

No More Defeat – Part 8

1 Pet. 5:5-9

- *Failure comes when we are cut off from the grace of God.*
- All failure begins with a lie and deception.
 - *All sin stems from believing and acting on deception and unbelief (God is not good; He is withholding; I am my own god; I must think about me).*
 - *Deception and lies are rooted in PRIDE (I live for my own glory and not God's).*
- *Pride rises when man exalts himself - then God RESISTS us and withdraws His grace.*

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1 Pet. 5:5-9

- Pride (self-glory) – *the highest man could achieve apart from God – is the devil's counterfeit to God's glory.*
- *Surrendering to God's will in everything, for His glory, and maintaining dependence upon the Spirit, is the essence of success from a biblical viewpoint.*

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Godly Success vs. Worldly Success

- *The deception of "worldly" success causes us to live to MAN, for our glory, and their approval and praise.*
 - *We become man pleasers, doing the will of others instead of the will of God.*
 - *We work to preserve a false appearance.*
- EXPERIMENT: *Try living one day in absolute truth with God, with others and yourself.*

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Godly Success vs. Worldly Success

● *When we are living just for “worldly” success, we become too concerned with what others think and are not concerned with what the Lord thinks.*

● **Luke 16:13:** *“No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”*

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Three Areas Where God’s Sovereignty and Man’s Responsibility Must Meet:

● **Performance** – *I cannot change my fallen, pride-filled nature - surrender.*

● *He must do it so He gets all the glory.*

● **Will** – **Phil. 2:13:** *“...for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.”*

● *We must be willing to walk away from sin and surrender, but He will work it in me!*

● *The will and the “to do” come because of “His good pleasure”.*

● *His good pleasure becomes my good pleasure, which denotes a CHANGE of HEART (repentance).*

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Three Areas Where God’s Sovereignty and Man’s Responsibility Must Meet:

● **Will** (continued).

● *When He works, by grace, to change us, we enjoy His will, His ways and walking with Him, even when it’s hard.*

● *If doing God’s will makes us miserable, you haven’t done His will!*

● *If I find myself struggling to accept or do His will, SELF is on the throne.*

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Three Areas Where God's Sovereignty and Man's Responsibility Must Meet:

•Will (continued).

- The first work of God, repentance, happens, then out of that work we center on Him and His grace and life manifest in and through us* (success).

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Three Areas Where God's Sovereignty and Man's Responsibility Must Meet:

•Choice.

- Everything in creation either operates out of relational design* (inanimate objects or forces), *or instinct* (animate plants and animals).
- Only humans have the Creator's image – the ability to choose.*
- I can choose to resist Him and His will, cutting myself off from His grace, or I can choose to INVITE Him in.*

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Three Areas Where God's Sovereignty and Man's Responsibility Must Meet:

•Choice.

- Scenario: You're starving to death and pray for the Lord to send food.*
- He sends food, but you have to bend, sit down and eat.*
- You will still starve to death IF you don't choose to meet His sovereign will and blessing.*
- God's sovereign mercy brought the food, but it was human responsibility to bend, sit and eat.*

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Three Areas Where God's Sovereignty and Man's Responsibility Must Meet:

- Yielding vs. Knowledge of the Good.

- *When we leave to place of abiding in His will, we begin eating of the poisoned tree.*

- Example: *praying and reading your Bible are "good", but trusting these MEANS, instead of being yielded to Him, becomes poisonous fruit.*

- *A wheel does not turn to become a wheel; it turns because it IS a wheel.*
