

GETTING BACK IN THE SADDLE

7/9/25

To 'get back into the saddle' means to resume doing something we have stopped doing. For most of history, horses were the prime means of transport. Horses can be challenging and the path can be full of obstacles... accidents happened frequently. Many lost their confidence from such mishaps and thus the term was coined. There is an obvious spiritual parallel. When we get back in the saddle... nothing has changed. Same horse (God), same saddle (Holy Spirit), same rider (born again)... confidence needs to be restored quickly.

Our reaction and God's reaction can be completely different... there are now 9-10 fallen away for every one that fellowships, their recovery is also important.

Paul's encouragement. **2COR 2:6** Sufficient to such a man is this punishment, which was inflicted of many. **7** So that **contrariwise** ye ought rather to forgive him, and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one should be **swallowed up with overmuch sorrow**. **8** Wherefore I beseech you that ye would **confirm your love toward him**. **9** For to this end also did I write, that I might know the proof of you, whether ye be obedient in all things. *Restore him before too much damage is done... don't give Satan the advantage!*

This is a very detailed account of how God thinks; what his nature looks like and how he works... it is there for us to learn from.

2CHR 33:1 Manasseh was twelve years old when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty and five years in Jerusalem: **2** But did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, like unto the abominations of the heathen, whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel. *David was his great, great grandfather.*

*Manasseh destroyed his father's great achievements (verses 3-9)... King Manasseh's sins include idolatry, rebuilding pagan altars, defiling the Temple with foreign gods and an Asherah pole (goddess of fertility), child sacrifice to Molech, practicing magic and divination, and shedding innocent blood by executing prophets and others. These actions reversed his father Hezekiah's reforms, **led the people of Judah into sin**, and were condemned by God and several prophets, including Isaiah. The people themselves were the problem as well.*

Warning from God. **10** And the **LORD spake to Manasseh, and to his people**: but **they would not hearken**. **11** Wherefore the LORD brought upon them the captains of the host of the king of Assyria, which took Manasseh among the thorns, and bound him with fetters, and carried him to Babylon.

Manasseh attempts to get back in the saddle. **12** And when he was in affliction, he besought the LORD his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers, **13** And prayed unto him: and he was intreated of him, and heard his supplication, and brought him again to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD he was God. *Then comes the effective change.*

14 Now after this he built a wall without the city of David, on the west side of Gihon, in the valley, even to the entering in at the fish gate, and compassed about Ophel, and raised it up a very great height, and put captains of war in all the fenced cities of Judah. **15** And he took away the strange gods, and the idol out of the house of the LORD, and all the altars that he had built in the mount of the house of the LORD, and in Jerusalem, and cast them out of the city. **16** And he repaired the altar of the LORD, and sacrificed thereon peace offerings and thank offerings, and commanded Judah to serve the LORD God of Israel. **17** Nevertheless the people did sacrifice still in the high places, yet unto the LORD their God only. *High places were centres for idolatry.*

18 Now the rest of the acts of Manasseh, and his prayer unto his God, and the words of the seers that spake to him in the name of the LORD God of Israel, behold, they are written in the book of the kings of Israel. **19** His prayer also, and how God was intreated of him, and all his sin, and his trespass, and the places wherein he built high places, and set up groves and graven images, **before he was humbled**: behold, they are written among the sayings of the seers.

This is another example of human failing and restoration. This was a great error affecting all Israel, but was very small compared to what king Manasseh did.

Just before David sinned... **2SAM 11:1** And it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when kings go forth to battle, that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried still at Jerusalem. **2** And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon. *David's lapse led to shame and damage to all of Israel... however, he was forgiven... remained king and set about to bringing blessing to all.*

PSA 51:1 Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. **2** Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. **3** For I acknowledge my transgressions: **and my sin is ever before me**. *We need to keep moving forward.*

The above examples were Old Testament where forgiveness and mercy were not backed by a far better covenant we now enjoy.

Jesus spoke of the recovery of the prodigal son... **LUK 15:32** It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found. *Fully restored immediately.*

This is how the new covenant is summarized. All sin is forgivable for all spirit filled people... when they repent (Get back in the saddle).

This is spoken to all spirit filled people. **HEB 9:14** How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, **purge your conscience from dead works** to serve the living God?