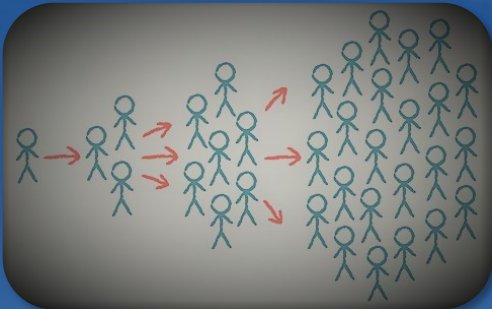


THE LEVITE

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Contagious
For good or bad?

It's Time!

*"...choose you this
day whom ye will
serve..."*

(Joshua 24:15)



The Lions of Later Life
Some overcame, some were overcome



Who's Watching?
I guarantee they are

 **HODGENVILLE
PENTECOSTAL
CHURCH**
Pentecostal by Experience - Holiness by Choice



Brother David Webb
Senior Pastor - Hodgenville Pentecostal Church

IS DEMONSTRATIVE WORSHIP ON THE ENDANGERED LIST?

Acts 3:8 - And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.

Is it just me or is demonstrative worship waning from our services? As a child I remember countless times waking up from a cat nap under the church pew with heels clomping and bobby pins skidding across the hardwood floor of Calvary Holiness Church in Brooks, KY. It was part of what we did. It was who we were. The very fiber of our Pentecostal experience was woven with worship.

I remember the old saints testifying about being a Holy Roller and being Saved, Sanctified, and baptized with the Holy Ghost and with Fire. Many of them came out of their pew, clapping their hands, speaking in tongues and dancing in the spirit. It was nothing unusual to have an old saint of God take 5 minutes of rejoicing during their testimony of God's delivering power. **Perhaps they had an experience we lack?** Where has worship gone?

As a child I remember countless sermons never being finished because people came standing to their feet worshipping God, and it seemed more important to have a Holy Ghost move than to hear the third point of a sermon! Where have we missed it? One minister told me in 2014 that it had been at least 5 years since his church had experienced a "shout down" or had a message in tongues. An evangelist traveling full time among the holiness movement said from the pulpit at HPC, "In the churches where we are holding revivals, people are not even clapping their hands during song service anymore, much less shouting and glorifying God!"

May I submit to you that things must be done decently and in order, but when our programs get in the way of a move of God we are in serious trouble. When our focus is more about getting a meeting scheduled than working the altars and praying for sinners, we are missing the mark. As ministers, it is easy for us to berate our flocks for being passive in their worship, but let us take serious stock of ourselves. Are we, as ministers, "vocally" praising God while our folks are singing? Do we visually push whoever is up that the entire church might be edified? To all saints of God: How long has it been since we have been

used in the gifts of the Spirit? How long since we shouted aside from when we had the mic? How long since we were filled to overflowing with the Holy Ghost! "How can I bring others to worship if I first don't recognize that I myself must worship?"

Concern has been growing with the lack of spontaneous worship over the last few years in our Holiness meetings. I began to pray and ask God why the drought of worship? I felt the Lord begin to deal with me that the reason the people of God are having a hard time worshipping God in church...because they don't worship God anywhere else!

The reason the old timers had no problem worshipping at church is because they:

- **Worshiped at home**
- **Worshiped in the field**
- **Worshiped in the cedar thicket**
- **Worshiped in every spare moment they had**

Their worship was not an act ... it was a lifestyle! When they came to church, worship was second nature.

This all started in Acts 2 when the bystanders supposed the new "Holy Rollers" to be drunken men. The Church came out of the upper room full of the Holy Ghost and exalting the resurrected Christ.

In August, 1801, Barton W. Stone led a revival in Cane Ridge, Kentucky, that became the most famous camp meeting. The meeting lasted a week, and 23,000 people came. Often these people produced strange physical manifestations ... some people fainted and fell to the ground (were "slain in the spirit") or suffered uncontrollable shaking ("the jerks"). There was dancing, running and singing - all of which Stone said were manifestations of God's presence.

In the book entitled They Gathered at the River, Bernard Wiesenberger tells of the Cane Ridge revival. He said there were many manifestations of the power of God moving on

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CONTAGIOUS

Brother Andrew Astor
Youth Pastor - Hodgenville Pentecostal Church

We know that many sicknesses are contagious. When someone in my house comes down with a bug, more than likely everyone will catch it. Most people don't realize this, but you are "infecting" everyone that you come in contact with one way or another. Your personality and attitude are passed along to those around. There are three main contagious attitudes that we must conquer and never pass along.

