turns a crucifixion into a resurrection. God transforms the minuses in our lives into pluses.

Read Isaiah 43:18-19, Galatians 2:20, 1 Peter 1:3

Can you share a time when God transformed a significant minus into a plus in your life?