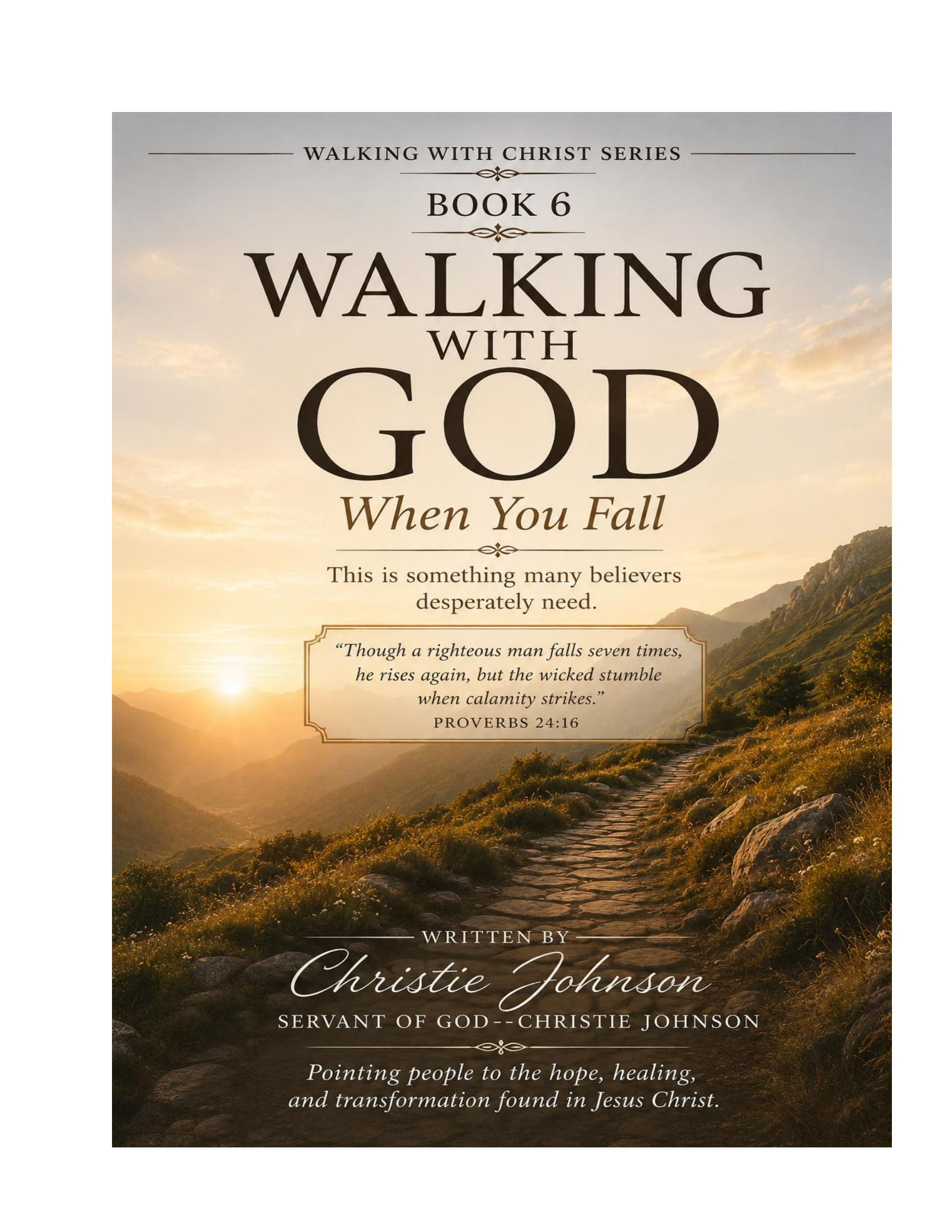




WALKING WITH CHRIST SERIES

BOOK 6

WALKING WITH GOD

When You Fall

This is something many believers
desperately need.

*"Though a righteous man falls seven times,
he rises again, but the wicked stumble
when calamity strikes."*

PROVERBS 24:16

WRITTEN BY

Christie Johnson

SERVANT OF GOD--CHRISTIE JOHNSON

*Pointing people to the hope, healing,
and transformation found in Jesus Christ.*

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Scripture Notice

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation (NLT).

Ministry Disclaimer

This Bible study is intended to provide biblical encouragement, spiritual guidance, and discipleship rooted in God's Word.

It is not intended to replace pastoral care, professional counseling, legal advice, or medical or mental health treatment. If you are facing circumstances that require professional assistance, please seek help from qualified professionals while continuing to trust the Lord for His wisdom, comfort, and strength.

A Personal Note

My prayer is that every page of this study points you to Jesus Christ rather than to me. Any wisdom shared here comes from God's Word and from His faithful work in my own life. May the Holy Spirit use these pages to encourage you, strengthen your faith, and help you grow into the person God created you to be.

"Pointing people to the hope, healing, and transformation found in Jesus Christ."

Contact

If this study has encouraged you and you would like additional Bible studies, personalized discipleship resources, or prayer, I would be honored to hear from you.

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Introduction

Welcome to the Walking with God Bible Study Series.

Whether you are opening the first book or joining somewhere along the journey, I am grateful God has brought you here. Perhaps you are carrying burdens that feel too heavy to bear. Maybe you are searching for healing, hope, freedom, purpose, or simply a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. Whatever brought you here, know this: you are not here by accident. God, in His love and sovereignty, has led you to this moment.

Like many believers, I have walked through seasons of brokenness, rejection, grief, disappointment, and unanswered questions. Yet through every season, God remained faithful. Through His Word, the work of the Holy Spirit, and the encouragement of His people, He has continued transforming my heart into the likeness of Jesus Christ. That lifelong process of becoming more like Christ is called spiritual formation, and it is the foundation of this entire series.

These Bible studies are not about earning God's approval or becoming a better version of yourself. They are about learning to know Jesus more deeply, trusting Him more fully, and allowing Him to transform every area of your life through His Word.

About the Series

Each book in the Walking with God series builds upon the previous one, guiding you step by step through biblical truth and spiritual growth.

