

How can I claim to love God when I fall so easily?

This letter is from a struggling Christian, age 22, and married. When he was a teenager, he was rebellious, drinking and being free sexually. He then turned to God and dedicated his life to serve the Lord. He relates: "However, I regularly feel like an impostor because of my past. My wife really struggles with and is hurt by my past and recently I have been recalling many of my mistakes and am haunted with memories, images, and desires that I hate. I hear all these messages on being a 'new creation' (1 Cor. 5:17) and that someone in God cannot continue to sin. Yet I constantly struggle with my thoughts, and find myself losing the fire and confidence in God I had a year ago. I question my motives for serving God, and every time I think of selfish and sinful things I question my salvation. . . . How can I claim to love God when I fall so easily? . . . I can't seem to shake off the chains of my past. . . . My wife wouldn't understand me if I said these things, and I don't have any strong Christians that I am close enough to, to share these thoughts. I tell God everyday, all the time, in my prayers and thoughts. So, I'm telling complete strangers over the internet. I don't expect you to have all these answers, I know that ultimately God will work it out,(but) I'm just having a hard time. (Rom. 8:28) I could use an encouraging word and some prayer if you have the time."

Dear Struggling Christian,

Thank you for your letter and for unburdening yourself. Please do not be too hard on yourself. The mere fact that you are aware of your short comings and failures is a very positive step. You are asking God to forgive you and to give you strength to overcome and to improve. Your doubts and struggles are not uncommon. Many, many Christians experience similar trials of the flesh. But often these struggles are not discussed. Satan would like us to be discouraged. He would like us to say, "What is the use? Why bother? I'm not worthy." But we know that it is the Father himself who has called us. He knows our hearts and the love we have for Him. He would never call anyone who was not able to overcome, with HIS HELP. On our own we would fail. But He has provided many promises throughout the Scriptures to aid us in our Christian walk. Please know that we are praying for you and that we will respond to you again in depth. Please continue to keep looking up. God is always there for us. He never, never forsakes us. Stay very close to Him in prayer and He will strengthen you.

Below are just a few of the many promises God has given us as we walk this narrow, but wonderful way. We hope and pray they will uplift and encourage you.

I can do everything THROUGH HIM who gives me strength. Phil. 4:13

Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness. Lam. 3:22-23

For I am the LORD, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you. Isa. 41:13

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you: he will never leave you nor forsake you. Deut. 31:6

But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. Isa. 40:31

My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. 2 Cor. 12:9-10

And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted he will provide a way out so that you can stand up under it. 1 Cor. 10:13

My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. Psa. 73:26

Let us then approach the throne of grace WITH CONFIDENCE, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in our time of need. Heb. 4:16

When I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the LORD shall be a light unto me. Micah 7:8

BEING CONFIDENT of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Phil. 1:6

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking any thing. James 1:2-4

Jesus, our Big Brother, who experienced everything we are experiencing when he walked upon this earth, has promised to help us and give us rest, if we but call upon him. "Come to me, all you who are weary and BURDENED, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Matt. 11:28-30

**Praying with you,
Christian Questions Radio**

Reply from A Struggling Christian

Thank you so much for your prayers and your response. Things are much improved from my first letter. I really don't know what to say other than I'm very grateful for your

prayers because I know how powerful they are! May God bless you in your radio ministry. Thank you again so much for letting me have the opportunity to share.