

God's Love When We Stumble

Text: James 3:2 (AMP)

For we all often stumble and fall and offend in many things. And if anyone does not offend in speech [never says the wrong things], he is a fully developed character and a perfect man, able to control his whole body and to curb his entire nature.

Stumble:

- To Offend
- To Err
- To Fall
- To Sin

Four Points

1. We all Stumble in Many Ways
2. "We," Includes the Prophets and Apostles
3. Stumbling and Offenses Will Happen in the Body
4. We All Must Pray to Watch Our Tongues

Point #1: We all Stumble in Many Ways

- I John 1:8 (AMP)
- James 2:10 (AMP)

I John 1:8 (AMP)

If we say we have no sin [refusing to admit that we are sinners], we delude and lead ourselves astray, and the Truth [which the Gospel presents] is not in us [does not dwell in our hearts].

James 2:10 (AMP)

For whosoever keeps the Law [as a] whole but stumbles and offends in one [single instance] has become guilty of [breaking] all of it.

Point #2: "We," Includes the Prophets and Apostles

- Numbers 20:10-11 (NIV)
- II Samuel 11:1-4 (NIV)
- Galatians 2:11-14 (KJV)

Moses Stumbled in Anger ~ Numbers 20:10-11 (NIV)

10 He and Aaron gathered the assembly together in front of the rock and Moses said to them, "Listen, you rebels, must we bring you water out of this rock?"

11 Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with his staff. Water gushed out, and the community and their livestock drank the earth.

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David Stumbled in Lust ~ II Samuel 11:1-4 (NIV)

1 In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king's men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem.

2 One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful,

3 and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, "She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite."

4 Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her. (Now she was purifying herself from her monthly uncleanness.) Then she went back home.

Peter Stumbled in Racism ~ Galatians 2:11-14 (KJV)

11 But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed.

12 For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision.

13 And the other Jews dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation.

14 But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before *them* all, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews?

Point #3: Stumbling and Offenses Will Happen in the Body

- Philippians 4:2-4 (AMP)
- Acts 15:36-40 (KJV)
- Matthew 18:6-7 (KJV)

Philippians 4:2-4 (AMP)

2 I entreat *and* advise Euodia and I entreat *and* advise Syntyche to agree *and* to work in harmony in the Lord.

3 And I exhort you too, [my] genuine yokefellow, help these [two women to keep on cooperating], for they have toiled along with me in [the spreading of] the good news (the Gospel), as have Clement and the rest of my fellow workers whose names are in the Book of Life.

4 Rejoice in the Lord always [delight, gladden yourselves in Him]; again I say, Rejoice!

Acts 15:36-40 (KJV)

36 And some days after Paul said unto Barnabas, Let us go again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, *and see* how they do.

37 And Barnabas determined to take with them John, whose surname was Mark.

38 But Paul thought not good to take him with them, who departed from them from Pamphylia, and went not with them to the work.

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39 And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other: and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus;

40 And Paul chose Silas, and departed, being recommended by the brethren unto the grace of God.

Matthew 18:6-7 (KJV)

6 But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and *that* he were drowned in the depth of the sea.

7 Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!

Point #4: We All Must Pray to Watch Our Tongues

- James 3:2-10 (AMP)
- James 1:26 (AMP)
- Proverbs 10:19 (KJV)
- Proverbs 21:23(AMP)

James 3:2-10 (AMP)

2 For we all often stumble *and* fall *and* offend in many things. And if anyone does not offend in speech [never says the wrong things], he is a fully developed character *and* a perfect man, able to control his whole body *and* to curb his entire nature. **3** If we set bits in the horses' mouths to make them obey us, we can turn their whole bodies about. **4** Likewise, look at the ships: though they are so great and are driven by rough winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the impulse of the helmsman determines. **5** Even so the tongue is a little member, and it can boast of great things. See how much wood *or* how great a forest a tiny spark can set ablaze! **6** And the tongue is a fire. [The tongue is a] world of wickedness set among our members, contaminating *and* depraving the whole body and setting on fire the wheel of birth (the cycle of man's nature), being itself ignited by hell (Gehenna). **7** For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea animal, can be tamed and has been tamed by human genius (nature).

8 But the human tongue can be tamed by no man. It is a restless (undisciplined, irreconcilable) evil, full of deadly poison. **9** With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse men who were made in God's likeness! **10** Out of the same mouth come forth blessing and cursing. These things, my brethren, ought not to be so.

James 1:26 (AMP)

If anyone thinks himself to be religious (piously observant of the external duties of his faith) and does not bridle his tongue but deludes his own heart, this person's religious service is worthless (futile, barren).

Proverbs 10:19 (KJV)

In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips *is* wise.

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Proverbs 21:23 (AMP)

He who guards his mouth and his tongue keeps himself from troubles.

A sharp tongue is a weapon, no less as effective as a pointed spear or a sword honed to a razor's edge. A sharp tongue has no place among the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). It does not express love, spread joy or promote peace. It shows no patience, kindness or goodness in its words.

It betrays faithfulness and gentleness, and most of all, it shows no measure of self-control. My sharp tongue has been a contradiction to the convictions I have expressed nearly all my life. I never saw it until I had to come face to face with the jabs, slices, and pricks of other sharp tongues, and to feel the fires they started within me. I would beg the Father for understanding, of why such communication should exist and why I should receive it with such bitterness—until I finally saw, as David did, that I am the guilty one.

Psalms 103:9-11 (KJV)

9 He will not always chide: neither will he keep *his anger* for ever.

10 He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.

11 For as the heaven is high above the earth, *so* great is his mercy toward them that fear him.

Lamentations 3:22 (KJV)

It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

RESPONSE TO THE INVITATION OF FAITH:

1. HEAR the GOSPEL ~ Romans 10:17

So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God.

2. BELIEVE ~ Hebrews 11:6

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he that cometh to God must believe that He is and He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.

3. REPENT ~ Luke 13:3

I tell you nay; but except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish.

4. CONFESS ~ Matthew 10:32-33

Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

5. BE BAPTIZED ~ Acts 22:16

And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

6. BE FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH ~ Revelation 2:10

Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.