- **Book 1 – From Brokenness to Transformation** – Begin your journey by discovering Christ's healing, grace, forgiveness, and transforming work.
- **Book 2 – Living Worthy of His Call** – Learn your identity in Christ and live from God's approval instead of the approval of others.
- **Book 3 – Finding Freedom from Rejections** – Find security in Christ when facing rejection, criticism, misunderstanding, and disappointment.
- **Book 4 – God Uses Broken People** – Discover throughout Scripture that God delights in using ordinary, imperfect people for His glory.
- **Book 5 – Becoming More Like Jesus** – Grow in Christlike character as the Holy Spirit transforms your heart, mind, and daily walk.
- **Book 6 – When You Fall** – Learn how God's grace restores believers after failure and encourages them to keep walking faithfully with Him.

Although each study may be completed on its own, I encourage you to read them in order. Each book builds upon the biblical truths learned in the previous one, moving from healing and identity to spiritual maturity, faithful service, and perseverance. Together they present a journey of lifelong spiritual formation as God continually shapes His children into the image of Jesus Christ.

How to Use This Study

Each study contains seven daily lessons. Every day includes Scripture to read, biblical teaching, questions for personal reflection, prayer, and one practical step of faith to help you apply God's truth to everyday life.

I encourage you to keep a journal nearby. Write down the Scriptures that speak to your heart, the prayers you pray, what God teaches you, and the ways you see Him faithfully working in your life. Over time, those pages will become a testimony of His grace and faithfulness.

Above all, remember this:

- **This Bible study is about Jesus.**
- **His love that never fails.**
- **His grace never runs out.**
- **His truth that sets us free.**
- **His forgiveness makes us new.**
- **His presence that never leaves us.**
- **His power to transform broken lives for His glory.**

No matter where your journey begins today, God is not finished with you.

"And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue His work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns."

Philippians 1:6

Let's Begin

Open your Bible, quiet your heart before the Lord, and take your next step of faith as we walk with Jesus together.

How to Use This Bible Study

Set aside 15–20 minutes each day to be alone with God without distractions. Begin by asking the Holy Spirit to open your heart to His truth. Read each Scripture slowly, paying attention to what it teaches about God's character, His promises, and your response to Him.

As you move through each day, do not rush. Pause, reflect, write honestly in a journal, and spend time talking with God in prayer. The goal is not to finish another study but to allow God's Word to shape your heart and deepen your relationship with Jesus Christ. If one day speaks deeply to you, spend extra time there. Spiritual growth is not measured by how quickly you finish but by your willingness to obey what God reveals. Healing and spiritual formation are lifelong journeys, and God faithfully completes the work He begins.

Ways to Memorize God's Word

- Read the verse aloud three times each morning.
- Write it on an index card and carry it with you.
- Place it somewhere you will see often.
- Pray the verse back to God throughout the day.
- Repeat the verse before going to sleep.

As God's Word fills your mind, the Holy Spirit uses it to renew your heart, strengthen your faith, and help you walk more closely with Jesus Christ.

Worship Playlist

How to Use Worship Music During This Study

Don't treat these songs as background entertainment. Instead, use them as another way to focus your heart on the Lord.

Before each day's lesson

Play one worship song and ask the Holy Spirit to prepare your heart. Let the words remind you of God's love, faithfulness, and truth before you begin reading Scripture.

During your reflection

If a particular song speaks to your heart, pause the study for a few moments. Pray through the lyrics and allow God to reveal what He is teaching you.

During prayer

After completing each day's prayer, spend a few quiet minutes listening to one worship song. Instead of rushing to the next activity, remain in God's presence and allow His peace to settle over your heart.

Throughout the week

Choose one song that especially encourages you and listen to it several times during the week. As you memorize Scripture, allow the message of the song to reinforce the biblical truths you are learning.

End each study with worship

Before closing your Bible, thank God for what He has taught you that day. Worship is one of the greatest ways to respond to His goodness and continue the work of spiritual formation in your heart.

Before You Begin

These songs remind us that God's love never gives up on His children.

- Goodness of God — CeCe Winans
- That's My King — CeCe Winans
- Firm Foundation (He Won't) Cody Carnes
- Gratitude — Brandon Lake

Day 1 — God Isn't Finished

As you remember that God is still writing your story.

- Hard Fought Hallelujah — Brandon Lake
- God's Not Done With You — Tauren Wells
- The Story I'll Tell — Maverick City Music

Day 2 — Getting Back Up

As you trust God to help you rise after every fall.

- Just As I Am — Brandon Lake
- Rise Up (Lazarus) CAIN
- Raise A Hallelujah — Bethel Music

Day 3 — Receiving God's Mercy

As you rest in God's forgiveness and unfailing compassion.

- His Mercy Is More — Matt Boswell & Matt Papa
- Mercy — Elevation Worship
- No Longer Slaves — Bethel Music

Day 4 — The Throne of Grace

As you boldly come before God, knowing you are welcomed through Christ.

- Come As You Are — Crowder
- Run To The Father — Cody Carnes
- Lord, I Need You — Matt Maher

Day 5 — Learning Through Failure

As you allow God to redeem your mistakes and teach you through every season.

- Trust in God — Elevation Worship
- Battle Belongs — Phil Wickham
- Graves Into Gardens — Elevation Worship

Day 6 — Growing Through Weakness

As you discover that God's strength is made perfect in your weakness.

- Believe For It — CeCe Winans

- Jireh — Elevation Worship & Maverick City Music
- More Like Jesus — One Voice Worship

Day 7 — Keep Walking

As you commit to continue following Jesus, no matter what lies behind you.

- The Jesus Way — Phil Wickham
- I've Witnessed It — Passion featuring Melodie Malone
- Living Hope — Phil Wickham
- Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me — City Alight

Closing Worship

Finish this study by thanking God that His grace has carried you every step of the journey.

- Good Grace — Hillsong UNITED
- King of Kings — Hillsong Worship
- Holy Forever — Chris Tomlin
- Worthy of It All — CeCe Winans

A final encouragement

Music has always been one of the ways God has spoken to my heart. During seasons of joy, grief, healing, and spiritual growth, He has often used worship songs to remind me of His promises and draw me closer to Him. My prayer is that as you listen, you will hear more than beautiful melodies—you will hear the voice of your Heavenly Father reminding you of His love, His truth, and His faithfulness as you continue walking with Jesus Christ.

Day 1- God Isn't Finished

Theme

God's work in your life is not over. Even after failure, He continues to shape, restore, and complete what He has begun.

A Word of Encouragement

Have you ever looked back at your life and wished you could erase certain chapters? Be encouraged—God's faithfulness is not dependent on your perfection; He restores, rebuilds, and continues His work in those who belong to Him.

