

The Power of Compassion
"God's Compassion & My Failure"
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Pastor Michael T. Sawicki
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If you think you are standing strong, be careful not to fall.
1 Corinthians 10:12 (NLT)

Common Causes for Failure

1. Overestimating Our Strength

On the way, Jesus told them, "Tonight all of you will desert me. For the Scriptures say, 'God will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' 32 But after I have been raised from the dead, I will go ahead of you to Galilee and meet you there." 33 Peter declared, "Even if everyone else deserts you, I will never desert you." 34 Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, Peter—this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny three times that you even know me." 35 "No!" Peter insisted. "Even if I have to die with you, I will never deny you!" And all the other disciples vowed the same. Matthew 26:31-35 (NLT)

Pride precedes a disaster, and an arrogant attitude precedes a fall.
Proverbs 16:18 (GW)

2. Fearing Disapproval

Peter followed Jesus at a distance, right up to the courtyard of the high priest. He entered and sat down with the guards to see the outcome.... a servant girl came to Peter. "You also were with Jesus of Galilee," she said. But he denied it before them all. "I don't know what you're talking about," he said. Matthew 26:58, 69-70 (NIV)

Fearing people is a dangerous trap... Proverbs 29:25 (NLT)

3. Speaking Too Quickly

Later, out by the gate, another servant girl noticed him and said to those standing around, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth." Again Peter denied it, this time with an oath. "I don't even know the man," he said. A little later some of the other bystanders came over to Peter and said, "You must be one of them; we can tell by your Galilean accent." Peter swore, "A curse on me if I'm lying—I don't know the man!" And immediately the rooster crowed. Matthew 26:71-74 (NLT)

Don't shoot off your mouth, or speak before you think...God's in charge, not you—the less you speak, the better.
Ecclesiastes 5:2 (MSG)

How Does God Respond To My Failure

1. God Forgives Our Broken Heart

Immediately a rooster crowed. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken...And he went outside and wept bitterly. Matthew 26:74-75 (NIV)

The sacrifice God wants is a broken spirit. God...will not reject a heart that is broken and sorry for sin. Psalm 51:17 (NCV)

2. God Uses Our Failure To Help Others

Peter stood up...and in a loud voice he spoke to the crowd: "My fellow Jews, and all of you who are in Jerusalem, listen to me. Pay attention to what I have to say....Change your life. Turn to God and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, so your sins are forgiven. Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit..." Acts 2:14, 38 (MSG)