

ANSWERS TO LIFE'S 7 MOST IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

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HOW TO START OVER WHEN I'VE BLOWN IT?

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Introduction: Everybody makes mistakes. Some of our mistakes are minor, but others are life-altering. Today we are going to discover four principles for starting over after we've blown it.

I. A_____Our Mistakes

A. Barriers to Admitting Our Mistakes

1. P_____ (Romans 3:23; 5:12)

Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Romans 5:12 "Therefore, just as through one man [Adam] sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned."

2. F_____ (Hebrews 4:13)

Hebrews 4:13 "And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do."

B. Benefits of Admitting Our Mistakes (Proverbs 28:13)

Proverbs 28:13 "He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion."

1. R_____ God's forgiveness

2. R_____ our physical and emotional _____ (Psalm 32:3-4; 5, 11)

Psalm 32:3-4 "³When I kept silent about my sin, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; ⁴ my vitality was drained away as with the fever heat of summer."

Psalm 32:5, 11 "⁵I acknowledged my sin to You and my iniquity I did not hide; I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord and You forgave the guilt of my sin. ¹¹Be glad in the Lord and rejoice you righteous ones, and shout for joy all you who are upright in heart."

3. L______ from our mistakes (Proverbs 10:17, 12:1, 28:13)

Proverbs 10:17 "Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid."

Proverbs 12:1 "He is on the path of life who heeds instruction, but he who ignores reproof goes astray."

Proverbs 28:13 "He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper but he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion."

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II. E_____ God's Forgiveness

Two Kinds of Forgiveness

A. J_____ Forgiveness (Psalm 32:1-2)

Psalm 32:1-2 "¹How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered! ²How blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity and in whose spirit there is no deceit!"

1. F_____ (Psalm 103:12)

Psalm 103:12 "As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us."

2. C_____ (Psalm 51:7)

Psalm 51:7 "Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow."

3. I_____ (Isaiah 64:6; 2 Corinthians 5:21)

Isaiah 64:6 "For all of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; and all of us wither like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away."

2 Corinthians 5:21 "He [God] made Him [Jesus] who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

B. P_____ Forgiveness (Isaiah 59:2; 1 John 1:8-10)

Isaiah 59:2 "But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear."

1 John 1:8-10 "⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us."

C. Why Do Forgiven People Still Hurt? (Psalm 119:67)

Psalm 119:67 "Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep Your word."

III. W_____ For God's Direction

A. The Need for "_____" (Acts 7:29-30)

Acts 7:29-30 "²⁹ Moses fled and became an alien in the land of Midian, where he became the father of two sons. ³⁰ After forty years had passed, an angel appeared to him in the wilderness of Mount Sinai, in the flame of a burning thorn bush."

B. The _____ of An "Intermission"

1. R_____ our emotional and physical energy (1 Kings 19:1-18)

2. R______ on our failure and our future

- (a) Reflective questions about your failure
- Have I really failed or just fallen short of an unrealistic goal?
- Is my failure the result of other people, adverse circumstances, or my own wrong choices?
- Whom do I know who has made the same mistake and recovered from it?
- What can I do differently in the future to prevent a similar failure?
- Is there anything in my life that is displeasing to God?
- (b) Reflective questions about your future
- What three things would I like to accomplish before I die?
- Am I in the vocation I want to be in ten years from now?
- What do I feel most passionately about in life?
- What do other people think I'm gifted to do?
- What would be an ideal day for me? (Where would I be living, what job would I have, what people would be around me?

IV. S_____ Over With A New Beginning

A. P______ for Your New Beginning (Proverbs 16:3, 20:18, 21:5)

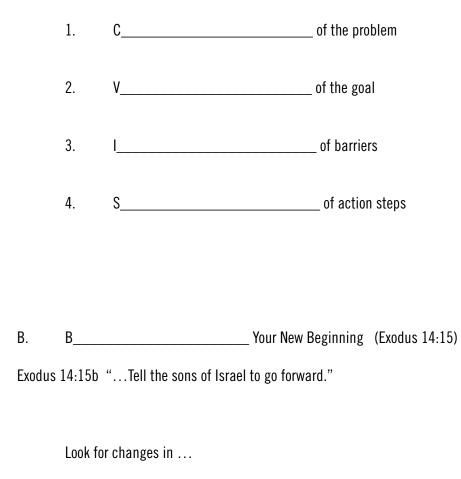
Proverbs 16:3 "Commit your works to the Lord, and your plans will be established."

Proverbs 20:18 "Prepare plans by consultation, and make war by wise guidance."

Proverbs 21:5 "The plans of the diligent lead surely to advantage, but everyone who is hasty comes surely to poverty."

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Components of Your New Beginning Script ...



- 1. Your _____
- 2. Your _____
- 3. Your _____

Conclusion