God isn't finished with you.

Opening Scripture

Philippians 1:6 (NLT)

"And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns."

Understanding God's Word

When Paul wrote these words to the believers in Philippi, he was encouraging Christians who faced hardships, opposition, and personal struggles. He reminded them that their confidence should not rest in themselves but in **God's faithfulness. God began the work, God continues the work, and God will finish the work.**

Our salvation was His idea before it was ever ours. Spiritual growth is not something we accomplish through our own determination; the Holy Spirit patiently works within us day after day, transforming us into the likeness of Christ. The Christian life is not measured by never falling. It is measured by continually allowing God to pick us up, forgive us, teach us, and keep leading us forward.

Our failures do not surprise God. Before He called us, He already knew every weakness we would have. Before Jesus died for us, He already knew every sin we would commit. His grace was never based on our ability to be perfect; it has always been based on His perfect love. God does not ignore sin, but His conviction leads us toward restoration, not hopeless condemnation. The enemy whispers, *"You've failed too many times,"* but Jesus says, *"Come back to Me."*

Throughout Scripture, God restored people who failed—Abraham, Moses, David, and Peter—because their failures were not greater than His grace. The same is true for us today.

Walking This Truth

There was a season in my life when I honestly wondered if God could still use me. I carried years of trauma, rejection, depression, unhealthy decisions, and deep emotional wounds. There were times when I looked at my life and saw more broken pieces than victories. Even after becoming a Christian, I struggled. I thought following Jesus would

immediately erase years of pain, yet I discovered that healing is often a journey instead of a single moment.

Looking back now, I can see something I could not see then: **God never stopped working.** When I felt forgotten, He was working. When I grieved the loss of my husband, He was working. When doors closed, relationships ended, and I questioned my future, He was still working. Even when I moved to Colorado with little more than faith that God was leading me, He was working.

Today I am writing these Bible studies, building a ministry, pursuing my doctorate, and preparing for whatever God has next—not because I have always gotten everything right, but because God never abandoned the work He started in me. If there is one lesson my life has taught me, it is this: **God is far more committed to our transformation than we are. He has never stopped working on me, and He has not stopped working on you.**

Reflect With God

Take a few quiet moments to sit with the Lord. Ask Him to reveal any areas where you have believed that your failures are greater than His grace. Be honest about your disappointments, your regrets, and the places where you feel stuck. Then listen as He reminds you through His Word that His work in your life is not finished.

Ask yourself:

- Have I allowed past failures to define how I see myself?
- Do I believe God is still working in my life today?
- What area of my life do I need to surrender back to Him?
- How has God already shown His faithfulness, even when I couldn't see it at the time?
- What step is God asking me to take today instead of dwelling on yesterday?

Remember, God is not asking you to pretend your failures never happened. He is inviting you to trust that His grace is greater than your past.

Today's Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for never giving up on me. Thank You for loving me even when I stumble and for continuing to work in my life despite my weaknesses. Too often I allow my failures to speak louder than Your promises. Forgive me for believing the lie that I have somehow ruined Your plan for my life.

Help me to see myself through Your eyes instead of through my mistakes. Teach me to trust that You are still shaping me into the person You created me to be. Give me the courage to leave my past at the foot of the cross and to walk forward in the hope You provide.

Thank You that Your mercy is new every morning and that Your grace is sufficient for every weakness I face. Continue the good work You have begun in me until the day I stand before You.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Today's Challenge

Don't allow failure to speak louder than God's truth.

Today:

- Spend a few minutes writing down the failures, regrets, or labels you have allowed to define you.
- Beside each one, write one truth from God's Word that reminds you who you are in Christ.
- Read **Philippians 1:6** aloud, remembering that God is still working in you.
- Pray over your list and surrender every regret to the Lord.
- Thank God that His truth is greater than your past.

Remember, your failures do not cancel God's purpose. God is still working, restoring, and completing what He began in you.

Scripture to Memorize

Philippians 1:6 (NLT)

"And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns."

Walking with Christ

Walking with Christ means trusting Jesus enough to keep following Him, even when you feel discouraged. Failure does not disqualify you from God's purpose, because every follower of Jesus is still a work in progress. Christ never promised that we would never stumble; He promised that He would never leave us. Every time you return to Him in repentance and faith, you discover that His arms are still open. Ask Yourself Today: **Am I allowing failure to define me, or am I trusting that God is still working in me?**

Today's Truth. My failures do not cancel God's purpose for my life because He is still working in me.

Today's Step of Faith. Today I will stop defining myself by my past and trust that God is faithfully completing the work He began in me.

Tomorrow We'll Discover. We will learn that falling is never meant to keep us on the ground. God's Word teaches us how to rise again, keep moving forward, and trust His strength one step at a time.

Today's Takeaway. Your story is not over because you stumbled. God's grace is still writing the next chapter. Keep trusting Him, keep following Him, and remember this truth: God isn't finished with you yet.

Day 2 — Getting Back Up

Theme

God never intended your fall to become your final destination. Through His strength, you can rise again and continue walking with Him.

A Word of Encouragement

Have you ever felt like falling meant you had failed too badly to keep going? Be encouraged—falling does not define a follower of Christ; by God's grace, getting back up and continuing to walk with Him does.

Opening Scripture

Micah 7:8 (NLT)

"Do not gloat over me, my enemies! For though I fall, I will rise again. Though I sit in darkness, the Lord will be my light."

Understanding God's Word

The prophet **Micah** lived during a difficult time when God's people had turned away from Him and were facing the consequences of their sin. Yet in the middle of hardship and failure, **Micah** made a powerful declaration of faith: *"Though I fall, I will rise again."* He did not pretend falling would never happen. Instead, he placed his confidence in God's ability to lift him back up.

Many people believe spiritual maturity means never struggling, but Scripture teaches something different. Spiritual maturity is learning to run back to God every time we fall. When we surrender our failures to Him, He uses them to humble us, teach us dependence, remind us of His grace, and grow compassion in our hearts for others who are struggling.

The enemy wants failure to make us quit, but God can use even our failures to draw us closer to Him. **No matter how dark the season may seem, the Lord is still able to be our light and lead us forward one faithful step at a time.**

Walking This Truth

There have been seasons when getting back up felt almost impossible. There were days when depression made it difficult to get out of bed, grief after losing my husband felt overwhelming, and the weight of my past, health struggles, and rejection seemed heavier than I could carry. There were moments when I questioned whether I had enough strength to keep moving forward.

