

## Turning Failures Into Successes

### *David's Journey of Calling, Pride, Failure and Redemption*

*"In the spring, at the time when kings normally go off to war, David sent Joab out with the...Israelite army...But David remained in Jerusalem...David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace...and he saw a beautiful woman bathing. So David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, "Isn't this Bathsheba...the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her. Then she went back home. The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, "I am pregnant...In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab **and sent it with Uriah**. In it he wrote, "Put Uriah in the front line where the fighting is fiercest. Then withdraw from him so he will be struck down and die." So Joab...put Uriah at a place where he knew the strongest defenders were...and Uriah the Hittite died...When Uriah's wife heard that her husband was dead, she mourned for him. After the time of mourning was over, David had her brought to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing David had done displeased the LORD...Now therefore, said Nathan the Prophet, **the sword shall never depart from your house**, because you have despised Me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife." II Samuel 11:1-5; 14-17; 26-27; II Samuel 12:10*

### I. Introduction

### II. Immediate Steps to Take After Experiencing Failure

#### 1. Be \_\_\_\_\_.

*"Why did you despise the word of the LORD by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own...Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own...**Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." Nathan replied, "The LORD has taken away your sin.** You are not going to die. But because by doing this you have made the enemies of the LORD show utter contempt, the son born to you will die." II Samuel 12:9-10; 13-14*

***"When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.** Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD"-- and you forgave the guilt of my sin." Psalm 32:3-5*

#### 2. Grapple with the \_\_\_\_\_ for your failure.

***"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all."** Isaiah 53:6*

- ✓ Arrogance (false sense of entitlement)
- ✓ Disobedience
- ✓ Prolonged weariness, fatigue or discouragement
- ✓ Taking grace and past victories for granted (**contrast I Peter 5:8**)
- ✓ Mere human weakness (**see Psalm 51:5**)

● **III. King David's Keys for Turning Things Around**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ what the Lord wants from you right now.  
"Behold, You desire truth **in the inward parts**, and in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom."  
Psalm 51:6

2. Begin to pray \_\_\_\_\_ prayers.  
"Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow...**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me**...Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me." Psalm 51:7; 10-11

"Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my thoughts; and **see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.**" Psalm 139:23-24

3. After a failure, make a conscious determination to \_\_\_\_\_.  
"**Restore to me** the joy of Your salvation, and **uphold me** by Your generous Spirit. **Then I will** teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners shall be converted to You." Psalm 51:11-13 (NKJV)

- o Get counsel
- o Attend Celebrate Recovery
- o Connect with other men of God
- o Live accountably and with transparency

4. \_\_\_\_\_ that God will deliver and restore you.  
"Let everyone who is godly pray to you while you may be found; surely when the mighty waters rise, they will not come near him. You are my hiding place; You shall preserve me from trouble; **You shall surround me with songs of deliverance**...he who trusts in the LORD, mercy shall surround him." Psalm 32:6-7; 10

- It will be done **His way** and in **His good time**
- Be courageous and "face the music" (II Samuel 12:14)
- Pay whatever price necessary to make amends (when & where possible and prudent)
- Allow this process to re-shape you from the inside out
- View this season as the formulation of your life story
- View this time as your new "beginning"—not a dead-end! (II Cor.5:17)

5. Begin to live pursuing and internalizing a set of \_\_\_\_\_.  
"You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would gladly give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. For the true sacrifices of God are **a broken spirit---a broken and a contrite heart**---These, O God, You will not despise." Psalm 51:16-17

"...make every effort to add to your faith, virtue; knowledge; self-control; perseverance; godliness; brotherly kindness; and love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being barren and unfruitful in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But if anyone does not have them, he is **nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten** that he has been cleansed from his past sins...so, make your calling and election sure, for if you do these things you will never fall..." II Peter 1:5-11

## **Answer Key:**

### **II. Immediate Steps to Take After Experiencing Failure**

1. quick to repent
2. underlying reasons

### **III. King David's Keys for Turning Things Around**

1. understand and discern
2. serious and profound
3. live differently
4. You must believe
5. deeper realities and virtues

