

## FINDING YOUR GOD INTENDED PURPOSE IN LIFE

### “RECOVERY FROM FAILURE”

In our last lecture we looked at setting goals. The apostle Paul had one all consuming goal to be like Jesus. We too can set the same goal, to become as much like Jesus as we can possibly be. We can sincerely do this and then to our shame have a massive failure. The area of failure will usually be in a natural weakness we may have. For example, we had a problem with temper in the past but now have victory over it as a Christian. Then one day something happens and we flare up in a very real angry temper. It is even worse, if we do it publically before a lot of non Christians. We feel really bad, we have let the Lord down, we feel a complete failure. Our failure can be either public where one or more people witness it, or private, where no one else knows about it, except God. But whether private or public it is a failure in our lives.

We have deviated from our goal. Emotionally we need to grieve. Emotionally we feel we are not ready to come back to God. We need to experience some godly sorrow for our sin. Paul says in 2 Corinthians 7:10, “Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret—“Godly sorrow brings a repentant attitude into our hearts which will bring us to salvation or a heart deliverance that leaves no regret but rather the joy of a sin forgiven. We need a time of mourning regarding our failure to get emotionally right with God. He will restore to us the joy of his salvation and we can renew our long term and short term goals for God.

Simon Peter, one of the Lord’s disciples had a big failure. Let us read about it. John 13:36-38.

“Simon Peter asked him, “Lord where are you going?” ( Jesus had just told his disciples that he soon would be leaving them) Jesus replied, “Where I am going you cannot follow now, but you will follow later.” Peter asked, “Lord why can’t I follow you now?” I will lay down my life for you.” Then Jesus answered, “Will you really lay down your life for me? Very truly I tell you, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times!”

I believe when Peter said, “I will lay down my life for you.” He really meant it. Just like us when we say to the Lord, “I surrender myself to you Lord, I will live for you Lord, “ or words like that. But Peter didn’t yet understand the deceitfulness of his own human heart it’s always liable to be tripped up by temptation and giving into sin. It is the same with us, our human hearts are no different than Peters. Jeremiah 17:9 says, “The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?” Only when we allow The Holy Spirit to fill our hearts can we overcome its deceitfulness and have victory.

Let's read what happened when Jesus was taken prisoner. Luke 22:54-62. "Then seizing him, they led him away and took him into the house of the high priest. Peter followed at a distance. And when some there had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter sat down with them. A servant girl saw him seated there in the firelight. She looked closely at him and said, "This man was with him." But he denied it "Woman I don't know him," he said. A little later someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them." "Man, I am not" Peter replied. About an hour later another asserted, "Certainly this fellow was with him, for he is a Galilean." Peter replied, "Man I don't know what you're speaking about!" Just as he was speaking the rooster crowed. The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.

Notice the operation of Peter's natural heart, in Matthew 26:35 where he says, to the Lord, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you." Or deny you. He says to the Lord, "I will never deny you!" But to the servant girl who said, "This man was with him." -- he denied it, "Woman I don't know him." One thing said to the Lord and the opposite said to the servant girl. Before we judge him let us all remind ourselves we too, have natural deceitful hearts.

"The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter." The sad disappointed look in the Lord's eyes broke Peter's heart. What about the sad disappointed look when we fail him, what does it do to us. We read of Peter, "He went outside and wept bitterly." Those tears proved that Peter was a true believer. It is not that a true believer never sins but that when they do they grieve that they have grieved the Lord. This was the beginning of Peter's recovery from failure.

He had to go through a grieving process that led to him back in fellowship with the Lord and being greatly used of the Lord. We want to look more into this in our next lecture.



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