



**Volume XL**

**February 13, 2024**

**"...a net...cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind." Matthew 13:47**

**Number 1**

**LEARNING HOW TO REBOUND**—I was reading a copy of one of the papers we have in the USA, *The Wall Street Journal*. A staff reporter had an article in the paper entitled "Why Do Managers Fail?". The author commented on a survey done by the Center of Creative Leadership, and listed the five common causes of business failure. I couldn't help but see that these match what we face in Christian circles today.

The **first** was an inability to get along. Managers are not good listeners, they can't take criticism, and they viewed conflict as something bad. Sounds like us, doesn't it? Pastors, people, deacons, trustees, teachers—whichever.

The **second** was failure to adapt, with businesses trying to work as if they were back in the 1920s. Now business principles are the same but procedures are different. The same is true for us as Christians. When I was first saved you could knock on door after door and it wasn't long before you found someone God had been dealing with who wanted to be saved. Today you can go door after door and no one is concerned about their spiritual condition and many even boldly proclaim they don't believe in God.

The **third** was failure to evaluate themselves. The writer said some managers require recognition and elevating to continue. When you evaluate that, it stinks, does it not? Managers (leaders) who elevate themselves rather than the business (God's work) cause failure.

The **fourth** was fear of action. Managers are able to develop ideas and plans that look good, but they are unable to sell these ideas and plans to others. As far as Christians, the same is true. We often know a lot of the Bible and it is in our hearts, but we need to ask God for strength and the power of the Holy Spirit to be able to get it out to others.

The last, or **fifth** thing was inability to rebound. Unable to weather a setback or handle a failure, managers tried to conceal it, blame other people, bury the problem. Oh, as pastors, missionaries, evangelists, church leaders, even as Christians, we fall by the wayside and we're not getting up. We have to get up!

Look at Acts 14:20, 22. Paul is in an area called Lystra. He has a number of folks stirred up and they drew him outside the city and stoned him. They supposed he was dead. Why did they think he was dead? Well, he quit wiggling! Talk about rebounding—the Bible says "...he rose up..."! He exhorted others to "...continue in the faith...". Continue on! Get up out of your problem. Rise up. As far as the situation you are in, you may fall but you must rise up. The Saviour did this for us.

I'm going to give you a few practical things I've learned the hard way. From time to time we are going to fall. Sometimes it is just a trick of Satan. Sometimes someone sticks out a spiritual foot in front of us and we fall. Sometimes we fall when it comes to the matter of sin or temptation. A fall always hurts. To rebound consider

these three things.

**Number one**, always leave hurt or keep hurt on the surface. You say, "I don't know what you are talking about." As far as Paul is concerned, it says in verse 20, "...he rose up, and came into the city...". He went right back into the city and preached the gospel. My friend, if I had been Paul what would have been written about me would be "he rose up, looked at all his wounds, went to the hospital and his wounds were severe and he had to have medication across areas of his arms, he had arms broken, he had a concussion...". The entire account would have been something about how the stoning affected me! Paul could have repeatedly told the disciples, "I'm hurting! I'm hurting!" But he does not even mention this. He kept hurt on the surface.

Don't take things personally. If someone contacts me and says, "Preacher, I think your preaching stinks!" If you don't watch, you'll be hurt. The same is true of family relationships, husband-wife, parent-child. If you're going to live for God and if you are going to rebound, you're going to have to keep hurt on the surface. You say, what do you mean? Don't let hurt sink to your heart. Don't let it go down to the heart and soul of your being whereby it casts you to the sidelines.

**Number two**, get back up again as you examine and admit the problem. As you keep hurt on the surface, examine it and admit the problem. Don't cover it up. The writer said managers blame other people for their problems. We do that. "It's my wife, it's my husband, it's the preacher, it's my boss." Examine the situation. If it is sin look at it in the light of God's Word. Be like David, who prayed, "*Against thee and thee only have I sinned...*". Then he said, "*Restore unto me...*". He is saying, "Help me to get back up again." Examine the situation; admit the problem. You have to ask God to look on the inside.

**Number three**, leave failure behind. Satan always sticks it in front of us. You have to learn how to leave failure behind. Paul says in Philippians 3:13, "...forgetting those things which are behind...". What if Paul continually thought about his past life? What if he thought about the times he had beaten God's children till he made them curse and blaspheme? Or when he signed his name to have them killed? He would never have accomplished anything for the Lord. You have to forget it; leave it behind; don't dwell on it; get on the other side of it. Ask God to help you with a new plan as you leave failure behind.

—AWM

**Editor's Note:** This article was originally a Fisher-Mund radio broadcast in April 1994, later printed as a pamphlet by Dr. Paul Heaton, Bible Baptist Church, Lupton MI, edited in 2024 for print here.

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**SECOND WIND**—Psychologists speak of a second wind. The phrase, of course, comes from the racecourse. A runner is almost exhausted—every nerve is taut, the last ounce of strength is fast dwindling. Suddenly the goal looms in sight. From the sidelines rises a storm of cheers!

