

DO NOT PUT YOUR FAITH IN MEN

Psalm 51:1-17

Thursday March 7, 2019

Recently, a Christian leader I admire shared a personal tragedy that had occurred due to a family member's indiscretions. I remember wondering how it could be possible, since the entire family had seemed to walk so closely with the Lord. The story filled me with anxiety. If someone so pious could fall into sin, it could happen to anyone. It could happen to me!

Perhaps one of the most difficult things to accept about the Christian life is that no matter how hard we try, we will never be perfect. Have you ever admired someone – maybe a friend, leader, or pastor – for their piety, only to find out later that he or she makes mistakes just like the rest of us?

Even the most righteous among us will fall prey to sin. God's word tells us that we are born with a sinful nature, and that God would be justified to judge us harshly for the ways in which we act against God and other people. But because God loves us, God gives us a way out. When we confess our sins and ask for forgiveness, God can renew our hearts and restore our joy. It is through repentance that we open ourselves to receive God's mercy and allow for the continued transformation of our hearts and minds to more closely resemble God's.

Knowing that God will forgive us, however, does not mean we have license to sin whenever and however we want. Instead, repentance calls us to an even greater responsibility: To tell others how God has saved us. In confessing his adultery with Bathsheba, King David said, "Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you."

Sharing our personal experiences with God's grace helps us to recognize that we are not alone. We all will fall short of God's glory in some way or another. It's what we do afterward that counts.

Prayer: Dear Lord, forgive us when we sin and fall short of our commitment to You. Teach us Your ways that we may be in closer relationship with You. Amen

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