

THE GOD WHO NEVER EVER GIVES UP ON US

Victor Sohmen

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INTRODUCTION

Weakness is inherent in every human being. We are susceptible to weakness daily: *physically, spiritually, and morally*. In **Genesis 2:7** we read: “And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.” So, man was made from pliable clay that could be brittle when dry and be broken into pieces and powdered. “In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.” (**Genesis 3:19**).

Various biblical characters have exemplified the weakness of man: physically, spiritually, and morally. Samson became *physically weak* when his hair was shorn (**Judges 16:19**); King David became *morally weak* when he committed adultery (**2 Sam. 11**); Peter became *spiritually weak* when he disobeyed his crucified and risen Lord by saying, “I go a fishing” in **John 21:3** and until he was admonished in **John 21:15-17**, forgetting the Great Commission in **Mark 16:15**: “And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.” *These are a few examples of our multifaceted weaknesses in the physical, moral, and spiritual dimensions.*

Against this background and our everyday reality, we see that our God reaches out to us in His Grace and Mercy (and longsuffering) to provide us strength when we ask Him. In the case of David, God enabled him to repent of his moral weakness in **Psalms 51:4** when he lamented: “Against Thee, Thee only have I sinned, and done this evil in Thy sight”. We know how Samson repented and was given superhuman strength to bring down the pillared arena in **Judges 16:30**.

- We have considered two previous messages presented earlier on God’s graciousness in exhibiting His strength through our human weaknesses (**2 Cor. 12:9**): “And He said unto me, My Grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.”
 1. In “**Just This Once**” (Samson in **Judges 13**, and David in **1 Samuel 17**) we saw a couple of dramatic scenarios that fascinate people worldwide even today.
 2. In “**The God of the Second Chance**” (Jonah in **Jonah 3**; Peter in **John 21**) we saw how disobedient individuals are given a *second chance* to get right with God.
- Today we bring into focus the sequel to those two messages presented earlier this year:
 3. Instead of titling this as ‘The God of Multiple Chances’, we can flip it over and say: “**The God Who Never Ever Gives Up on Us**”

We will consider THREE pictures of God who does not give up on the sinner—typically as a sequel to repentance (***Parable for morality; History for activity; Allegory for spirituality***):

1. **PARABOLIC: Moral: The Prodigal Son (Luke 15: 20, 21):** “And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.” The longsuffering and compassionate father looked out for his prodigal son, knowing him intimately, and having waited day after day for his disobedient son’s return. This is a moving picture of God the Father.

2. **HISTORICAL: Physical: The Persecutor (Acts 9:1):** “And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest.”

- God transformed Saul of Tarsus into Paul the Apostle who authored several Epistles.

3. **ALLEGORICAL: Spiritual: The Divine Potter (Jeremiah 18:4):** “And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it.” *This remoldings of clay portrays our repeated failures as believers.*

- In this illustration, we come full circle and go back to **Genesis 2:7** with reference to clay.
- We are created from dust and remain feeble creatures sustained by blood and breath.
- However, God will never give up on us despite our repeated disobedience and failures: “For He knoweth our frame; He remembereth that we *are* dust.” (**Psalms 23 & 103:14**).

CONCLUSION: To Sum It All Up

- **Physically, our Omnipresent God watches over us from birth to death. Psalm 139:10:** “Whither shall I go from Thy Spirit? Or where shall I hide from Thy presence?” With God there is no hiding place. We **cannot run away from God** (Jonah tried unsuccessfully in **Jonah 1**). Also, we **cannot hide from God** (In **1 Kings 19:1-13** Elijah hid in a cave, but God drew him out to the entrance).
 - **Spiritually, our Omniscient God indwells us as the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 3:16).** The Holy Spirit is our best Teacher—He is continually refining us—like the potter with the clay. “But He knoweth the way that I take; and when He hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.” (**Job 23:10**).
 - **Morally, our Omnipotent God reaches out to us when we have strayed away from His Will.** “With a strong hand, and with a stretched-out arm: for His mercy endureth for ever.” (**Psalm 136:12**). The Holy Spirit *rejoices* when we are in the center of God’s Will (**Phil. 4:4**) and *grieves* when we go astray and backslide: “And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God” (**Eph. 4:30**).
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ACTION POINTS: What We Need To Do

- **We need to remember that God is watching us individually 24/7 through a DIVINE TELESCOPE.** “Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.” (**Ps. 121:4; Cf.: Ps. 139:23-24**). He will help: “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” (**Pss. 23:1; 46:1**)
- **We need to remember that the Spirit of God indwells us constantly: God the Holy Spirit serves as the SPIRITUAL THERMOMETER**—are we **cold** towards God? Or **lukewarm**? “So then because thou art **lukewarm**, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.” (**Rev. 3:16**). Are we **fervent** and **zealous** for God as David who slew Goliath, and as Paul pursued his Divine call?
- **We need to study the Word of God daily: it serves as our MORAL COMPASS.** “Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” (**Psalm 119:105**). Studying the inspired Word enables us to be sensitive to God’s Will in our lives, helps us to avoid sin, and to grow spiritually!