

Pathway to Christlike Living | “Formed in Christlike Character”

Week 2: Responding to Failure, Temptation, and Weakness with Honesty and Hope

Speaker: Lisa Dillard

The Reality We Don't Always Admit

- The church is full of people in process, not people who have arrived.
- Holiness is not the absence of struggle; it's the pursuit of God through it.
- The danger of pretending - How silence and shame keep us bound
- Most people aren't defeated by their failure. They're defeated by what they believe about their future.

Honesty - Transparency

- What the Bible says about confession and truth-telling (1 John 1:8-10; James 5:16; Psalm 32:3-5)
- What the church community is designed to be:
 - The body of Christ is a place of accountability, not performance.
 - Holiness standards exist to protect us, not to shame us when we fall short.
 - Distinction – Transparency is not an excuse for sin. It's the pathway out of it.
- Breaking the culture of pretending
 - We cannot get help for what we will not name.
 - Biblical figures who modeled humility (Moses, David, Paul...)

Temptation – Understanding the Battle

- Temptation is not sin. (Hebrews 4:15; James 1:14-15)
- Being tempted means you're in the fight and not already lost.
- Tools against temptation:
 - Holy Ghost Power (Acts 2:38)
 - Weapons of fasting and prayer (Matthew 17:21)
 - Sword of the Word (Psalm 119:11)
 - Accountability and covering by Pastor and church community
- Patterns and triggers (Identify personal weak points and run to God first.)

Weakness – Where Grace Lives

- Pauls' theology of weakness (2 Corinthians 12:7-10; 1 Corinthians 1:27)
- Distinctives on grace and holiness (Titus 2:11-12; Romans 8:11)
- What weakness teaches us – Dependence on God and compassion for others

Hope – The Anchor

- Finished work and ongoing work (Romans 8:1; Lamentations 3:22-23)
- Repentance as gift, not punishment (Acts 2:38; Luke 15:20)
- Holding onto hope in a real way (Hebrews 6:19)

Call to Honesty and Hope Together

- Honesty without hope leads to despair.
- Hope without honesty leads to superficiality.
- Together they produce the kind of believer who is real, resilient, and growing.

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DISCIPLESHIP SERIES

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Things to Think About

- Are you ready to stop hiding, to start receiving, and to walk forward in the power of the Holy Ghost?
- What can you do personally to grow closer to God?

Things to Think About

- What are some of the things you can do to change how you respond to failure? Temptation? Weakness?
- Can you give some examples of situations in your life where you used Biblical principles to overcome and move forward?

**But they that wait upon the
Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings
as eagles; they shall run, and
not be weary; and they shall
walk, and not faint.**

Isaiah 40:31