

When We Fall ...

John 13:31-38; 18:15-16, 25-27; 21:15-17

Dr. Terry Carter

- I. We are never in greater danger of falling spiritually than when we think we can't.

- II. We generally fall when the pressure is the greatest.

- III. When we do fall, our forgiveness and restoration is found in Jesus.

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SUGGESTED DISCUSSION POINTS FROM JUNE 24, 2018 SERMON

1. Take some time to look at the account of Peter's call from Jesus (Matt. 4:18-21), the Transfiguration (Matt. 17:1-13), the garden experience (John 18:10-11) and other passages mentioning Peter's walk with Jesus. How would you describe his commitment? How do you think the other disciples would have described his loyalty to Jesus?

2. Why do you think Peter refused to allow Jesus to wash his feet earlier in John 13? (13: 6-9) What does that tell us about Peter's attitude?

3. What did Peter promise Jesus just before Jesus declared that he would betray his master? Do you think Peter truly meant what he said? What kind of attitude does Peter reveal? Why is that a dangerous attitude? (Proverbs 16:18)

4. In John 18 what kind of situation does Peter put himself into? Why would that setting be so hard on a believer trying to be faithful?

5. What happens to Peter in the courtyard? What is his immediate response when he realized he had denied Jesus three times? (Luke 22: 62) Why was he so heartbroken?

6. What does Jesus do to restore Peter? (John 21: 15-19) What evidence do we have biblically that Peter was indeed restored and followed Jesus with zeal?

7. Think of times when you have stumbled spiritually? Did you think it was possible when it happened? How did you feel afterward? How did you find your forgiveness and restoration? Have you fallen recently or even a long time ago and are still feeling the guilt and separation from God? What does Peter's story tell us about how we can find restoration and forgiveness?