

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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Nobody is perfect.

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The statement “*Nobody is perfect*” is not universally true. Jesus lived upon earth sinlessly perfect. Jesus “knew no sin” because He “did no sin” (2 Corinthians 5:21, 1 Peter 2:22). Enemies accused him, but could not convict him of any sin in His life (John 10:33, 8:46). He stands today as the blameless and spotless lamb of God who is uniquely able to redeem us from all our sins (1 Peter 1:18-19).

With that said, it is literally true that we “*have sinned*,” falling short of the glory of God (cf. Romans 3:23). Between you and me, we can converse regarding sin, and understand the truthfulness of the “*nobody is perfect*” statement.

King David was chosen by God to replace disobedient Saul as Israel’s King, for he was “*a man after God’s own heart*” (1 Samuel 13:14, Acts 13:22). Yet, David was not perfect. He allowed his eyes to feed his heart with lust, and commit adultery with Bathsheba, Uriah’s wife (2 Samuel 11:4). His selfish pride contributed to a further downward spiral in sin when he ordered conditions for faithful Uriah to be killed in battle (2 Samuel 11:15).

The apostle Paul was Jesus’ “*appointed minister and witness*” to further the Gospel to the Gentiles (Acts 26:16). But Paul was not perfect. He consented to the stoning death of innocent Stephen (Acts 8:1). He laid waste the Lord’s church, dragging godly men and women to imprisonment (Acts 8:3). Paul persecuted those who were following the way of the Lord even to their death (Acts 22:4). However, Paul, the self-proclaimed “*chief*” of sinners, found forgiveness in God’s mercy. He was washed clean of his sins in baptism, allowing him to look back on his hurtful past without paralyzing guilt for a productive future in the Lord (cf. Acts 22:16, 1 Timothy 1:16).

The apostle Peter was not perfect. Promising Jesus that he would never stumble in falling away from the Lord, Peter denied the Lord three times (Matthew 26:33, 70, 72, 74). Behind the scenes Jesus prayed that Satan would not completely separate Peter’s faith from him like the sifting of wheat, but that Peter would return to faithfulness to strengthen the brethren (Luke 22:31-32). Later, Jesus may have been bringing Peter back full circle by asking him three times if he loved Him. After Peter

responded in the affirmative, but grieved having to assure the Lord that he loved Jesus for the third time, Peter heard the Lord’s exhortation to go and feed and tend the spiritual sheep of the Lord (John 21:15-17).

We should never use “*nobody is perfect*” as an excuse for our sins. Even one sin can damn our soul, binding us in the bond of iniquity (cf. Acts 8:23). But, like Simon, we can repent and pray and be restored to usefulness (Acts 8:22).

We should not allow the reality of “*nobody is perfect*” get us down when we fail, or discourage us to give up living holy lives as Christians. Though imperfect, we must “*perfect holiness in the fear God*” (2 Corinthians 7:1). Peter failed again by playing the hypocrite (Galatians 2:11-13). Being rebuked in love by Paul, Peter did not give up. With humble determination, Peter continued to tend and feed the flock with teaching that would remain with God’s people after his spirit had departed his body (cf. 2 Peter 1:14).

Turn “*nobody is perfect*” into a motive for immediately getting back up, instead of giving up. David, Paul and Peter did, so can you!