Looking back, I realize I was not getting back up because I was strong. I was getting back up because God kept giving me strength for one more step. Sometimes that step was opening my Bible. Sometimes it was praying, *"Lord, help me."* Sometimes it was choosing to trust Him when I could not see what He was doing. When I moved to Colorado, I did not have everything figured out, but I believed God was asking me to take one step of faith.

That one step led to another. Today I am writing these Bible studies, building the ministry God placed on my heart, pursuing my doctorate, and watching Him open doors I never

imagined. None of that happened because I never fell. It happened because, by God's grace, I kept getting back up. God rarely asks us to leap. **Most of the time, He simply asks us to trust Him enough to take the next faithful step.**

Reflect With God

Take a few moments to think about the times God has already helped you rise after a difficult season.

Ask yourself:

- What has been the hardest fall in my walk with God?
- Have I been allowing shame to keep me from moving forward?
- What is one step God is asking me to take today?
- Am I trusting my own strength, or am I depending on His?
- How has God already been faithful in helping me get back up before?

Remember, every new day is another opportunity to begin again with the Lord.

Today's Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for never leaving me where I have fallen. Thank You for reaching down with Your grace and lifting me up every time I turn back to You. Too often I become discouraged by my weaknesses and failures, but today I choose to place my confidence in Your faithfulness instead of my own strength.

When I feel too weak to keep going, remind me that Your power is made perfect in my weakness. Help me to stop looking behind me and begin walking forward with You again. Give me courage for the next step, even if it feels small.

Thank You for being my light in the darkness and my strength when I have none of my own.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Today's Challenge

Don't allow fear, failure, or discouragement to keep you from taking your next step of faith.

Today:

- Identify one area where you have stopped moving forward because of fear, failure, or discouragement.
- Write it in your journal and surrender it to God.
- Read **Micah 7:8** aloud, reminding yourself that God gives strength to rise again.
- Ask God to show you one small step of obedience you can take today.
- Take that step, trusting Him to guide you one day at a time.

Remember, God is not asking you to see the entire journey. He is simply asking you to trust Him enough to take the next faithful step.

Scripture to Memorize

Micah 7:8 (NLT)

"Do not gloat over me, my enemies! For though I fall, I will rise again. Though I sit in darkness, the Lord will be my light."

Walking with Christ

Walking with Christ is not about never falling; it is about continually allowing Jesus to lift you back to your feet. Every time you choose repentance over hiding, faith over fear, and hope over despair, you are continuing to walk with Him. Ask Yourself Today: **Am I staying down because of fear or shame, or am I trusting God to help me rise again?**

Today's Truth. By God's grace, I can rise again because my strength comes from Him, not from myself.

Today's Step of Faith. Today I will stop dwelling on yesterday's failures and trust God for today's next step.

Tomorrow We'll Discover. Tomorrow we'll discover the depth of God's mercy and learn why His compassion is greater than our greatest failures.

Today's Takeaway. Followers of Jesus are not people who never fall. They are people who keep getting back up because the Lord is their strength.

Day 3 — Receiving God's Mercy

Theme

God's mercy is greater than your greatest failure. Every time you come to Him with a repentant heart, He responds with compassion, forgiveness, and unfailing love.

A Word of Encouragement

Have you ever believed God could forgive others but struggled to believe He could fully forgive you? Be encouraged—God's mercy does not run out, His compassion is not limited, and His heart is always to restore His children, not reject them.

Opening Scripture

Psalm 103:8-12 (NLT)

"The Lord is compassionate and merciful, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love... He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west."

Understanding God's Word

David wrote Psalm 103 from personal experience. He knew what it meant to fail God, to experience conviction, and to receive the mercy that only the Lord can give. Rather than dwelling on his past, David chose to praise God for His compassion, forgiveness, and steadfast love. He reminds us that God is "compassionate and merciful, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love." **These are not simply things God does from time to time—they reveal who He is. His mercy flows from His unchanging character.**

When we confess our sins, God does not reluctantly forgive us. Through Jesus Christ, He welcomes us with grace because the penalty for our sin has already been paid at the cross. David declares that God removes our sins "as far as the east is from the west." East and west never meet, illustrating that God completely removes the guilt of those who repent and trust in Him. **He does not continue holding forgiven sins over His children, even though we often continue carrying them ourselves.**

God's mercy never minimizes sin, but it always magnifies His grace. His mercy does not give us permission to continue living in sin; it gives us the freedom to leave sin behind and walk in newness of life. Every morning His mercies are new, reminding us that we never begin a day outside His compassion. The enemy wants us to remember our failures, but God continually points us back to the cross, where Jesus paid the price in full. **Because of Christ, we no longer have to live under condemnation. We are forgiven, restored, and invited to walk confidently as children of God.**

Walking This Truth

There was a time when I believed God had forgiven me, but I struggled to forgive myself. Although I knew the truth of Scripture, I continued carrying guilt from my past. I remembered every wrong decision, every painful relationship, every season when fear seemed stronger than faith, and every time I questioned God's plan for my life. **I often allowed those memories to speak louder than God's promises, forgetting that His forgiveness was greater than my failures.**

As I spent more time reading God's Word, He patiently began changing my heart. I realized He was not asking me to keep punishing myself for sins He had already forgiven. He was inviting me to trust completely in what Jesus accomplished on the cross. That truth did not erase every painful memory overnight, but it changed how I viewed them. Instead of seeing only my failures, I began seeing God's mercy at work through every chapter of my life.

Now, when I look back over my journey—from childhood trauma and emotional wounds to losing Joe, living with chronic pain, moving to Colorado, and preparing for the ministry God has entrusted to me—I no longer see a story defined by failure. I see a story marked by God's unfailing mercy. **His mercy carried me when I was too weak to stand, gave me hope when I wanted to give up, and continues to remind me that His grace is always greater than my past. If there is one truth my life has taught me, it is this: God's mercy has never failed me, and it will never fail you.**

Reflect With God

Spend a few quiet moments thanking God for His mercy.

Ask yourself:

- Am I carrying guilt that God has already forgiven?
- Have I truly received God's mercy, or am I still trying to earn His acceptance?
- Is there someone I need to extend mercy to because God has shown mercy to me?
- How has God's mercy changed the direction of my life?
- What would change if I truly believed I am fully forgiven?

