



ANSWERS TO LIFE'S 7 MOST IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

ROBERT JEFFRESS

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. Admitting Our Mistakes

A. Barriers to Admitting Our Mistakes

1. Pride (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. Fear (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."

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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. **Receiving** God’s forgiveness
2. **Renewing** our physical and emotional **vitality** (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; ⁴my 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. **Learning** 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. Experiencing God's Forgiveness

Two Kinds of Forgiveness

A. Judicial 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. Forgiven (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. Covered (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. Impute (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.

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B. **Parental** 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 “⁸If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If 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. **Waiting** For God's Direction

A. The Need for “**Intermissions**” (Acts 7:29-30)

Acts 7:29-30 “²⁹Moses fled and became an alien in the land of Midian, where he became the father of two sons. ³⁰After 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 **Benefits** of An “Intermission”

1. **Replenish** our emotional and physical energy (1 Kings 19:1-18)
2. **Reflect** on our failure and our future

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(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. **Starting** Over With A New Beginning

A. **Planning** 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. **Clarification** of the problem
2. **Visualization** of the goal
3. **Identification** of barriers
4. **Specification** of action steps

B. **Beginning** Your New Beginning (Exodus 14:15)

Exodus 14:15b "...Tell the sons of Israel to go forward."

Look for changes in ...

1. Your **attitude**
2. Your **emotions**
3. Your **circumstances**

Conclusion