

March 22/23, 2025

"Faithfulness and Failure"

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**Beyond the
Weekend**

SPEND DAILY TIME WITH GOD AS YOU READ, THINK, PRAY + ACT.

2025 Focus: 50 Key Truths

Each Friday, explore a key truth about our Christian faith and how we can live in light of this truth.

Day 1 [Mark 14:27-31](#) | Faithfulness and Failure

Peter declared, "Even if all fall away, I will not." "Truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "today—yes, tonight—before the rooster crows twice you yourself will disown me three times." Mark 14:29–30

Jesus and his disciples are standing on the Mount of Olives when Jesus delivers some devastating news: "You will all fall away" ([Mark 14:27](#)). Jesus and the disciples had just shared a meal together when Jesus revealed that one of them would betray him. Now, Jesus makes plain that *all* of them would be unfaithful in following him. Though Peter and the other disciples are emphatic that they would never let Jesus down, time would unfortunately tell otherwise.

The disciples' overconfidence was part of what led to their failure. The same is true for us. Overconfidence is not the posture of faithfulness. Humility is. Humility recognizes one's frailty and fallenness and depends wholeheartedly on God. Pride leads to dependence upon self. Humility leads to dependence upon God. A humble posture will likely involve steps to protect oneself against unfaithfulness, such as setting up guardrails, seeking accountability and being honest. Such steps are a recognition of one's vulnerability and need for help in the fight for faithfulness. Humble people recognize they are capable of catastrophic failure and unfaithfulness and respond accordingly.

TODAY: Think about your own posture toward faithfulness. How might you be prone to overconfidence or pride? How could you live more humbly, recognizing your frailty and fallenness? Journal your reflections and commit to setting guardrails and seeking accountability to safeguard against unfaithfulness.

Day 2 [Mark 14:32-50](#) | Test of Faithfulness

"Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." Mark 14:38

After announcing their eventual fall, Jesus instructs his disciples to watch and pray with him. Each time Jesus returns to his disciples, though, he finds them sleeping on the job. Rather than being vigilant and alert, they are sleepy and unaware. The disciples remain ignorant of what is coming. As a result, when the moment of temptation comes, they each fall away and desert Jesus, just as he had predicted. Their failure to pray in the garden would lead to their eventual failure to stay faithful to Jesus.

Keeping watch and praying are essential practices for guarding our spiritual health. Jesus calls us today to watch and pray so we will not fall to temptation. The disciples fled when facing the consequences of following Jesus, and we might be tempted to do likewise. We may be tempted to flee when forgiving someone is hard. Or we may be tempted to give in when our faith is considered bigoted or narrow-minded. Or we may be tempted to

retreat in fear when given an opportunity to share the gospel. All of us will be faced with challenges along the road of following Jesus. Therefore, we must always watch and pray to stay faithful to Jesus.

TODAY: Commit to spiritual vigilance through prayer. Prayer is a primary means God has given us to humbly ask for his help—especially when life is hard and your energy is low. Use Jesus’s prayer as a model to ask God for help to stay faithful to him in challenges. “Abba Father, everything is possible for you, including _____...Yet not what I will, but what you will. Help me stay faithful to you.”

Day 3 [Isaiah 53:4-6](#) | The Faithful One

“Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.” Isaiah 53:4-5

Isaiah wrote about a suffering servant who would come and give his life as a sacrifice for sin roughly 700 years before the time of Christ. This suffering servant would be pierced for our transgressions and crushed for our iniquities ([Isaiah 53:5](#)). Jesus later announces that he was arrested and sent to the cross so that Scriptures like [Isaiah 53](#) could be fulfilled. Jesus’s suffering and death would pay our punishment and ultimately set us free from sin and death.

Jesus’s faithfulness through his death and resurrection means we can be free from the penalty and power of sin and experience true and lasting peace. Jesus, the faithful one, died and rose from the grave so the unfaithful ones (us) could be forgiven, granted new hearts and given eternal life. This is what Jesus, the faithful suffering servant, is offering to all who receive him by faith.

TODAY: Rejoice that Jesus, the faithful one, has come to rescue us, the unfaithful ones. This is the gospel, the good news of who Jesus is and what he has done. Have you received this good news? The Bible promises that all who call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved ([Romans 10:13](#)). If you have already received Christ as Savior, praise God with Ado Bible Worship singing “[Name Above all Names](#).” Consider these words: “The perfect sacrifice, your body broken, as you restored to us what sin had stolen.”

Day 4 [Mark 14:12-25](#) | Refined Faithfulness

“You will all fall away,” Jesus told them, “for it is written: ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.’ But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee.” Mark 14:27-28

Jesus issues his disciples a devastating warning: “You will all fall away.” Yet, he follows this up with a heart-restoring promise: “I will go ahead of you.” Though his disciples would be unfaithful, Jesus would remain faithful. He would restore and refine his followers even though they would fail in one of the most catastrophic ways possible. Instead of deserting them, Jesus forgives, restores and makes them new.

We have all failed. However, failure does not have to be final: “Though the righteous fall seven times, they rise again” ([Proverbs 24:16](#)). No matter the nature or severity of our failures, the story is not over. God can and will use the pieces and experiences of our lives to make something whole and beautiful. As a result, it is important to respond appropriately after failure. Admit wrongdoing to God and others. Ask for forgiveness. Thank God for his mercy and active work, and then commit to being faithful now.

TODAY: Failure is a part of all our stories. Is there a failure that weighs you down? Ask God for forgiveness, being assured, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness” ([1 John 1:9](#)). Thank God for his mercy and renewing work. If, however, you feel stuck in failure, then reach out for help. Our care team would love to talk with you. You can email them at care@adabile.org.



Day 5 [Psalm 119:97-105](#) | Question 12: Approaching the Bible

Question: How should we approach the Bible?

Answer: We should approach the Bible as the final authority for faith and life and submit to its teachings.

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. Psalm 119:105

The psalmist captures the essential role of Scripture in guiding God's people. This metaphor of light illuminating a path was deeply meaningful to the original audience. They knew the dangers of traveling dark roads at night. Without God's Word lighting their life, they would stumble in darkness. The psalm expresses complete dependence on Scripture for direction, viewing it not as optional advice but as essential guidance for life's journey. This reflects the heart of someone who has come to know God through his Word and made God's Word their ultimate authority.

Today, we face countless voices competing for authority in our lives—culture, media, friends and our own desires. Like a light in the darkness, Scripture cuts through confusion to show us God and his truth. When we discover our thoughts or behaviors conflict with what God has said, we're called to submit to his voice above all others. This isn't blind compliance; it's trust that our Creator knows what's best for us. Making the Bible our authority means reading it regularly, seeking to understand it and intentionally aligning our lives with its teachings.

TODAY: Choose a specific area where you need God's guidance. Read his Word seeking direction, asking his Spirit to illuminate its truth for your situation. Submit any thoughts or actions that don't align with Scripture to God's authority. Thank him for providing clear guidance through his Word. Consider memorizing [Psalm 119:105](#) as a reminder of Scripture's role in guiding your life.