

Falling Short

It's hard to believe that the Passover is right upon us again. It is a time for us to take stock of our spiritual condition in preparation to partake of the Passover, the bread and wine that Yahshua instructed us to do in remembrance of His sacrifice that He gave once for all. It was a year ago that the Action of Belief Ministry published a study entitled "Your Baptism Day, Remember." That study dealt with examining ourselves and complacency.

The premise of this study is similar with the focus being on what is lost when falling short of doing God's will. Let's have a closer look.

As we proceed, please keep these two questions in mind:

*Does the life we live reflect the Lord we serve?
Do we live in a way that shows that we belong to Him?*

1Corinthians 11:27~32 Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. 28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. 29 For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. 30 For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. 31 For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. 32 But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.

Let's face it...the bottom line is we're all sinners and hate to admit it! Remember, Passover is upon us and as the sinners we are, we are each to examine our worthiness and remember the cost that was paid to redeem all sin. Do we trust that our sins are forgiven through His sacrifice? Are we truly sorrowful for our sins? Do we desire to be strengthened and strive to live a life of repentance? How often do we turn from our own way to God's way...Isn't that what repentance is?

Each year we are to evaluate ourselves before the Passover. This is not to be a barrier but is to be an honest assessment of ourselves. We do this in order to have a sincere understanding of the importance of what it is to be sealed. We are dependent on Yahshua our Savior and only through His commitment to the will of the Father are we given hope that this life doesn't end when we die. May we be sealed as we partake of the bread and wine with a renewed hatred for sin and humble thanks as we commemorate Yahshua's sacrifice and reaffirm our commitment to walk in the Spirit of God's will.

Luke 22:42 Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

Falling Short-01

Hebrews 13:20~21 Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,
21 Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever.
Amen.

It got me thinking that the thing that keeps me consistently falling short in my walk with God is temptation.

James 1:14~15 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. 15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

James 4:17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

This is where the root of the problem lies and where it must be confronted. God is not interested in forced compliance – He is interested in self-willed commitment. That's why He spares using His wrath, forcing compliance, but rather desires that we obey willingly. This is true worship; respect given to Him when I recognize that it is my responsibility to serve Him... because He is God and desires volunteer commitment, not power-based compliance.

So, the focus is my attitude, my inner motivation. If my heart is in the right place, I will never break His commandments; I will not fall short. If my heart is not right with God, I (the inner me) will always be fighting myself to justify breaking His commandments.

Don't fret...Anyone can overcome temptation, as long as you are living according to the will of God. It's not always easy but Yahshua did!

1Corinthians 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

The closer we come to doing God's will, the more we realize just how easy it is to fall short and how sinful we really are! Why?...because we live our lives for self-gratification instead of living within God's will for us.

Repentance is Key!

Since Yahshua paid the price for us breaking God's laws and at times we continue to do so, then He has a right to see a repentant heart! He wants to see us turn away from our sinful nature and change. That is proof of repentance!

Romans 8:4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Falling Short-01

To repent is not a once and done thing...it's consistent and life-long! Remember, you are striving to be Christ-like, washing away the old self and putting on the new man. This is only possible when we resist temptation by turning to God and relying on Him for help.

Psalm 121:1~8 I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. 2 My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth. 3 He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber. 4 Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. 5 The LORD is thy keeper: the LORD is thy shade upon thy right hand. 6 The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night. 7 The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. 8 The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.

We committed our walk with God at Baptism and our relationship of obedience to 'His way' became our life focus. Yahshua's whole life was devoted to obeying His Father; yet it was not always easy for Him. He was tempted in all ways just as we are. Christ consistently relied on the help of the Father in doing the will of Him who sent Him. He kept God's law without falling short even once. He lived a life of compliance, always trusting the Father, every step of His walk.

Romans 3:23~26 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; 24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: 25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; 26 To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

Romans 8:1~23 ¶ There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: 4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. 5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. 8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. 9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. 10 ¶ And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. 12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. 13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. 14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. 15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

Falling Short-01

16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: 17 ¶ And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. 18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. 19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. 20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, 21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. 23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

To walk in the Spirit means that we yield to His control, follow His lead and allow Him to influence us and not resist His will. The more we walk in the Spirit, the more we find that the sinful appetites of the flesh will no longer tempt us. Christ depended on the Holy Spirit to guide Him in every thought, word and deed. He is our example of moderation, constraint and the ability to just say no to temptation, lessening the likelihood of falling short of our calling.

John 14:23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

A huge problem with sin is that every human being has done it, and unfortunately continues to do it. Even Christians, who are striving to be faithful to God, sin. This was the reason Yahshua died for humanity; His death is the only pathway out of sin's natural end: death.

When we acknowledge our sin, confess it to God, ask for His forgiveness and try our best with God's help to change – we receive His mercy. Let us strive to live day by day, walking in His Spirit.

Selah

Proverb to Ponder:

Proverbs 20:9 Who can say, I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin?

All Scriptures KJV unless otherwise noted

Action of Belief Ministry
ActionofBeliefMinistry@gmail.com

Our Website:
www.ActionofBeliefMinistry.org