

Sin and Seeking

Sooner or later as we seek God, we will find our failures becoming an issue between us and God. I said failure deliberately. For sometimes we have difficulty determining the difference between our human failure and specific sin.

There are sins that by God's grace we can repent of and forsake once for all. Among these are failures we had never before recognized as sins.

God reveals them to us, we verify from the Word, our consciences, and, perhaps, godly friends or counselors that they are, indeed, sins for us at this time.

These are relatively easily dealt with. And our quick and willing obedience gives us real joy in the Lord, and encouragement in our walk with Him.

We may also have failures not so readily defined as sins. These may not be major concerns to many people. If we can honestly treat them as we do sins and forsake them at once, the same benefits will be ours. If we can't, we may find them besieging our consciences and hindering our seeking the Lord. They then may fall into another category, what we sometimes call besetting sins. These are things that we can view as no less than failures, perhaps even sins that, no matter how many times we promise to change, we return to repeatedly.

If we're not careful, we may find them leading us to reduce our time with the Lord, and even ultimately to terminate our seeking Him.

God help us not to allow this to happen.

If ever we need to seek His face, it is at such a time.

We need to look squarely at ourselves and God. Let Him show us the reality of the situation, and, if we have failed Him or even sinned, let us remember that we will be always failing our God to a greater or lesser extent. Ask His forgiveness. Accept and receive His forgiveness and love. Return to living in Him and His righteousness imputed so fully and freely to us by His grace through His redemption and atonement applied to our sin and our need.

So we accept God's grace and mercy for the undeserving sinners we are, and rest in His peace, constantly desiring Him either to change our understanding of the issue or enable us to forsake the matter at stake.

What we must not do is live in killing guilt.

"If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his son cleanseth us from all sin." - I John 1:7