Remember, forgiveness isn't based on how you feel.

It's based on what Christ has already done.

Today's Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for Your endless mercy. Thank You that Your love for me does not depend on my perfection but on Your faithful character. I confess that there are times when I continue carrying guilt You have already removed.

Help me to believe Your promises more than my feelings. Teach me to receive Your forgiveness with humility and gratitude. Thank You for sending Jesus to pay the full price for my sins so that I can stand before You forgiven and free.

Help me also to show mercy to others just as You have shown mercy to me.

Thank You that Your compassion is new every morning and that Your love never fails.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Today's Challenge

Don't allow guilt to keep you from receiving God's mercy.

Today:

- Take a sheet of paper and write down the failures, sins, or regrets that still weigh heavily on your heart.
- Confess each one to God in prayer.
- Across the page, write these words in large letters: **"Forgiven by the grace of Jesus Christ."**
- Read **Psalm 103:12** aloud, thanking God that He has removed your sins completely.
- Destroy the paper as an act of faith, trusting that God's forgiveness is greater than your guilt.

Remember, you do not have to carry what Jesus has already carried to the cross. His mercy is greater than your past, and His forgiveness is complete.

Scripture to Memorize

Psalm 103:12 (NLT)

"He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west."

Walking with Christ

Walking with Christ means living in the freedom His mercy provides. Jesus never intended His followers to remain trapped by yesterday's failures. Instead, He invites us to walk each day with grateful hearts, knowing we have been forgiven, restored, and made new. His mercy is not only for the day we were saved; His mercy sustains us every day we walk with Him. Ask Yourself Today: **Am I still carrying guilt that Jesus has already carried to the cross?**

Today's Truth. God's mercy is greater than my greatest failure, and His forgiveness is complete through Jesus Christ.

Today's Step of Faith. Today I will receive God's mercy, let go of guilt, and walk in the freedom Christ has given me.

Tomorrow We'll Discover. Tomorrow we'll discover the invitation God gives every believer—to come boldly before His throne of grace, no matter what we have done or how weak we feel.

Today's Takeaway. You do not have to carry what Jesus already carried to the cross. Receive His mercy, embrace His forgiveness, and walk forward in the freedom only He can give.

Day 4 — The Throne of Grace

Theme

Because of Jesus Christ, we never have to hide from God when we fail. Instead, we are invited to come confidently before His throne of grace to receive mercy, forgiveness, and help.

A Word of Encouragement

Have you ever failed and felt tempted to hide from God? Be encouraged—because of Jesus Christ, God invites you to come boldly to His throne of grace, where you will find mercy, forgiveness, and help when you need it most.

Opening Scripture

Hebrews 4:16 (NLT)

"So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive His mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most."

Understanding God's Word

The book of Hebrews was written to believers who were struggling. Many were facing persecution, discouragement, and the temptation to give up on their faith. The writer points them to Jesus, our perfect High Priest, who understands every weakness we experience. Hebrews reminds us that Jesus was tempted in every way we are, yet He never sinned. **He understands betrayal, rejection, grief, suffering, exhaustion, and temptation. There is nothing we will ever face that He does not fully understand.**

Because Jesus became our perfect sacrifice, the barrier between us and God has been removed. Under the Old Testament, only the high priest could enter God's presence in the Most Holy Place once each year. But through Jesus, every believer now has direct access to the Father. **Hebrews** does not say, *"Come when you've earned it," "Come after you've been good long enough," or "Come once you've fixed yourself."* It simply says, *"Come boldly."* Not because we deserve it, but because Jesus made the way. When we come before God's throne, we receive mercy for our failures and grace to help us when we need it most.

Walking This Truth

There have been seasons when prayer felt difficult—not because I did not believe in God, but because I felt ashamed. I believed God loved me, but sometimes I wondered if He was disappointed in me or tired of hearing about the same struggles. As I spent more time in Hebrews, God began changing the way I viewed Him. He was not waiting for me to become stronger before welcoming me into His presence. He wanted me to come while I was weak.

Some of my most honest prayers were not long or beautifully written. They sounded more like, "Lord, I don't know what to do," "Father, I'm hurting," "I don't have the strength today," or "Please help me." Those simple prayers became the moments when I experienced God's presence most deeply. When I was grieving Joe's death, living with chronic pain, moving to

Colorado, or questioning whether I could build the ministry He had placed on my heart, God met me there.

Looking back, I realize God never asked me to come to Him because I had everything together. He simply asked me to come. Now I come as His daughter—loved, forgiven, and completely dependent upon His grace. **And every time, I find what Hebrews promises: mercy for my failures, grace for today, and hope for tomorrow.**

Reflect With God

Spend a few quiet moments talking honestly with God. You don't have to use perfect words. Simply come before Him as you are.

Ask yourself:

- Do I run toward God or away from Him when I fail?
- Have I believed that I must earn God's acceptance?
- What burden am I carrying that I need to lay before His throne today?
- How has God shown me His grace during difficult seasons?
- What would change if I truly believed God welcomes me every time I come to Him?

Remember, the throne of God is not a place to fear.

For those who belong to Christ, it is a place to find help.

Today's Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for making a way for me to come into Your presence through Jesus Christ. Thank You that I never have to hide from You because of my failures or my weaknesses. Instead, You invite me to come boldly before Your throne of grace.

Forgive me for the times I have allowed shame to keep me from talking with You. Help me to remember that You already know my heart, my struggles, and my needs.

Teach me to bring everything before You—my victories, my fears, my questions, and my failures. Thank You for meeting me with mercy instead of condemnation and grace instead of rejection.

Help me to depend on You every day and to trust that Your grace will always be enough.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Today's Challenge

Don't hide from God when He is inviting you to come near.

Today:

- Set aside ten uninterrupted minutes to sit quietly with God.
- Talk to Him honestly about what you are feeling.
- Read **Hebrews 4:16** aloud, remembering that His throne is a place of grace.
- Leave every burden, failure, fear, and need before Him in prayer.

- Thank Him for welcoming you through Jesus Christ.

Remember, grace is not something you earn after you have done enough. Grace is where God meets you when you realize you cannot do it on your own.

Scripture to Memorize

Hebrews 4:16 (NLT)

"So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive His mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most."

