

20. HOPE in the Battle

The quest for purity is laden with failure. You try and fail, get up and fall again, and again. It can seem so hard, if not impossible to get control of thoughts and habits that may have seemingly entrenched themselves deep within your soul. The enemy whispers lie after lie in your ears to ‘quit’ or to ‘give up’, or ‘its only a matter of time until you fall again’, etc.

We will not and cannot advance in this quest for purity unless we cling to the promises of HOPE that the Lord gives to us. We must hold fast to the goal as we move toward our ultimate destiny: eternal purity and holiness before our Holy God.

Prov 24:16 for though a righteous man falls seven times, he rises again, but the wicked are brought down by calamity.

Jude 24 But to him that is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—

2 Thes 3:3 But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one

Eph 1:4,5 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him in love.

Psa 3:5 I lie down and sleep; I wake again because the Lord sustains me.

Lam 3:22,23 Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

Psa 42:5 Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

Phil 3:12-14 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

MEMORIZE: Jude 24

Questions:

1. What gives you hope after failure?
2. How can you give hope to another brother who has stumbled and wants to give up?
3. How can our hope increase?
4. Pick out on of these verses and paraphrase it, re-write it in your own words.

5. How can I apply the truth of these verses to my life today?

DISCUSSION: If you have ever wanted to ‘give up’ and quit the battle, please discuss it with your buddies. What happened that got you to the point of surrender? What turned you back?