

His Success!

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I believe that Satan uses our fleshly weakness to his benefit. He tried it on Jesus (Matt. 4) but failed. Not only that but he tries it on us and often succeeds. We want to be like Jesus, but realize how far we miss that noble goal. We always will if we are not careful. I look at my life and see the glaring imperfections, the goal that we have missed, the times I should have but didn't, the times I should not have but did, and it grates on my soul. I completely understand Paul's anguish in Rom. 7 when he cried out, "*Who will rescue me from this body of death*"? I want more faith, seem to have less. I want to be a shining light for my Lord, yet see more darkness than light. My weaknesses haunt me. My weaknesses speak out loudly and testify against me. When things like this happens to me or any Christian; it is then that Satan steps in and whispers to me, encouraging me to look at myself and the futility of my efforts, goading me to see the impossibility of salvation due to my failures.

He did that with Job, using his wife's tongue, "*Curse God and die.*" He whispers sweetly in my ears, "Give up, give in, surrender. You are a failure and you will never make it." Jesus speaks out, "Yes, you are a failure. You are not the answer to your salvation. I am. Put your trust in me, not in yourself. "*I am the way, the truth, and the life.*" Satan wants me to look at myself as my answer to my salvation. He knows if I concentrate on my failure and I will never see Jesus's success. He knows how discouraging human effort can be and wants it to be a burden that will crush my soul. Jesus offers, "*Come to me, all ye who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and **my burden is light.***" (Matt. 11:28-30). Satan wants me to think of myself as my Savior. He wants me to focus my sight on myself. When I give in and accept his counsel, I see my failure and it cries out, "Give up." Jesus throws me a lifeline telling me that he did not fail. He is my rock, my strength, my savior, and my believe. Paul's answer is, "*Oh, what a terrible predicament I'm in! Who will free me from slavery to this deadly lower nature? Thank God it has been done by Jesus Christ our Lord. **He has set me free so there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.***" (Rom. 7:24-25; 8:1).

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