Walking with Christ

Walking with Christ means knowing that you never have to face life alone. Every day, Jesus invites you into His presence—not because you have earned the right, but because He purchased that privilege with His own blood. The throne of grace is always open, so come often. Ask Yourself Today: **Am I hiding from God in shame, or am I coming boldly to His throne of grace?**

Today's Truth. Because of Jesus, I can confidently come to God at any time to receive mercy, grace, and help.

Today's Step of Faith. Today I will bring every burden, failure, fear, and need to God's throne, trusting that He will meet me with grace.

Tomorrow We'll Discover. Tomorrow we'll discover that God can use even our failures to teach us, strengthen our faith, and prepare us for the purpose He has planned for our lives.

Today's Takeaway. Grace is not something you earn. Grace is what God gives when you come to Him honestly, dependently, and boldly through Jesus Christ.

Day 5 — Learning Through Failure

Theme

God can use failure as a place of teaching, correction, humility, and growth when we surrender it to Him.

A Word of Encouragement

Have you ever felt like your failure was wasted or beyond God's ability to redeem? Be encouraged—when surrendered to God, even failure can become a classroom of grace where He teaches, heals, corrects, and helps us grow.

Opening Scripture

Proverbs 24:16 (NLT)

"The godly may trip seven times, but they will get up again. But one disaster is enough to overthrow the wicked."

Understanding God's Word

Proverbs 24:16 remind us that even the godly may trip. This verse does not describe someone who never struggles or never makes mistakes. It describes someone who belongs to God and continues to rise again by His grace. The difference is not that the righteous never fall; it is that they return to the Lord, learn from Him, and keep walking.

Failure can reveal things comfort often cannot. It may expose pride we did not see, weakness we ignored, wounds we tried to hide, or patterns we had not surrendered to God. When we fall, God lovingly invites us to examine what happened, confess what needs to be confessed, receive His mercy, and allow Him to grow us through the experience.

This does not mean sin is harmless or that wrong choices do not matter. Sin is serious, and disobedience has consequences. But God is so faithful that even when we make a mess, He can still bring wisdom, humility, compassion, and maturity from it. Peter's denial of Jesus could have ended his calling, but Jesus restored him. **His failure became part of the process that humbled him, strengthened him, and prepared him to shepherd others with grace.**

Walking This Truth

In my own life, God has taught me many lessons through places I wish I had never fallen. There were times when I reacted out of hurt instead of wisdom, and seasons when rejection, trauma, grief, or fear shaped my responses more than faith did. For a long time, I thought those places only proved how broken I was.

But as I walked with God, He began showing me that my failures were not only evidence of weakness; they were places where He wanted to bring healing and understanding. He helped me see patterns I needed to surrender, showed me where I had been trying to survive in my own strength, and taught me that emotional wounds can affect spiritual growth when we do not bring them honestly before Him.

Even grief, chronic pain, and starting over in Colorado have taught me lessons I could not have learned in easier seasons. God has used hard places to teach me dependence, mistakes to teach me humility, and pain to give me compassion for other broken and weary people. If you have failed, do not only ask, “How could I have done that?” Ask God, “Lord, what are You teaching me through this?” That question can turn a painful moment into a holy place of growth.

Reflect With God

Take time today to sit honestly with God and reflect on what your failures have taught you. Ask Him to reveal any pattern, wound, fear, or area of pride that He wants to heal, correct, or mature. Do not come to Him with shame; come with humility. God is not trying to condemn you. He is inviting you to grow.

Ask yourself:

1. What failure or difficult season has God used to teach me?
2. What did that experience reveal about my heart?
3. Is there anything I need to confess, surrender, or change?
4. What step of wisdom, healing, or obedience is God asking me to take?

Today's Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for loving me enough to teach me, even though my failures. I confess that there are times when I want to hide from my mistakes instead of learning from them. Help me to come before You with honesty and humility. Show me what my failures have revealed in my heart. Teach me where I need healing, wisdom, surrender, and growth.

Lord, I do not want to keep repeating the same patterns. I want to become more like Jesus. Use every lesson, every correction, and every painful place to shape me into the person You created me to be. Thank You that my failure is not final when I place it in Your hands. In Jesus' name, **Amen.**

Today's Challenge

Don't allow failure to become wasted pain.

Today:

- Think about one failure or difficult season that still bothers you.
- Write down what God may have taught you through it.
- Ask Him to show you what needs healing, repentance, wisdom, or surrender.
- Write one practical step you can take to grow from that lesson.
- Take that step today if possible.

Remember, when failure is surrendered to God, it can become a place of wisdom, humility, healing, and growth.

Scripture to Memorize

Proverbs 24:16 (NLT)

"The godly may trip seven times, but they will get up again. But one disaster is enough to overthrow the wicked."

Walking with Christ

Walking with Christ means allowing Jesus to teach you through every part of your journey, including the parts you wish you could erase. He does not waste surrendered pain, honest repentance, or lessons learned through failure. When you bring your failure to Him, He can turn it into a place of transformation, teaching you to live differently, love differently, think differently, and depend on Him more deeply. Ask Yourself Today: **What is God teaching me through the failure or difficult season I have been carrying?**

Today's Truth. God can teach me through failure when I surrender it to Him with honesty, humility, and faith.

Today's Step of Faith. Today I will stop hiding from what my failure revealed and ask God to teach me, heal me, and help me grow.

Tomorrow We'll Discover. Tomorrow we will discover how God uses weakness to grow us, strengthen our dependence on Him, and reveal His power in places where we feel most limited.

Today's Takeaway. Failure does not have to be wasted. When surrendered to God, it can become a place of wisdom, healing, humility, and growth.

Day 6 — Growing Through Weakness

Theme

God does some of His greatest work through our greatest weaknesses. When we depend on Him instead of ourselves, His strength becomes visible in our lives.

A Word of Encouragement

Have you ever believed God could use you more if you were stronger, healthier, or more capable? Be encouraged—your weaknesses do not disqualify you from being used by God; they become places where His grace and strength can shine even brighter.

Opening Scripture

2 Corinthians 12:9–10 (NLT)

"Each time He said, 'My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.' So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me."

Understanding God's Word

The apostle Paul understood weakness well. **He faithfully served Christ, planted churches, endured persecution, suffered physically, and carried great responsibility for the early church.** Yet despite all God accomplished through him, **Paul** struggled with what he called a *"thorn in the flesh."* We are never told exactly what that thorn was, but we know Paul pleaded with God three times to remove it.

