

MARC'S REMARKS

Captain Comeback

There have been some amazing comebacks in sports. In the 1972 NFL playoffs, the 49ers had a comfortable lead, 28–13, going into the fourth quarter. The Cowboys' fumbling quarterback was replaced by Roger Staubach, who led Dallas to a 30–28 victory. Staubach became known as "Captain Comeback."

The apostle Peter made an amazing spiritual comeback. This is how he did it.

- 1. Peter failed miserably.** His "game plan" had not included "trusting the Lord." Peter's chest-thumping bravado, "If everyone else stumbles, I won't," didn't save him from a humiliating downfall. Please note: We have *all* fallen, too!
- 2. Peter didn't give up.** He didn't go the "ultimate giving-up" route of Judas Iscariot. He didn't throw up his hands and walk away, as did so many others who found Jesus *too* controversial to follow (see John 6:61–69). He hung in there.
- 3. Peter made the appropriate adjustments.** The Lord hit Peter hard when he met him post-resurrection at the Sea of Galilee (John 21:15–19). And Jesus gave Peter a mission: "Feed my sheep." Peter didn't argue with the Master this time, but took up the challenge and kept it to the end. And so, too, must we!

—Chuck Durham

ABOUT US

Elders

Jack Calvert
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Sam McJunkins II

Deacons

Jon Barry
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Dave Massey
Phillip Moore

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SERVICE TIMES

Sunday

Bible Study . . . 9:30 A.M.
Worship 10:15 A.M.
Worship 6:00 P.M.

Wednesday

Bible Study . . . 7:00 P.M.

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THE PLAN OF SALVATION

Hear the word of truth Romans 10:13–17

Believe the truth Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24

Repent from all sins. Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38

Confess the name of Christ
. Matthew 10:32–33; Acts 8:35–39

Be baptized in His name
. Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21; Colossians 2:12

Walk in newness of life and **be faithful** unto death
. Romans 6:1–4; Revelation 2:10

Think on These Things

Franklin Drive Church of Christ

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Issue 32

Faith Defeats Discouragement*

W. Frank Walton

2. Morning Prayer and Praise. In beginning the day for spiritual encouragement, along with our Bible reading, our morning prayers help us breathe the pure air of heaven. "In the morning, O LORD, You will hear my voice; in the morning I will order my prayer to You and eagerly watch" (Ps 5:3). The Psalmist is encouraged with a sense of anticipating God's answer to his praise and prayer. Praise God for the infinite greatness of His being! "But as for me, I shall sing of Your strength; Yes, I shall joyfully sing of Your lovingkindness in the morning, for You have been my stronghold and a refuge in the day of my distress" (Ps 59:16). Instead of thinking of how big our problems are, we need to think of how much bigger our God is!

Here are some of the most encouraging prayers, uttered under discouraging circumstances, recorded in the Bible:

*This is the conclusion of last week's article.

- Hezekiah's prayer for God's deliverance from overwhelming Assyrian forces (2 Kgs 18:15–19).
- David's prayer in the wilderness flight from Saul (Ps 63).
- Moses' intercessory prayer for the erring Israelites (Num 14:11–20).
- Ezra's prayer for the Jewish remnant's sin (Ezra 9:2–15).
- Daniel's prayer for Jewish deliverance from Babylonian captivity (Dan 9:3–19).
- Jesus' High Priestly prayer for us under the shadow of the cross (John 17)/
- Paul's intercessory prison prayers for his brethren's spiritual welfare (Eph 1:15–23; 3:14–21; Phil 1:3–11; Col 1:9–14; Philem 4–7).

This is how to personally pray encouraging prayers in discouraging circumstances.

Thanks for worshipping with our church family!

FAMILY TALK

Our Condolences

Bob Woolsey passed away this past Tuesday morning. His memorial service was yesterday. We extend our condolences to his family. We will miss him.

SUNDAY MORNING

Announcements
John Haley

Song Leading
Jack Calvert

Lord's Supper
Bill Rinehart
Pete Rowland
Preston Ellis
Hayden Ellis

Prayers
Mark Davis
Bill Brittenham

Scripture Reading
Alex Spillers

Bulletins
John Marc Hinds
Caleb Rinehart

SUNDAY EVENING

Announcements
Jon Barry

Song Leading
Phillip Moore

Lord's Supper
Sonny Monaghan
Jackie Jamison

Prayers
Jack Calvert
Randy Ellis

WEDNESDAY

Announcements
Randy Ellis

Song Leading
Daniel Allgor

Prayers
Jon Barry
Dave Massey

Invitation
Marc Hinds

Faith Defeats Discouragement concluded from previous page

I also encourage you to worship God everyday in song (James 5:13). Have a song book at home, like *Hymns for Worship* (edited by R. J. Stevens and Dane Shepherd), for your personal devotion to God. “Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget none of His benefits” (Ps 103:2). Sing at least one song daily to God and watch your attitude improve!

3. Connect with Helpful Brethren. “The brethren, when they heard about us, came from there as far as the Market of Appius and Three Inns to meet us; and when Paul saw them, he thanked God and took courage” (Acts 28:15). Even the apostle Paul needed brethren with him to encourage and strengthen him in the faith (2 Tim 4:9, 11; Rom 1:12). I am so thankful that so many good brethren have encouraged me in the Lord through the years. We should not be a “Lone Ranger” with no one to talk to about our challenges. Even the Lone Ranger had Tonto.

When Jesus faced his discouraging sufferings, he

appreciated his disciples’ companionship (Luke 22:28). As Paul appreciated Philemon’s widespread example, I thank God for many “refreshing” brethren (Philem. 7).

It is helpful to find and cultivate relationships with spiritually-minded, edifying brethren who will help bring out the best in you.

In corporate worship, sit by those brethren who encourage you. Practice hospitality and have them in your home. Call them on the phone or connect by email or Facebook. Regularly talking with spiritually strong brethren has always helped enlarge my perspective, so I will not dwell on my little problems.

4. Keep Growing Closer to the Lord. So, we must not grow weary in well-doing, as Paul advises us, because we must focus on the everlasting reward of the Lord who always keeps His promises. “We shall reap if we faint not” (Galatians 6:9; cf. Heb 13:5–6). Paul shows us that He knew the Lord foremost

(2 Tim 1:12), and he didn’t allow his difficult imprisonment or the failures of his imperfect brethren to embitter him (2 Tim 4:16–18). See your discouraging problems as an opportunity to strengthen your relationship with the Lord.

Even the Lone Ranger had Tonto.

The gospel of the grace of God gives encouragement and assurance that we can be saved by obedient faith in Christ who is the uplifting Savior (1 Tim 1:15–16). “He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life” (Titus 3:4–6). If we give our imperfect selves to our perfect Lord, He can make us whole. How encouraging! 📖

Sermon Notes