

September 11, 2022 – CHRIS LINDBERG

MOVING BEYOND YOUR PERSONAL FAILURES

Big Idea

We've all done things we're not proud of, and we allow those failures to keep us tethered to our past. Maybe you feel a real heaviness in your heart because of your sexual past. Maybe you were younger, and you did some things that you thought were fun and right, but now you have baggage and shame and guilt, or perhaps for you, there's an area of your life that you keep missing in, and you go to God, and promise you would never do it again and you're suitable for a week, maybe two, but then you find yourself doing it again. A lot of us feel like King David when he said in Psalms 38.4, he said: "My guilt has overwhelmed me like a burden too heavy to bear."

We have to understand the truth that **every saint has a past, and every sinner has a future!** Every person that God is using around the world today, in whatever capacity have a history that, through the power of Christ, God has helped them to overcome some failures, and every sinner we have a future. By the power of the Spirit of God, the Lord is going to help you to break free from those chains that are trying to tether you back to an unfortunate past to your failures, those chains are going to be broken.

The reality is that there's gold on the inside of you. There's destiny on the inside of you. There are dreams that God placed in you when you were just a youth that you have yet to step into, and the reason you haven't is that you've been tethered back to the mistakes of your past. It's time for you to stand, it's time for you to lead, it's time for you to lead that group. It's time for you to start that business. It's time for you to rise and lead your family. It's time for you to be what God has called you.

Pastor Chris gave us three principles to move beyond our personal failures:

1. **Your biggest sins are not too big for God's grace:** Since God has forgiven you, you should forgive yourself. *"If we confess our sins, (God) is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."* 1 John 1:9
2. **You're not what you've done. You're who God says you are:** Just because you failed at something does not mean that you are a failure. *"Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!"* 2 Corinthians 5:17
3. **You can't change your past, but with Christ you can change your future:** Every saint has a past, every sinner has a future. You can't start the next chapter of your life if you keep re-reading the last one. Follow the principle in Philippians 3:12-15 – *"Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead"*

Scripture

- "If we confess our sins, (God) is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9 (NIV)
- "Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!" 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)
- "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more." Jeremiah 31:34 (NIV)

Discussion Question

What are the past mistakes that keep preventing you to move forward?

Whenever you need to overcome a situation, what is your source of courage and strength? Is it the word of God or your own abilities?

Prayer Focus

Dear Lord, you are amazing. I know you forgive my sins and failures. Now I want to live the life you have for me. All those things are in the past and I know you made me new. I'm who you say I'm. I love you and trust your Holy Spirit to guide me. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Next Steps

Identify past situations that keep you tethered and prevent you from moving forward and live God's purpose to you. Believe you are forgiven, God made all things new, and you are not what happened in your past. God made you new creation, you have the Holy Spirit in you, and He enable you to live His plans.

Leader Tip

Encouragement! Everyone need to understand that failure is not a final sentence. God has new opportunities for us every day and He will have it for all those who want to live a transformed life.