God's answer was not what Paul expected. Instead of removing the weakness, God promised something greater: *"My grace is all you need."* God was teaching Paul that grace is not only forgiveness for the past; it is strength for today. His grace sustains us when our strength runs out, and His power becomes most visible when we stop relying on ourselves and depend completely on Him.

Our culture celebrates independence and self-sufficiency, but the Christian life teaches dependence on Christ. **Spiritual maturity is not needing God less; it is learning to need Him more. When we acknowledge our weakness, we make room for God's strength to work. Weakness reminds us that we need Jesus every day.**

Walking This Truth

If there is one lesson God has continually taught me, it is that I cannot live this life in my own strength. For years, I wished God would simply remove my struggles. I prayed for emotional healing, freedom from chronic pain, relief from depression, better physical health, and answers to questions I could not understand. I wanted God to fix everything so I could serve Him without limitations.

But instead of removing every weakness, God began teaching me to depend on Him within them. Chronic pain reminds me that my body has limits. Grief after losing Joe reminded me that my heart has limits. Living with bipolar disorder and the effects of childhood trauma has reminded me that my emotions have limits. Even pursuing my doctorate reminds me that my mind grows tired and that I need God's wisdom every step of the way.

The very things I once believed disqualified me have become some of the ways God now uses my life. **Because I have known grief, rejection, fear, discouragement, and weakness, I can point hurting people to the One who has faithfully carried me. I no longer see my weaknesses as obstacles to ministry. I see them as reminders that every good thing God does through my life belongs to Him.**

Reflect with God

Take a few quiet moments to think about the areas of your life where you feel weak or inadequate. Instead of only asking God to remove those weaknesses, ask Him how He may want to reveal His strength through them.

Ask yourself:

1. What weakness have I viewed as a limitation?
2. Have I been depending more on myself than on God?
3. How has God already sustained me through this weakness?
4. How might this weakness become a testimony of His grace?

Today's Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You that I do not have to be strong enough on my own. Thank You that Your grace is sufficient for every weakness I face. Forgive me for the times I have believed that my limitations prevent You from using me.

Help me to stop measuring my life by what I cannot do and begin trusting what You can do through me. Teach me to rely on Your strength instead of my own abilities. Remind me that Your power is made perfect in weakness and that You receive the glory when I depend completely on You.

Use every weakness, every struggle, and every limitation to draw me closer to You and to point others toward Jesus.

In His precious name,

Amen.

Today's Challenge

Don't allow weakness to convince you that God cannot use you.

Today:

- Identify one weakness you have viewed as a limitation.
- Write it in your journal.
- Read **2 Corinthians 12:9** aloud, remembering that God's grace is enough.
- Thank God for how He has already sustained you through this weakness.
- Ask Him to show you how this weakness can become a testimony of His faithfulness.

Remember, God is not looking for perfect people to use. He is looking for willing hearts that depend completely on Him.

Scripture to Memorize

2 Corinthians 12:9 (NLT)

"My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness."

Walking with Christ

Walking with Christ means learning to lean on Jesus more each day. The Christian life was never meant to be lived in our own strength. As we abide in Him, His grace, strength, peace, and character become more visible in our lives. Ask Yourself Today: **Am I hiding my weakness, or am I allowing God to reveal His strength through it?**

Today's Truth God's strength is greater than my weakness, and His grace is always enough for me.

Today's Step of Faith Today I will stop seeing my weakness as a barrier and trust God to display His strength through it.

Tomorrow We'll Discover Tomorrow we will conclude this study by learning how to keep walking faithfully with Christ—not because we never fall, but because His grace carries us every step of the journey.

Today's Takeaway God is not looking for perfect people to use. He is looking for willing hearts that depend completely on Him. When you surrender your weakness to Christ, His strength becomes your testimony.

Day 7 — Keep Walking

Theme

The Christian life is not about never falling—it is about faithfully walking with Jesus every day. No matter what lies behind you, God calls you to keep moving forward in faith.

A Word of Encouragement

Have you discovered that your failures do not define your future? Be encouraged—God's grace is greater than your past, His mercy is new each morning, and Jesus simply invites you to keep walking with Him.

Opening Scripture

Galatians 6:9 (NLT)

"So, let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up."

Understanding God's Word

Paul wrote these words to believers who were learning what it meant to follow Christ faithfully. **Like us, they faced discouragement, temptation, opposition, and the daily challenges of living for God in a broken world. Paul understood that following Jesus is not a sprint; it is a lifelong journey.**

Galatians 6:9 reminds us not to grow weary in doing good because God is always working, even when we cannot see what He is accomplishing. Every act of obedience, every prayer, every moment of forgiveness, every step of faith, and every decision to trust Him matters. Sometimes we expect spiritual growth to happen quickly, but God often works gradually. Just as a farmer plants seeds long before seeing a harvest, God is producing fruit in our lives that may not become visible until much later.

The Christian life is not measured by how fast we grow. It is measured by our willingness to keep following Jesus one faithful step at a time.

Walking This Truth

As I look back over my journey, I realize how many times I could have stopped walking. I could have stopped after years of abuse, depression, grief, chronic pain, closed doors, and uncertain seasons. There were many moments when quitting would have seemed easier than trusting God.

But God kept whispering the same invitation to my heart: *"Just keep walking."* Sometimes my walk with God has looked strong and confident. Other times it has looked like taking one small step while holding tightly to His hand. There have been seasons when all I could pray was, *"Lord, help me,"* and days when reading one chapter of **Scripture** felt like a victory.

Today, I can see how every step mattered. Every prayer, every act of obedience, every lesson learned, every failure surrendered, and every moment of choosing faith over

fear was part of God's faithful work in my life. He was never asking me to have the entire journey figured out. He was simply asking me to keep walking.

Reflect with God

Take a few moments today to look back over your journey with God. Thank Him for where He has brought you from and for every season where His faithfulness carried you.

Ask yourself:

1. Where has God helped me keep walking when I wanted to quit?
2. What area of my life is He asking me to keep trusting Him with?
3. What step of obedience have I been avoiding?
4. How can I continue walking with Jesus more faithfully this week?

Today's Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for walking beside me every step of my journey. Thank You for never giving up on me when I stumbled, doubted, or became discouraged. Thank You for Your mercy, Your grace, Your patience, and Your unfailing love.

Help me to keep following You no matter what challenges lie ahead. When I become weary, I strengthen myself. When I fall, I lift myself up. When I am uncertain, remind me that You are leading the way.

