

TURNING FAILURE INTO GREAT COMFORT

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The bible is full of faithful people who despite moments of weakness and failure, were able to provide great blessings for God's people. Some have provided far more blessing than they thought possible, perhaps even more than we yet realise. The gained comforts from the following acts of faith are far greater than even they could imagine. All these blessings have come out of tribulation, despair or weakness. Consider it a great joy to fall into tribulation, because all the great blessings have come out of such trials... 2COR 1:4 Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. Many faithful people have made great gains for us.

The following examples prove the truth, that great blessing come when weakness and failure are dealt with in a scriptural way... these comforts are for everyone.

Abraham... Friend of God. GEN 17:7 And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.

Not only did God multiply them when childbearing was impossible, he further turned their weakness into a great empire, but amazingly became 'the Friend of God'.

Phinehas... everlasting priesthood. NUM 25:10 And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, **11** Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, hath turned my wrath away from the children of Israel, while he was zealous for my sake among them, that I consumed not the children of Israel in my jealousy. **12** Wherefore say, **Behold, I give unto him my covenant of peace: 13** And he shall have it, and his seed after him, even the covenant of an everlasting priesthood; because he was zealous for his God, and made an atonement (paid the price) for the children of Israel. *A guaranteed lifelong right to approach God and offer restoration.*

This promise is absolutely amazing... those serving God's word would always be free of their own sins to serve God's people, without spiritual limitations.

King David ... sure mercies. PSA 51:8 Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. **9** Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. **10** Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. **11** Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. **12** Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. **13** Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee. **14** Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness.

King David (anointed by God) knew the spiritual values that God had offered both Abraham and Phinehas... God accepted his plea, despite his great sin and failure.

LUK 7:28 For I say unto you, Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist: but he that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.

John the Baptist was the greatest of all the prophets... but we are greater. These are the 4 great blessings passed on to us: Priest, Prophet, King and Friend of God.

Jesus Christ made it possible for all 4 blessings to be personally included with our salvation. JOH 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. *We have been offered the accumulated comfort offered to all overcomes up till this time (see 2Cor 1:4 above).*

These are wonderful and life changing blessings; if we can recognise and practice them.

This is how it happens. ACT 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost (the comforter). **39** For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. *Without the Holy Spirit, we have nothing... religious feelings are meaningless.*

Once we follow the bible pattern of salvation... the same bible results will follow us. Like all the above, scriptural actions get results, everything else gets nothing.

Friends. JAM 2:23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. *Abraham was a doer of the word.*

JOH 15:15 Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

GEN 18:17 And the Lord said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do; **18** Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? **19** For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.

Good Friends... see each other as equals, love and respect each other, fight for and support each other. The friend of the groom would often propose on his behalf.

Priests and kings. REV 1:6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. *Has made us... not, will make us!! We are encouraged to act accordingly.*

ACT 13:34 And as concerning that he raised him up from the dead, now no more to return to corruption, he said on this wise, **I will give you the sure mercies of David.** *The power to be forgiven and to redeem others.*

Every benefit David enjoyed as king and prophet is also transferred, without limitation onto us... as with David, both for himself and all those he spoke to.

Greater works of comforting. JOH 14:12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

Every good comfort that has been acquired by faithful people over many thousand years is now ours for the taking. We have true comfort in every area of life.

It is now our turn to set the example and take the stand for God's work. All of these wonderful promises are now part of our life and we have the great bonus of having Jesus administer these promises as our permanent high priest. Actions are required, deeds need to be done, prayers need to be enacted upon... we have a job!!