



Being with Jesus:

A Devotional From the Book of Mark

Scripture

“May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.” — 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

“I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”
— Philippians 1:3-6

“For though the righteous fall seven times, they rise again, but the wicked stumble when calamity strikes.” — Proverbs 24:16

Prayer:

Jesus, sometimes I feel like I keep falling over and over again. Thank You for not giving up on me. Thank You for sticking with me all the way. Help me to learn and follow You like a good disciple and to remember Your promise to see me through when I feel like I’m getting nowhere. Amen.

Reflection

When God calls us to Himself, He begins to “sanctify” us. This means that He is working in our lives to make us more like Himself. We begin to love people like He loves them. Our hearts start to turn away from their destructive desires and start seeking God’s ways instead. We start to hunger and thirst for more of God.

This is not a speedy process. Along the way we stumble, fall, and get frustrated. In the proverbs verse above, it says that the righteous fall seven times. The righteous are people who love God and try to do what pleases Him—and even they fall! Not only do they fall, but this verse says they fall seven times. In the Bible the number seven is the symbolic number for completion. This means that if something happens seven times, it happens completely! So, even righteous people have giant struggles sometimes. But, the verse says they rise again. God helps them up!

If you feel frustrated because you keep stumbling along the path, don’t give up. God, who began a good work in you, will carry it on to completion. If you keep getting tripped up by the same thing over and over, pray about it, come up with strategies to fight against it, and if it’s still giving you trouble, ask your pastor for help. But, don’t let a setback stop you. God’s disciples are being made more like God. He will help you through it.

Questions

Do you get frustrated when you mess up?

In what ways might you need help from a friend or pastor?

How can you remind yourself that even when you fall, God does not give up on you?