

TURNING YOUR SPIRITUAL SETBACKS INTO GODLY COMEBACKS

I have a question for you. Have you ever experienced a setback in your spiritual walk with Christ? If you're like me, you can (or may) answer this: yes, on more than one occasion. A setback is an event that makes you lose progress or keeps you or me from gaining ground, in our spiritual walk. It may be caused by sin in your life, or (surprisingly) it may be caused by God, who is positioning you to grow (and go) a different direction. The key here is that any setback does not have to define you. If it is caused by sin in your life, then we know what you need to do, right now. You need to get right with God by confessing it, repenting/turning from it, and being a Christ-follower again. If the setback is allowed by God, then chances are He's wanting you to change direction, re-focus, and/or grow you into a new spiritual level with Him.

Consider Job in Scripture. Wow, did he ever experience a setback with the loss of family members, possessions and health. How about Joseph when he was sold by his brothers into Egypt, then later put in prison for something he did not do? What about King David and his sin with Bathsheba, murder of her husband, etc.?

Every setback you face is a setup for a Godly comeback. But, you must respond correctly. How often have we seen football games turn around in the second half of in the latter stage of the game when it looked like the early setback spelled defeat for the team? Satan seriously wants to take you out of the game: God's game. I mean no disrespect to God by stating this. If Satan can't have your soul (and he can't), then he's at least going to try and render you ineffective. The last thing he wants is for you messing in his business. God, you know, definitely wants you to disrupt Satan's plans, both in your own lives and in the lives of others. We know from Scripture that we are to "stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith" (1 Pet. 5:8-9, NLT).

For some, maybe you're spiritually disarmed (i.e., you don't have your battle gear on). If you're facing a setback right now, I pray that you find your gear again, put it on and "be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power (recall He (in us) is omnipotent (all-powerful))." (Eph. 6:10, NLT). "If God is for us, who can be against us" (Rom. 8:31, NLT)? No one, of any significance!

If you're facing a spiritual setback right now, you're in a perfect position for God to use you. Don't let the setback try to define who you are. Just as the dawn of morning signifies a new day, so your correct response to Christ, in this setback, has set you up for an awesome comeback. Watch out Satan! For the mischief you've played in my brother or sister's life, God will make good. They will be stronger in Him, for His glory and for His kingdom's sake. Thank you Lord!

*David L. Hamil
Co-founder and Ministry Lead
2 Hearts for Integrity Ministries*