## The Surprising Virtue of Failure

Satisfied-part 7 Psalm 103 May 19, 2024

*Proverbs 27:20 Hell and destruction are never satisfied, and never satisfied are the eyes of man.* 

<u>The Ecclesiastes Experience</u>--Only God can meet our deepest needs. Nothing else we try will do. A deep sense of <u>loneliness</u>, <u>emptiness</u> or <u>discouragement</u> are dashboard lights, telling us our heart is trusting something other than drawing close to Christ and reflecting Him to others.

<u>The Job Experience-Fear</u>, <u>anger</u> and <u>depression</u> are also dashboard lights but point us to something different--a deepseated commitment to SELF, to get the "life" we think we need and deserve without having to depend on God.

> "Satan's strategy is to get Christians to become preoccupied with their failures. From then on, the battle is won." -C.S. Lewis, Screwtape Letters

## Failure exposes what is *really* <u>c</u> in our hearts

Psalms 103:1 Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

<sup>2</sup> Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits--

Failure exposes our *real* <u>p</u>

Psalm 103:3 ... who forgives all your sins ...,

## Failure exposes us to <u>d</u> of which we had not dreamed!

Psalm 103:4 ...who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, <sup>5</sup> who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

## Failure exposes God's <u>g</u>blessings.

*Psalm 103:9 He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever;* 

*Psalm 103:10 He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.* 

Psalm 103:11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him;

Psalm 103:12... as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

Psalm 103:13 As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;

Failure exposes our <u>p</u>\_\_\_\_\_.

Psalm 103:14 ... for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust.

<sup>15</sup> As for man, his days are like grass, he flourishes like a flower of the field;

<sup>16</sup> the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more.

<sup>17</sup> But from everlasting to everlasting the LORD's love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children's children--<sup>18</sup> with those who keep his covenant and remember to obey his precepts.

Psalm 103:19 The LORD has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all.
<sup>20</sup> Praise the LORD, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word.
<sup>21</sup> Praise the LORD, all his heavenly hosts, you his servants who do his will.
<sup>22</sup> Praise the LORD, all his works everywhere in his dominion. Praise the LORD, O my soul.

Key: p.1. central; p.2: purposes; delights; greater. p. 3: pride

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