

## **Pastor's Weekly Devotional- March 24, 2016**

### **"Hope Beyond Failure"**

Rarely will one of God's heroes show up in the Scriptures having lived a life free of failure. Take Peter, for example. As soon as you read the name, you remember his story. Despite being with Jesus for more than three years, Peter experienced the "lows" of life and a heart-wrenching erosion of loyalty when he denied Christ. Not one. Not twice. Three Times. Once he realized his failure, the Bible says: "he went out and wept bitterly" (Luke 22:62).

Can you remember a failure that was so dramatic and so tearful for you? But as dark, as deep and as tragic your failure may be, the Lord is willing to go to the depths of it with you. As Betsie ten Boom said: "There is no pit so deep that the Lord is not deeper still!"

This was true of Peter too. Luke 22 tells us that Jesus did warn Peter of his upcoming failure. He knew Peter would fall; but Jesus reassured him that He (Jesus) had prayed for him that he would not remain fallen.

Jesus loved Peter even at the point of Peter's deepest weakness. He demonstrated this love after His resurrection. Sometime between the time Peter fell and the angelic announcement to the women of Christ's resurrection, there was a process during which Peter wallowed in remorse, wishing he could, if possible, correct his error...but he couldn't. But after the resurrection, Jesus went looking for Peter, who had returned to his old trade and reassured him that he was forgiven.

This can happen to you too. Just like fallen and forgiven Peter, you can find new hope despite your failures. It is never too late! It's not over until God says it's over! And God is a God of a second chance.

All of this is possible because of God's Grace and Mercy. Failure is not forever! God specializes in forgiveness and hope. He can use even your worst failures in a mighty way. It's never too late with God!

**Remember this Sunday is Easter Sunday:**

**Sunrise Service at 7:30 a.m.**

**Breakfast from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.**

**Easter Service at 10:00 a.m.**

See you in church Sunday.  
Pastor Sewdin