Thank You that my hope is not found in my own strength but in Your faithfulness. Help me to trust You one day at a time and to continue growing into the person You created me to be.

May my life always point others to Jesus, not because I have been perfect, but because You have been faithful.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Today's Challenge

Don't allow weariness to make you stop walking with Jesus.

Today:

- Write down one area where God is asking you to keep moving forward.
- Surrender that area to Him in prayer.
- Read **Galatians 6:9** aloud, reminding yourself not to give up.
- Choose one step of obedience you can take this week.
- Take that step, trusting God to lead you one day at a time.

Remember, God rarely asks you to see the entire journey. He simply asks you to trust Him with the next faithful step.

Scripture to Memorize

Galatians 6:9 (NLT)

"So, let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up."

Walking with Christ

Walking with Christ is a lifelong relationship, not a destination you arrive at. Every day is another opportunity to know Him more deeply, trust Him more fully, and become more like Him. There will be victories and valleys, but Jesus has promised that He will never leave you. Ask Yourself Today: **Will I keep walking with Jesus, even when the journey feels slow, hard, or uncertain?**

Today's Truth My past does not determine my future. As I continue walking with Jesus, He will faithfully lead me every step of the way.

Today's Step of Faith Today I will leave my past behind, trust God's faithfulness, and keep walking with Jesus one step at a time.

As You Continue Walking This study is not the end of your journey. It is another step in your walk with Christ. Continue opening God's Word, spending time in prayer, walking in obedience, and trusting His grace.

Today's Takeaway You may stumble, but you do not have to stay down. You may grow weary, but you do not have to give up. Jesus is still walking beside you, His grace is still sufficient, and your story is still being written. Keep walking.

Your Journey Continues

"Being confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

Philippians 1:6

As you come to the end of this Bible study series, I hope you see that these books were never simply about gaining more biblical knowledge. **My prayer has always been that they would help you know Jesus Christ more deeply, trust Him more fully, and follow Him more faithfully every day.**

Throughout these six studies, God has gently walked with us through the beautiful journey of spiritual formation. He has reminded us that our brokenness is never beyond His healing, our past is never greater than His grace, and our failures are never stronger than His faithfulness. Step by step, He has shown us that He is continually transforming His children into the likeness of Jesus Christ.

We began by discovering that God meets us in our brokenness and offers hope, healing, and restoration through Jesus Christ. From there, we learned that our identity is no longer found in our past, our failures, or the opinions of others, but in being beloved children of God. We discovered that rejection does not define us because we are fully accepted in Christ, and we saw throughout Scripture that God delights in using ordinary, imperfect people for His extraordinary purposes.

As our journey continued, we learned that becoming more like Jesus is a lifelong process of surrender. The Holy Spirit faithfully transforms our hearts, renews our minds, produces His fruit within us, teaches us to guard our words, fills us with His peace, and enables us to love others as Christ has loved us. Finally, we discovered that even when we stumble, God's grace invites us to rise again, receive His mercy, learn from our failures, depend on His strength, and keep walking faithfully with Him.

Perhaps your circumstances have not changed as quickly as you hoped. Maybe some prayers remain unanswered, some wounds are still healing, or some questions have not yet been resolved. Even so, one truth remains certain:

- **God is still working.**
- **He is still healing.**
- **He is still teaching.**
- **He is still strengthening.**
- **He is still transforming.**

And He is still writing your story for His glory.

These books are not the finish line of your journey—they are simply another step along the path of following Jesus Christ. **Continue opening God's Word every day. Continue spending time in prayer. Continue worshiping, obeying, serving, and walking closely with the Holy Spirit. Continue trusting God in every season, knowing that every step of faith is shaping you to become more like Jesus.**

As you continue your journey, remember that spiritual formation is not measured by how quickly you grow, how much you accomplish, or how perfectly you perform. It is measured by your willingness to remain close to Christ and faithfully follow Him one surrendered day at a time.

My prayer has never been that you would remember these books or even remember me.

My prayer is that you will remember Jesus.

May you know Him more deeply.

Love Him more completely.

Trust Him more fully.

Reflect Him more faithfully.

And point others to the hope, healing, grace, and transformation that can only be found in Him.

One day our journey of faith will become sight, and we will stand before the Savior who has faithfully carried us through every season of life.

Until that glorious day...

Keep walking with Jesus.

One day...

One prayer...

One Scripture...

One surrendered step of faith at a time.

Closing Scripture

Hebrews 12:1-2

"Let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith."

Prayerfully prepared by

Christie Johnson

Christie Johnson

Servant of God

"Pointing people to the hope, healing, and transformation found in Jesus Christ."

Continue Walking with Jesus

Thank you for allowing me to walk beside you through these six Bible studies.

My prayer has never been that you would simply complete another Bible study. My prayer has always been that you would know Jesus Christ more deeply, trust Him more fully, and faithfully follow Him every day of your life.

Although this series has come to an end, your journey with Christ is only beginning. Continue opening God's Word. Continue spending time in prayer. Continue listening to the Holy Spirit. Continue trusting God through every season of life. Continue allowing Him to transform your heart until the day you see Him face to face.

There will be days of joy and days of sorrow. There will be victories and struggles. There will be seasons when your faith feels strong and seasons when every step requires complete dependence upon God. Through every season, remember this unchanging truth:

Jesus Christ is faithful.

- **He will never leave you.**
- **He will never stop loving you.**
- **He will never stop transforming you.**
- **He will never stop completing the work He began in you.**

No matter where God leads you next, keep your eyes fixed on Jesus. Walk closely with Him, trust His Word, depend upon His grace, and allow your life to point others to the hope, healing, and transformation found in Him.

May everything you do bring glory to God alone.

Keep your eyes on Jesus. Keep trusting His Word. Keep following Him one surrendered step at a time.

Servant of God – Christie Johnson

My mission is to minister to broken, hurting, and spiritually weary people by pointing them to the truth, healing, hope, and restoration found in Jesus Christ. Through biblical teaching, compassionate discipleship, testimony, and spiritual formation, my desire is to help people trust God through life's storms, discover their identity in Christ, and experience lasting transformation through the power of the Holy Spirit.

My prayer is that every resource I write points you not to me, but to Jesus Christ—the One who alone heals, restores, redeems, and transforms every life surrendered to Him.

"To Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen."