

God's Perfect Will after Failure

'He (God) does not delight in the strength of the horse; He takes no pleasure in the legs of a man. The Lord takes pleasure in those who fear Him, in those who hope in His mercy.' - Psalm 147:10-11

“Why does God allow failure/Why don't we prevail (on our own) in every circumstance?” Before exploring some answers to this question, three examples below show men who rested in their strength for the victory and the result of their self-confidence:

- Joshua and Israel's self-confidence against Ai (Joshua chapter 7 esp. vs 3)
- David's self confidence in prosperity (Psalm 30 vs 6-7)
- Peter's self confidence in declaring he would not betray the Lord (Mark 14:27-31)

Usually after victory, man becomes secure in his success, but this is exactly when we as Christians need to be most vigilant and take heed. (1 Peter 5:8; 1 Corinthians 10:12)

God's will in our failure:

- **That He alone may take the glory (Isaiah 42:8)**
 - i. In all things- failure, victory, life, death...whatever- God's glory and praise remain His highest end, even before the good of His children or anything He has created.
 - ii. Not only is His glory the primary end in all things, but also that this glory is not shared in any way by the created thing. We must take care to ensure all the glory goes to God in all things (Psalm 115:1). What a great temptation we face here.
- **That He may bring about humility and repentance in His children (2nd Cor 7:10)**
 - i. Failure in many cases is a necessary ingredient for humility and contrition (David in Psalm 30:10; Peter in Luke 22:62).
- **That in humility, He might supply grace for the victory and our strengthening**
 - i. God's grace is given only in humility (James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5)
 - ii. In our weakness/humility, the strength of Jesus Christ is perfected in us (2nd Cor 12:9)

God's desire for us is to be strong in Him (Ephesians 6:10). Failure is a constant reminder that of our own, we can do nothing (John 15:5); yet in Christ Jesus, we can do all things as He strengthens us (Philippians 4:13)