

God's Specialty

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Abraham failed badly. Twice he lied and claimed that his wife was his sister. Another time he got ahead of God's plan and had a child by one of his servants. And yet God saw the good in Abraham and made him the father of a great nation.

Moses failed badly. He lost his temper and murdered another man. He balked at God's calling to lead the people of Israel. He became angry so many times while leading the Israelites toward the Promised Land that God finally refused to let him go in. And yet no one in the Old Testament is more revered than Moses.

David failed badly. Although he did almost everything correctly in God's eyes, he committed one gigantic sin. He had an adulterous affair with his neighbor, and then tried to cover it up by having her husband murdered. But in spite of his failings, God recognized him as a man after His own heart and made him the ancestor of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Peter failed badly. He stuck his foot in his mouth so many times that he probably had spiritual foot and mouth disease. He denied the Lord at the crucifixion. He acted hypocritically with the Gentile Christians (Galatians 2:11-13). And yet God used Peter to become one of the key founders of the early church.

We have all failed God to one degree or another. But God still sees the potential we have and calls us to become an active part of His church. In fact, if God wrote off everyone who ever sinned, there would be no hope and heaven would be empty.

We should follow God's example by looking for the good in people instead of rushing to point out their weaknesses. Romans 15:1-2 offers some godly advice: *"We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not please ourselves."* Instead of cutting down the one who fails, we are "to build him up."

But what should we do if we fail? Many people who fail become their own worst enemy. Instead of correcting their behavior and moving on, they rehash their shortcomings over and over with whoever will listen.

While we are not to become content with failure, we ought to try to see ourselves as God sees us. Once we understand that Jesus came to earth to save sinners, we begin to understand that we are never too bad for God to love us and to change us.

Jesus said, *"It is not the healthy that need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but the sinners"* (Matthew 9:12-13).

In other words, the whole reason that Jesus came was to find those who have failed and renew them into a right relationship with God. As we are renewed in Christ, God gives us His strength so that we can live more according to his plans and commandments.

Persons who believe they have to be perfect before they commit their lives to Christ miss the whole point of the Bible. God specializes in using failures. He cannot on the other hand, do much for those who feel they are so good that they do not need His help.