#1: The mindset of being casual: Everyone enjoys dressing casual at times. Being casual is not necessarily wrong, other than when referring to spiritual things. We should never carry a casual attitude towards the Lord. 2 Samuel chapter 6 tells of the consequences for being casual when handling the things of God. A casual attitude erodes the barriers of respect, authority, and honor. It was engrained in my DNA from my youth pastor to "dress my best" when coming to God's house. I now understand that it was less about the attire and more about the attitude that comes with it. Casual attire often brings casual attitudes. When things get casual, things get common. This goes for the pastor as well. It offends me to hear someone refer to their Sheppard as buddy, pal, or call him by his first name.

#2: The mistake of being complacent: Amos 6:1 "Woe to them at ease in Zion". Complacency is a big, big problem. First know this, complacency is NOT contentment. I have seen preachers or laymen confuse the two. Godly contentment is the cure for complacency. If you are content where God has placed you, you will be satisfied and work happily in the field God has given you. Complacency on the other hand lacks any motor or drive. Honestly, I cannot stand being around complacent people. Often, someone who is complacent will see a need but does not have any desire to fix it. They are takers, excuse makers, and church drainers.

#3: The misery of being critical: The critical attitude is found often. David's wife had it when he was dancing, Judas had it when the women broke the alabaster box, and it is still alive and well today. Stay away from this disease. It is easily identified, someone who never gives a compliment but is quick to tell how bad something is. You can never please them and nothing is ever good enough. Most of the time, a critical spirit is just so negative. I worked with a man that had a very critical attitude. One day we ate lunch at a gas station which he got some chicken strips. We were in the car eating when he decided that they were not good and decided to return them. Needless to say, someone who is critical is often another C word... Cheap! Avoid placing yourself around critical people, but rather look for those who are positive and uplifting.

You are contagious, it's just a matter of how and what you will effect others with. Will it be for the good or bad?



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people....runners, jumpers, leapers, crawlers, walkers, shouters, rollers, whirlers, dancers, prancers, shakers, bawlers & squalors, and they were **all speaking in tongues!** He said, "Where has the worship went?"

There is a downward trend we must avoid. May I submit to you four steps that have been observed that lead to a shell of the "used to be Church".

1. **People stop worshiping.** They sit during song service. There is no hand clapping or hallelujahs. Hand raising and shouting is rare.
2. Then follows the **Dead Altars.**
3. Shortly after, **Dead Services** began to be the norm.
4. The end result is a **Dead Church.** The youth are gone. The young couples are gone. The vision is gone. Worst of all, the Holy Ghost is gone!

John Wesley said of the Methodists, "My fear is not that our great movement, known as the Methodists, will eventually cease to exist or one day die from the earth. My fear is that our people will become content to live without the fire, the power, the excitement, the supernatural element that makes us great."

Watch this carefully ...There are 12 different tribes of Israel. In the Old Testament, when the children of Israel went into battle they did not first send...

- Levites - (Ministers)

- Dan – (Judges)
- Issachar – (Scholars)
- Zebulon – (Business people)
- Gad – (Warriors)

...And the LORD said, Judah (Praise) *shall go up* first! Before we preach, He must be praised. Before we judge and bring the hammer down, He must be lifted up. Before we teach, He must be worshiped. Before we partake in business, He must be put at the pinnacle. Before we go to war with the evil of our hour, Christ must be exalted to His rightful place!

Let us get back to the worship our God deserves. We must not hold back but turn loose and let this world know there are still a people who know how to worship the Lord!

Finally, located 10 miles west of Salina, KS, the Smoky Hill Weapons Range is the largest and busiest Air National Guard bombing range in the nation encompassing 51 square miles. People were complaining about the noise of the planes. The Air Force put up a sign that read "Pardon the noise ... it's the sounds of freedom!"

Well I said I wouldn't tell it to a living soul

How He brought salvation and He made me whole

But I found I couldn't find such love as Jesus did impart

Well it makes me laugh and it makes me cry

Sets my Sinful soul on fire

When God dips His love in my Heart!

**WHO IS WATCHING, ANYWAY**

Brother David Whelan
Hodgenville Pentecostal Church

Ecclesiastes 11:9 - Rejoice, O young man, in they youth; and let they heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these [things] God will bring thee into judgment.

I am fortunate to know Christians that read the Bible, walk with God, and live beyond reproach. We can look to these men and women as examples for how to live. However, I would not imagine that many of us give much thought of how others may be looking to us. We, by the nature of Christ in

us, think more of others than ourselves; therefore, we fail to see how we could be much of an example to anyone. This just is not true. Every one of us that wear the name of Christ live in the gaze of others. Naturally, some groups are more influenceable and some are more influential than others.

One such dynamic exists with a group that severely underestimates their impact — the young adults. The power of the 18-30 year old generation over the youth in our churches cannot be overstated. Young person, make no mistake that your younger brothers and sisters are watching closely,

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and you may very well have more influence over them in certain areas than the pastor or their parents. I can tell you from experience that my children pick up verbal habits, dress habits, and likes and dislikes from you. I admonish you to live right for God and for those who are watching you. Your influence is also one of the reasons that scorn tends to get heaped on your head when you cross the line. Everyone senior to you, on purpose or not, is going to make an example of sin in a young person because they well know not only your impact and how it is magnified in those watching you but also your vulnerability.

