

TRUE FAILURE and TRUE VICTORY

By Kelly Koshatka

What is success to God? Is it perfect behavior? Is it sinless perfection? Is it that we never fall or have any failures in our walk? Could there be something that is so valuable in God's heart that He was willing to die to bring it forth despite our weaknesses and failures?

When God joined to us, surely He knew we were going to have a lot of falls! I don't think the failures and falls surprise Him that much. He knows our frame. I think He is looking more at our hearts than at our smarts! His Word cries, "Oh Barren One, rejoice!!!" Oh fallen down one, lift up your head! God has already raised you up into His place of true victory. The place where you've already won because He's made you One!! God took a GREAT fall for us. A fall He didn't have to take when He joined Himself to us in the person of His Son. He became sin when He joined to us, which caused Him to know great and deep sufferings. But greater than bearing the shame of that death, the Lord's heart was set towards Jerusalem; the city that represents His Bride. Has God called you a failure, or has He called you Beloved? Has He called you outcast, or has He declared you to be joined to His Son? Isn't what is in His heart the only thing that matters? The Bible says that nothing can separate us from the Love of God in Christ. Are you so hidden away in this union that not even nakedness or tribulation can persuade you to leave Him! To know the love of God would expand our hearts and open up our spirits to unfathomable depths of grace!

We cry over blemishes and spots that His love based on the work of His Cross is washing away. If only we would look up and see the Husband who is taking care of His own Body. Not only could He never hate His Body, but everything in Him nourishes and cherishes her with love. (Eph. 5) He is scrubbing away the layers of dirt that cover over the new Life He has given us. There is no condemnation to those in Him, and His heart sings over us with strong declarations of a love union that will never end. His Word, His Oath, His Death and Resurrection all testify of His great love that has brought us into Christ Himself. Beloved, now are you the sons of God. Fear and torment comes from thoughts of separation that He has legally removed through His death.

Our falls become true failures when we allow them to separate us from the Lord. Our failure is not when we stumble, it is when we allow it to come between the Lord and us. We all have failures, but our victory comes when we choose to remain in His love. We have failed when we refuse to receive His Word. It is none of our desire to fall from grace, or to despise the Spirit of grace and discount the Blood of this covenant. But does it become difficult for you to simply receive such grace by faith? Are you offended with His goodness? Or have you found His heart as a place of refuge and favor that brings forth His Life!!!

Jesus is in the gathering business. He gathers the lambs in His arms close to his heart. He gathers the outcasts of Israel into Jerusalem, His City. He has gathered us into Himself in

His Death and Resurrection. Now we can allow Him to gather our hearts and understanding into His Heart and understanding. Jesus was found weeping over a people that had mocked and rejected him. His weeping was not because He was hurt by their sins, but because they would not allow Him to gather them into Himself, even as a mother hen gathers her chicks.(Mt.23:37) He did not come to condemn them, but to give them Life. (Jn 3:16-17) His motive is love, and not punishment. If His motive in relationship with us was to judge and condemn us based on our sins, then why did He bear all our punishment for us on His Cross?

John, the Apostle of love, spent time on the Bosom of Jesus. I believe He entered in behind the veil of Jesus' flesh to find the eternal heart of God within Him. John came to know God that has loved us and given us His Son. *"In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him."* (1Jn. 4:9) Our Life comes from the Son, and the Son comes as a gift from God. *"He who has the Son has Life."* (1Jn. 5:12) Let us endeavor never to break union with the Son from whence all Life flows! We may not have a perfect track record, but we have the Son!!! And when we stumble,... where else can we run to, and where else can we go? Only back to His heart. There we will find acceptance, and there we will find that we have been gathered into Christ. *"Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned."* (Isaiah 40:1-2)

Thank-you Lord for loving us so deeply and at such great cost. You have covered us in every way and brought peace where there was once only fear and confusion. Who is like You, Lord? And what could ever compare to Your great love? We cherish and love You above all else. You are beautiful beyond description.***