

What should a believer do if he stumbles?

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1. The day when we believed in the Lord, He immediately lives in our hearts. We experienced our sins were forgiven and we were very close to God. How happy it was!

- In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory. (Ephesians 1: 13-14 ESV)
- If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9 ESV)

2. However, we are still living on earth and we face different challenges. Satan and the evil spirits use many things to tempt us to sins. Non-believers around us may say or do bad things that stimulate and affect us. Plus the memory of our sinning in the past and the reactions of our flesh, sometimes, we may fail and fall.

- Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. (1 Peter 5:8 ESV)
- And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. (Ephesian 2:1-3 ESV)

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3. If we really stumble and fall, what should we do? Would God abandon us?

- All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. (John 6:37 ESV)

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4. When we accepted the Lord with a true heart, we belong to God forever; we have become the children of the heavenly Father, and this relationship will never change. However, when we fail, we are not in a good condition, like we've fallen ill. Nevertheless, our identity has not changed.

- My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. (1 John 2:1-2 ESV)
- But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. (John 1:12 ESV)
- Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?" Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. (Hebrews 13:5-8 ESV)

5. We don't have to worry that God would love us less either. The Bible says God saves us and loves us to the end.

- Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. (John 13:1 ESV)
- [W]ho will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 1:8, ESV)
- Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. (Hebrews 7:25 ESV)

6. Unlike non-believers,

- A believer will not sin intentionally
- If a believer is weak and has accepted the temptation to do wrongs, he will feel troubled in his heart. Only that he might have no strength to make a change.
- A believer will not keep on sinning. He wants to repent and return to God's bosom.

- No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. (1 John 3:6 ESV)
- No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God. (1 John 3:9 ESV)
- But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him. (1 John 2:27 ESV)
- [A]nd since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins. (Hebrews 10:21-26 ESV)

7. A non-believer is separated from God because of sin. However, there is no separation between God and a believer. It's just that when we are weak, we turn away from God. We don't believe, and we don't return to Him. Therefore, we will feel distant from from God.

- Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. (Hebrews 10:19-23 ESV)

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8. How can we be restored and rise again?

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9. If we stumble and fall, we must remember God is still our Father. His love will never change. He is waiting for us to return and He will help us.

- And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. (Luke 15:20 ESV)

10. Another important truth is that the Lord's salvation has completely solved our problem of sins. This includes the sins before we believed in Him, and those that we committed after. All our sins are cleansed. The Lord always lives and prays for us in heaven.

- If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9 ESV)
- Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. (Hebrews 10:22 ESV)
- Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. (Hebrews 7:25 ESV)

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11. This is really good news! We don't need to be afraid of anything!

- What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. (Romans 8:31-34 ESV)

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12. Yes! We don't need to confess our sins to mend our relationship with God or to keep our identity as His children. However, we should not take sin lightly. We must repent with a sincere heart, knowing that when we sin, we wrong God and hurt His heart. Sometimes, it also hurts others and ourselves.

- Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. (Galatians 6:7-8 ESV)

- Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.” Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame. (1 Corinthians 15:33-34 ESV)

13. We need to turn to God, rely on Him and pray to Him. We need to think again the grace of God, the love of the Lord, His suffering on the cross and the price that He paid in order to have peace.

- Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? “My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him.” (Hebrews 12:1-5 ESV)

14. We need to have a good daily schedule so that we can draw near to God stably. We have to pray for ourselves, ask the Lord to keep us from temptations, and have keep our spirits strong.

- Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. (James 4:7-8 ESV)
- Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all

circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints. (Ephesians 6:10-18 ESV)

15. We should also be with other believers always, joining meetings, so that we can be nourished and support one another.

- The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace. (1 Peter 4:7-10 ESV)
- Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. (Hebrews 3:12-13 ESV)

16. Satan will accuse us, saying that we are not good. He also magnifies our failures. He wants us to think about our wrongs in the past; He wants to make us feel troubled and down, having shadows in our hearts. If so, we would easily lose heart and fall. Therefore, we must not listen to the lies of the enemy, but turn our minds back to God and think about His love.

- He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. (Romans 8: 32-37 ESV)

17. When we rely on the Lord, we can overcome Satan and temptations. We can overcome all!

- I can do all things through him who strengthens me. (Philippians 4:13 ESV)

18. We can also work for the Lord and bless the world.

- Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. (Ephesians 6:13 ESV)