

# Day 1 - When Someone Else Stumbles

Reading: Romans 11:11-15

*"Did they stumble so as to fall? May it never be!" - Romans 11:11*

## Reflection

What happens in your heart when you see someone else stumble?

Sometimes another person's failure can quietly become a reason to feel better about ourselves.

*They walked away. I'm still here.*

*They made those choices. I didn't.*

But Paul refuses to let the Gentile believers look at Israel that way. Israel had stumbled through unbelief. Paul doesn't minimize that. But neither does he say their story is over. Instead, he continues looking forward with hope toward what God may yet do.

That should change the way we look at people who have stumbled.

Someone else's struggle is not an opportunity for comparison. It is an opportunity for humility, compassion, and prayer.

We don't know what God may yet do in their life.

So when someone stumbles, resist the temptation to look down. **Look toward them with hope.**

## Reflection Questions

- How do I usually respond when someone else stumbles?
- Have I compared their failures with my faithfulness?
- Who have I quietly assumed will never change?

## Practice

Think of one person who has stumbled or wandered from faith. Instead of judging where they are today, pray for what God may yet do in their life.

## Prayer

Gracious God, forgive me when another person's struggle becomes a reason for pride. Give me humility, compassion, and hope for what You may yet do. Amen.

# Day 2 - Remember What Supports You

Reading: Romans 11:16-18

*"It is not you who supports the root, but the root supports you." - Romans 11:18*

## Reflection

Paul gives us a picture of an olive tree.

Some branches had been broken off, and Gentile believers had been grafted in. But that created a danger: the new branches could begin looking down on the old ones.

Paul's warning is simple: **Remember what supports you.**

A branch doesn't give life to the root. It receives life from it. The same is true of us.

We can look at how much we've grown, the sins we've overcome, or how long we've followed Jesus and begin taking credit for what God's grace has done.

But you didn't save yourself. You don't sustain yourself. **You're a branch too.**

Every day you follow Jesus is another day you depend upon God's grace.

Remembering that leaves little room for pride - and plenty of room for gratitude.

## Reflection Questions

- Where am I tempted to take credit for spiritual growth?
- Have I compared my growth with someone else's struggles?
- How is God's grace sustaining me today?

## Practice

Think of one way God has changed you. Instead of taking pride in how far you've come, thank Him for the grace that brought you here.

## Prayer

Father, thank You for the grace that sustains me. Keep me from pride, and help me remember that everything good in me depends upon You. Amen.

# Day 3 - Why Are You Standing?

Reading: Romans 11:19-20

*"They were broken off for their unbelief, but you stand by your faith." - Romans 11:20*

## Reflection

Why are you standing?

Paul wants the Gentile believers to answer that question carefully.

They could look at the branches that had been broken off and think, *They failed. We didn't.*

But Paul points them away from comparison: **You stand by your faith.**

You aren't standing because you're better than someone else. You aren't standing because you've earned your place. You stand by faith.

And faith itself leaves no room for boasting.

Faith says, *I cannot save myself.*

Faith says, *I need a Savior.*

Faith says, *My hope is Jesus.*

The very faith by which we stand is an admission that we could never stand on our own.

So when you're tempted to look down on someone who is struggling, remember why you're standing.

Not because you're better. **Because you're depending on Christ.**

## Reflection Questions

- What am I tempted to take pride in?
- Have I confused spiritual growth with superiority?
- What does my faith say about how much I need Jesus?

## Practice

Complete this sentence:

**I am standing today because \_\_\_\_\_.**

Let your answer lead you to gratitude rather than pride.

## Prayer

Jesus, keep me from pride. Remind me that I stand by faith and that my hope is in You, not myself. Amen.

# Day 4 - Continue in His Kindness

Reading: Romans 11:20-22

*"See then the kindness and severity of God... to you, God's kindness, if you continue in His kindness." - Romans 11:22*

## Reflection

Paul tells believers who are standing by faith: **Keep standing.**

God's kindness is not something we receive once and then outgrow our need for.

Paul warns against turning grace into presumption.

Trust says, **"I need Him."**

Presumption says, **"I've got nothing to worry about."**

Trust keeps looking to Christ. Presumption begins looking at itself.

Following Jesus isn't only about how you began. The same faith by which you stand is the faith in which you must continue.

Continue trusting. Continue depending upon God's kindness. Continue living by faith.

There is never a point in the Christian life when we graduate from dependence upon grace. In fact, the longer we follow Jesus, the more clearly we should recognize just how much we need Him.

## Reflection Questions

- Am I still actively depending upon God's grace?
- Where has confidence in Christ become confidence in myself?
- What would continuing in His kindness look like today?

## Practice

Begin today with a simple confession:

**"Jesus, I still need You."**

Let that dependence shape how you live today.

## Prayer

Jesus, keep me depending upon Your grace. Protect me from presumption, and teach me to continue trusting Your kindness and living by faith. Amen.

# Day 5 - Stay Humble. Stay Hopeful.

Reading: Romans 11:23-24

*"God is able to graft them in again." - Romans 11:23*

## Reflection

Is there someone you've quietly given up on?

Maybe you've prayed for years. You've watched them walk away from faith or reject every attempt to talk about Jesus.

Eventually discouragement can begin to sound like certainty: **"They're never going to change."**

Paul won't let the Gentile believers look at Israel that way.

Yes, branches had been broken off because of unbelief. Paul takes that seriously.

But their story wasn't necessarily finished.

**God is able to graft them in again.**

That isn't a promise that everyone we pray for will eventually believe. But it gives us reason to remain humble and hopeful.

We don't know what God may yet do.

So don't write someone off. Keep loving them. Keep praying. Keep pointing toward Jesus.

Their story isn't yours to finish. Trust God with what you cannot do.

## Reflection Questions

- Is there someone I've begun to give up on?
- Have I mistaken discouragement for certainty?
- What would hopeful faithfulness toward them look like?

## Practice

Write down the name of someone you've nearly stopped praying for.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Pray for them again today.

## Prayer

God, keep me humble and hopeful. Help me faithfully love and pray for those who seem far from You, and trust You with what I cannot do. Amen.