

# How to Move on From Your Past

Have you ever made a mistake and felt like you could easily forgive others, but forgiving yourself was much more difficult? One of the greatest hindrances to stepping into your future is holding on to your past.

Is it biblical to move on from our mistakes? And should we even attempt to live a life where we avoid mistakes altogether? I believe the Bible paints a beautiful picture of a God who chooses people who have had tumultuous pasts. Notice many of the people God used were murderers, adulterers, and even people who initially chose to run from God. I see many people struggle on their healing journeys, whether physically or emotionally, because of previous decisions they made that they simply cannot move past.

Let's take Peter for example. The Lord tells Peter that he is going to deny Him three times in John 13:38. But I want you to notice how Jesus deals with Peter immediately after predicting Peter's denial. As we pick up in John 14:1, it is important to remember that the Bible was not originally written with chapters and verses. Those were added later to help the reader. So when we read John 13:38 and continue directly into John 14, we are still in the same conversation. Jesus has just told Peter that he is going to deny Him, and then He says, "Let not your heart be troubled..." Jesus continues by telling His disciples that in His Father's house are many mansions and that He is going to prepare a place for them. Peter is included in this promise. Why is this important? Because Jesus knew Peter was going to mess up. He knew Peter was going to fail Him. Yet Peter's failure did not change what Jesus had prepared for him.

Every believer needs to be armed with the truth that God is for us, not against us, even when we make mistakes. The greatest gift you can give your Father after your failure is to appropriate Jesus' finished work and fail forward.

How do we fail forward? We admit when we are wrong, receive what Jesus has already accomplished for us, and allow the error to become a lesson learned instead of a place where we live. Hebrews 10:17 says, "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more." If God is not holding your sin over your head, why are you?

We should learn from our mistakes, but we were never meant to build a home in them. Your mistake can become a lesson without becoming your identity.