

**A person's strength is not determined by their failures;
It is determined by their willingness to confront those failures. Through
repentance they will master life!**

By Rev. Callender

When we speak in terms of strength and failure it is obvious some standard of measurement must be used. If I have found anything to be true in life it is the inconsistency of mankind. When trying to please man the rules and guidelines change not only *from* person to person but also from day to day~ So how do we know when we have been strong or have failed?

The Bible, in the book of John: Chapter 1 shows us the Word of Creation who through all things were made. It only takes common sense to understand that the source of our being is the truth of our existence. Once Adam and Eve ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil Gen 3:3-5 at that very moment they were no longer innocent because at the same instant they broke the command their guilt *was* understood. Now we have inherited what I like to call the seed of self, planted in our nature through our ancestors by believing the lie. What is the lie? That they would not die (natural and spiritual death).

The paradox remains today and is exhibited by the truth of the law given through Moses and our rebellion to it. This Word of Truth that brings death has .come to us at the perfect time to bring life through grace allowing God's purpose to prevail through His sacrifice.

John 1:14(NIV)

14. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only who came from the father, full of grace and truth.

This Word made flesh came to show the Truth of God In our form that we may see and understand. The Word of truth, who is Jesus Christ, came to demonstrate the love God has for us. He contains the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil and His truth could not be ambiguous or subjective simply because the very word truth, nor even the concept of truth, would exist. Think about it!

We have not been created without purpose; therefore how we live according to that purpose determines our strengths and our failures!

However there is one very large problem. Because of the fall of man we are born in favor of our own desires. You could say with a nature that is in opposition to the Truth of our creation. Our original standard of truth and purpose were distorted resulting in mankind becoming their own standard. This original sin of self-exaltation is Satan's own.

He inspired it to Eve and being received by Adam condemns us all to the same sin. (Nature)

Sadly for mankind this understanding cannot be realized unless they first are humble enough to receive the Word of Grace and repent from the sin of self. How much pain and death must we experience before we look for an answer? We can however avoid what is called the second death (spiritual). The Lord said if we seek Him we will find Him but many live their lives in a subjective reality. This is the doctrine that all knowledge is restricted to the conscious self and its sensory states. Satan loves this because most are not aware of his existence and the enemy of our soul. They have no understanding about the seed of self we carry in us.

God also gave us a conscience through creation which we over ride so often that it becomes seared and truth is obscured. It's like having cataracts on the eyes of the heart. Satan at times even causes mankind to pervert the standard of faith needed to live by. Remember the goal of faith is love for God and our neighbor. All else fails when exposed by the Truth Himself. God's grace gives us the ability to repent from the lie in this present life or face truth of judgment in eternity.

This fact remains: No one can deliver themselves from death and the Judgment to follow. Yet this judgment is what becomes subjective. We know we cannot escape death to the body and still there are many who want God to accept them into heavenly places on the bases of their own thinking, radical faith, or religious traditions. That is if the idea of an afterlife ever presents itself and or is accepted. The Father's purpose is for us to become part of Him through Christ, who is our life, by the love expressed at the cross. God wants to put His Spirit in us but many refuse and suffer death to their eternal soul being subject to the lie that was believed so long ago. This is why Jesus came to deliver the message of life and the concept of a love greater than death. Love between God and man and mankind to their neighbor. This Word that must be preached.

Everyone needs to know and understand the comforting touch waiting for those who have failed because no one is without a sin nature. God has generously included all who accept salvation into His good purpose that starts now and continues into eternity. This salvation renews our spirit allowing us to see and walk in the wisdom of Jesus Christ and the forgiveness He delivered. His name means Deliverer of Salvation, the Messiah of God and His seal of eternal life is in the Spirit He gives us. Jesus brought this grace with Him and established the fact of its existence at the cross. A covenant of Love signed with His own blood which renews us to life. Through that blood we become children of God being born into an eternal family.

If anyone cares to examine they will see that the desires outside of God's purpose are never satisfied. Holding on to things such as anger, lust, disappointment or unbelief will keep them from walking in the glory ordained for them. Our judgment has been nailed to the cross.

After committing our lives to Christ nothing can separate us from His love. He has created us to enjoy life but not to be slaves to those desires which leave no room for selfless love. Eternity is not a time but a place all too permanent to be regretting the torment of rejecting salvation (the second death).

John 11 :25 (NIV)

25. Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies;

To be sure it is hard to look at ourselves in the light of God's truth and by far our hardest confrontation. But once doing so with humility and repentance we have inner peace and victory through the forgiveness of our sin. After we receive the indwelling Holy Spirit, the comforter promised by Jesus, we will find it easier to please God than man.

Meditate on this: Acceptance by the world is a driving force and mankind holds the whip. God's love is a leading force bringing comfort and security in the midst of trouble.

The Lord never changes or wavers in His integrity. We will always know our standing with Him because our conscience is brought to life, not for condemnation, but as a guide through the power of the Holy Spirit. Our strength now comes through repentance because we have the ability to face ourselves through grace. Our failures become lessons for victory and the opportunity for God to mature love (His life) in us. Those who accept this and do not lose heart will know and understand that they have chosen a Love that never fails!

1 Cor 15:55 NIV

15:55. "Where, O death is your Victory? Where, O death is your sting?"

Please read for yourself the Gospel of John Chapter 1, Verses 1 thru 17