And from somewhere the racer lays hold of reserve power he did not know he had, and in a last mad dash sweeps through to triumph. He found his second wind!

Something like this was in the mind of Woodrow Wilson during his strenuous years of public service, when someone suggested that he might wreck his constitution. "Constitution!" the president replied, "I'm living on my by-laws!"

The deepest secret of this second strength is not hidden in physiology or psychology. Paul said in 2 Corinthians 12:10, "...for when I am weak, then am I strong". Paul had some sort of depressing weakness which he called his "thorn in the flesh". It harassed him, cut down his power, so he thought. But to this prayer for its removal, God answered, "...my strength is made perfect in weakness..." (2 Corinthians 12:9). That seems a strange doctrine in this age of fitness and efficiency, but it is the principle of the second wind. Only when a man comes to the end of his own little inch does he reach the beginning of God's infinity. Man's extremity is God's opportunity and sometimes He lets us exhaust our little capital, wear out our pitiful endurance, that we may catch second wind from the resources of His Spirit. For when we are weak in ourselves we are strong in Him.

Most of us run poorly the race that is set before us because we run upon our first wind. There is a dependence, perhaps unconscious, upon our own faith, our own endurance, our own goodness. It will be well for us if our earthly props are all swept aside and we lose our first wind. Sometimes a man must be thrown upon his back before he will look up. Then we may see how helpless and undone we are, how insufficient our gasping strides, and lay hold upon the hidden reserves of the Eternal.

What a secret we have in the Lord! The weaker in ourselves, the stronger in Him. The more we suffer, the sweeter we sing. The greater our trouble, the brighter our triumph. The world cannot say that, for when its first wind is exhausted it has no other.

Second wind! Have you found it?

--October 28, 1934 Vance Havner

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**ROMANS 8:28**—There is a story about a king in Africa who had a close friend he grew up with. The friend had a habit of remarking "This is good!" at every occurrence in his life whether positive or negative.

One day the king and his friend were on a hunting expedition. The friend loaded and prepared the guns for the king. After taking a gun from his friend, the king fired it and his thumb was blown off. Examining the situation the friend remarked as usual, "This is good!" To which the king replied, "No, this is NOT good!" And he proceeded to send his friend to jail.

About a year later the king was hunting in an area of cannibals. They captured him and took him to their village. They tied his hands, stacked some wood, set up a stake and bound him to the stake. As they came near to set fire to the wood, they noticed that the king was missing a thumb. Being superstitious, they never ate anyone who was less than whole, so untying him they sent him on his way. As he returned home he was reminded of the event that had taken his thumb and

felt remorse for his treatment of his friend. He went immediately to the jail to speak with his friend.

"You were right," he said. "It was good that my thumb was blown off." He proceeded to tell his friend all that had just happened. "And so I am very sorry for sending you to jail for so long. It was bad for me to do this."

"No," his friend replied, "this is good!" "What do you mean? How could it be good that I sent my friend to jail for a year?" "If I had NOT been in jail, I would have been with you!"

*"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose."*

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**THE BIBLE, A BOOK ABOUT JESUS**—He is everywhere in Scripture.

--The Alpha and Omega (Revelation 1:8)

--The Anointed One (Psalm 2:2)

--The LORD of LORDS (Revelation 19:16)

--The Prince of Life (Acts 3:15)

--The Mighty God (Isaiah 9:6)

--The BRANCH (Zechariah 6:12)

--The Bright and Morning Star (Revelation 22:16)

--The Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6)

--The Christ (Matthew 1:16)

--The Master and Lord (John 13:13)

--The Everlasting Father (Isaiah 9:6)

--The Door (John 10:9)

--The Good Shepherd (John 10:14)

--The I Am (John 8:58)

--The True Vine (John 15:1)

--The Word (John 1:1)

--The Lamb of God (John 1:29)

--The KING of KINGS (Revelation 19:16)

--Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14)

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**CURRENT STATISTICS**—A Gallup poll from May 2023 reports the change in statistics from 2001 to 2023.

Belief in God - 90%/74%

Belief in Heaven – 83%/67%

Belief in Satan – 68%/58%

Adults aged 55 and over were most likely to believe in each of them. Least likely to believe were those aged 18-34.

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**FISHY QUESTION**—December's edition asked what city is 3/7 chicken, 2/3 cat, and 2/4 goat? CHICAGO! Put on your thinking cap and guess the next three letters in the series GTNTL \_\_ \_\_ \_\_.

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#### **FISHY WORDPLAY**

--What do you call a bagel that flies? A plain bagel.

--Time flies like an arrow; fruit flies like a banana.

--Never trust an atom; they make up everything.

--What do you call the wife of a hippie? Mississippi.

--What do you call an alligator in a vest? An investigator.

--What washes up on tiny beaches? Microwaves.

--Why are frogs so happy? They eat what bugs them.

--Why was the baby ant confused? Because all his uncles were ants!

--A man sued an airline company after it lost his luggage. Sadly, he lost his case.