

# The Way Back

By Bob Honeysett



If God were in the habit of tearing his hair out every time we fell into sin, my life would have rendered him totally bald. Aren't you thankful that He is aware and prepared for the fact that as human beings we tend to be messy? In spite of all His work in my heart and all of the Godly truths I know, he knows that left to myself, I am prone to bad choices and bent toward addiction. In Him, I am more than a conquerer, it's true! Apart from him, I'm a train wreck waiting to happen.

Enough about me, how about you? Have you come to grips with your messiness? Do you know what you're capable of apart from Him? I hope so! Unless you know your dark side and are willing to bring it into the light, you'll never find the healing Jesus died to give you.

Have you fallen into sin and just can't get over the condemnation and remorse? Maybe you struggle with some life controlling habit or sin. You work, you pray, you trust, but you just can't break through victory. Proverbs 24:16 can be your comfort today - *"Though the righteous fall seven times, they will rise again."*

Take these words to heart today and know that God is not angry with you. He does not condemn you. He doesn't react as an angry father. He's just concerned with you coming home and letting Him deal with your wounds and hurts, so that they can be healed.

In your heart, you may be saying, "I've strayed too far this time. There is no way back for me." That's a lie! I have a friend in Texas that has a tremendous dependence on their GPS to get them around town. They plug in the destination, and they let this machine guide them from point A to point B. When they stray off course and make a wrong turn, the GPS doesn't chide or judge them, or shut off and refuse to take them the rest of the way. It simply recalibrates the path and works to get them back on course.

Have you ever noticed that broken people do crazy things? Let's use King David as an example! David strayed way off the course God had planned out for him. He had a heart for God, but he also had a dark side that was hidden underneath his royal robes. His wandering eye was a stumbling block to him. He committed adultery with Bathsheba, got her pregnant, and then tried to cover his sin to soap opera proportions by deciding the only way out was to have her husband killed. Certainly, that was a better option than being honest, coming clean, and facing the consequences of his actions.

In spite of all the godly truths David knew, he still went into crazy mode to keep his sin covered. In the end, it profited him nothing, because God sent Nathan to stage an intervention and drag David's dark side into the light, so it could be dealt with. It's interesting to note what David verbalized about himself after Nathan the prophet blew the lid off of his secrets.

*“Generous in love - God, give grace! Huge in mercy - wipe out my bad record. Scrub away my guilt, soak out my sins in your laundry. I know how bad I've been; my sins are staring me down. You're the One I've violated, and you've seen it all, seen the full extent of my evil. You have all the facts before you; whatever you decide about me is fair. I've been out of step with you for a long time, in the wrong since before I was born. What you're after is truth from the inside out. Enter me, then; conceive a new, true life. Soak me in your laundry and I'll come out clean, scrub me and I'll have a snow-white life. Tune me in to foot-tapping songs, set these once-broken bones to dancing. Don't look too close for blemishes, give me a clean bill of health. God, make a fresh start in me, shape a Genesis week from the chaos of my life. Don't throw me out with the trash, or fail to breathe holiness in me. Bring me back from gray exile, put a fresh wind in my sails! Give me a job teaching rebels your ways so the lost can find their way home. Commute my death sentence, God, my salvation God, and I'll sing anthems to your life-giving ways. Unbutton my lips, dear God; I'll let loose with your praise. Going through the motions doesn't please you, a flawless performance is nothing to you. I learned God-worship when my pride was shattered. Heart-shattered lives ready for love don't for a moment escape God's notice. Make Zion the place you delight in, repair Jerusalem's broken-down walls. Then you'll get real worship from us, acts of worship small and large, Including all the bulls they can heave onto your altar!” (Psalm 51—The Message)*

He simply confessed what God already knew about him, sought mercy, and asked to be restored. In other words, David came to grips with his messiness. God didn't force him into a self-imposed purgatory to work for forgiveness, He recalibrated his path, got him back on track, and he became known as a “man after God's own heart.”

If you're sitting in the darkness of depression and shame, please know that God the Father, your heavenly GPS, is working right now to recalibrate your path so you can reach your destination safely. He is not chiding, judging, screaming or accusing. He is leading, guiding, cheering and encouraging every step that you take back to Him. Your sins may be staring down at you today, but so is Jesus and His heart of mercy and compassion. He can take the chaos you've created for yourself and help you to find the way home. Yes, you may have to live through some consequences, and there's no guarantee that the way back is going to be easy, but you do have the promise that His Spirit will be with you every step of the way.

My prayer is that the Lord gives you the grace to see who you are without Him, the forgiveness you have through Him, and the potential you have in Him, so you find yourself continually before His throne of grace, trading in your failures and weaknesses for the strength and victory that He offers to you through His Son.

Finally, I feel the need to put the lie “I've strayed too far this time. There is no way back for me,” in its place. In the immortal words of Corrie Ten Boom, who suffered through the horror of a World War, confinement to a concentration camp, and the loss of her family, **“There is no pit so deep, that God's love is not deeper still.”**<sup>1</sup>

Today, by His grace, you have the victory and YOU WILL rise again!

<sup>1</sup>The Hiding Place by Corrie ten Boom with John Sherrill and Elizabeth Sherrill, Chosen Press, 1971