

"WHEN I FALL, I SHALL RISE" OR NEVER GIVE UP

Micah 7:8

INTRODUCTION:

- A. What greater resolution could one make than, "Though I fall, I will rise (New ASV)
- B. Possibly a more popular resolution is: "I will not fall; I will be perfect." But one finds himself falling anyway see Rom 3:23 and 1Jhn 1:8,10
- C. However, he will not fail as long as he rises immediately when he stumbles. This is a race in which all the runners sometimes stumble, but a fall does not disqualify a runner if he immediately rises
- D. A comparison with Prov 24:16 might be helpful
- E. These are the considerations to be discussed in this lesson

DISCUSSION:

I. EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD TRY NOT TO FALL

- A. He should be like a boxer, seeking strength, trying to stand, withstanding the blows of the enemy
- B. Scriptures warn against falling 1Pet 5:8; Heb 3:12; 1Cor 10:12
- C. Other scriptures tell us how to avoid falling 2Pet 1:5-11; Eph 6:10-17

II. GOOD MEN AND WOMEN DO SOMETIMES FALL

- A. The possibility of their doing so is expressed in Gal 6:1; 1Jhn 2:1
- B. Great characters of the Bible did fall into sin.
 1. Noah got drunk Gen 9:20,21
 2. Abraham told a lie Gen 20:1-5
 3. Moses added to God's command Num 20:7-11
 4. David committed adultery and murder 2Sam 11:2-5
 5. Peter denied Christ Matt 26:69-75

III. THE PERSON WHO FALLS DETERMINES WHETHER OR NOT THE ENEMY REJOICES

- A. If the person stays down, the enemy will rejoice – much as a boxer gloats over a fallen opponent
- B. However, if he rises from his fall, repents, confesses, and calls upon God for forgiveness, the enemy will find no joy
- C. Some over whom the enemy could rejoice
 1. King Saul failed to rise; he stayed down till he fell on his own spear 1Sam 13:11-13; 31:6
 2. Judas failed to rise, he stayed down till he hanged himself. Can't you just imagine the devil saying "Ah ha, I got one of His apostles" Matt 26:15,16; 46-49

- D. Some over whom the enemy could not rejoice
 1. David: the devil's elation must have been great when David committed adultery, then murder. But David rose from his fall. Note his attitude upon hearing from God's prophet, Nathan 2Sam 12:7,13; then note his prayer in Psa 51:1-12
 2. Peter had a shameful fall: Can't you just hear the devil saying "I got that impetuous apostle." But Peter rose up from his fall, he wept bitterly Matt 26:75
- E. Some present day applications
 1. Many now have fallen and Satan is rejoicing
 - a. Individuals have been taught and baptized then Satan went to work and is now boasting
 - b. many have fallen by the wayside and have not come up fighting.
 2. Some are still fighting, but have not been able to get up yet, they need help from others to win the fight
 3. Satan can't rejoice against any child of God who hates his sins, confesses them, and prays for mercy Heb 4:15,16; 1Jhn 1:7-10

IV. THERE ARE REASONS WHY SOME DON'T RISE

- A. Some think that if they once fall, they are hypocrites
 1. This is not necessarily so
 2. Hypocrites are not sincere. They want to be deceived and act if they have not fallen
- B. Some simply become discouraged
 1. These say "I can never be a Christian; I just can't make it."
 2. They don't get up they give up!
 3. My grandfather used to say: "It's all right to give out, just don't ever give up."
 4. One can't make it through being perfect, but a person can make it through God's grace Heb 4:15,16; Psa 103:10-13

CONCLUSION:

- A. There will be no second chance, when death comes that's all there is of this life and our time to prepare
- B. Now is the time to get up and keep on fighting, and with God's help we can make it
- C. As often as one truly repents, they can get up and try again
- D. God and Christ paid a great price so you wouldn't have to give up - so never give up, the strength and power available to you is greater than the strength and power against you