Some areas of weakness in the under 30 crowd that concern me a great deal for their impact on the children and youth are:

Use of social media, particularly photo sharing and Facebook. I know what you will say: "Facebook is not evil;" "YouTube is just a collection of videos;" "Chat rooms are populated by people that are the age and gender they represent themselves to be and not by some 50-year-old guy in Milwaukee named Chester;" and "The internet is just a big version of the World Book Encyclopedia." All are statements with some element of truth. You may be wise enough to handle it, but what about that 13-year-old girl whose parents do not guard her? She will look to you for an example. Your actions speak louder than the pastor's words. If you are washed by the blood, you have a responsibility for those that are tender.

Music. Wow, that is a sore subject. Yes, some of that contemporary music is fine. No doubt some of it is good spiritual music, but have you looked at the artists? Is that what you want your kids to look like? What do you really know about them? May I suggest three reasons why you should obey your pastor and set a good example:

1. He is your pastor, and it won't hurt you to simply obey him.
2. You aren't sure yourself about what you are fooling with let alone what impact it will have on those who are watching you. Consider this: If you found a water bottle with no label laying around your house but the seal had been broken, would you drink it? Most would not because they aren't sure about the story of the water, so it just isn't worth it. Are you sure about that music, and do you understand 100% of the im-

pact? And finally,


3. I can't possibly listen to all the fine holiness music that is available, performed by people that you know live right, are anointed, AND deserve your support. Folks, you just can't find better music than the anointed, Spirit-filled music that we have readily available to us!! (Just a note: I just used the contemporary genre as an example, but southern gospel, country gospel, etc. have a lot of the same problems...even if the music itself is good. For example, one southern gospel singer that wrote and performed some very good stuff announced some years ago that he was homosexual. Folks, you don't need him on your iPod — not because the music is bad, but because he does not set a good example and does not deserve your support.)

Clothing. Men...really! Quit trying to look like some boy from Hollywood. Cut your hair, shave your face, tuck your shirt in, and remove your hat when indoors. Yes, you will look a little bit peculiar, but don't you expect your future wife to set herself apart and be different?

Ladies, I am yet to see one of you that look better with your hair trimmed or with candy apple red lips. There is not a more charming group of women anywhere than holiness women. Your peculiarity and the Holy Ghost inside of you is all the adornment you need. That group younger than you will emulate you in this area because they don't view middle aged people as trendsetters, but they certainly view you that way.

Use of technology. When I was your age, phones had a bell and a cord. There is nothing inherently bad with the technology, but believing it has no harmful effects is just naive. This would include gaming, smart phones, and computer access. Please, for the sake of the kids watching you, be wise and handle it well. Be a good example for them.

Movies, TV. I remember when my wife and I, having been raised with TV and movies, got the TV out of our house. Among our group of friends and acquaintances, even among the people with whom we attended the Methodist church, we were VERY peculiar. The term Amish was applied to us often. Again, please take the advice of a guy that did not make this decision until I was in my late 20's — do without it. You are better off without it.

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Who's Watching - continued from page 5

Your finances. Young people think you are rich. Consider this saying from the Pearman family in my church: "A poor man has poor ways." That is deep. A poor man frequently has plenty of possessions that are not truly his but belong to the bank, credit card company, etc. A poor woman many times has the latest coach purse. A poor man often eats out a lot. A poor man commonly will not live on a budget. A poor man often will not tithe because "he cannot afford it." Oftentimes, a poor man appears to own much prosperity, but in fact owns little.

Your church attendance. If you don't have it in your heart, then make up your mind to be dogmatic in your attendance and participation in church activities. If you begin backsliding by letting the sheets hold you down, others are going to take their cue from you. There are always those that need to see you faithful.

How you treat the ministry. It would be incorrect to say that I or anyone agrees with ministry 100% of the time. However, we must be very careful about what we say and how we portray. Remember, tearing down the ministry or pastor destroys his credibility to those who have confidence in you. Often ministers take a hard line on some things. Before you criticize, ask yourself what other way he can preach it and what is the real point? I recently heard a preacher speak against pink shirts on men. The topic was the feminization of the American man. His point was to not dress like a woman (pink generally being associated with female attire) not that you are going to hell if you put on a pink shirt. Try to pray about what you hear and use your Holy Ghost filter before you speak.

Your habits regarding Bible reading, worship, and prayer. Have we developed the culture in our churches that is present in some schools whereby the kid that does well in academics is embarrassed by it and doesn't want anyone to know? Is the same true with regard to your spiritual achievement? If someone is doing well, dotting their *i*'s crossing their *t*'s — getting in at the altar, supporting the pastor, etc. — do you ridicule them? OR Does it encourage you to do better? It has always bothered me when people mock the way others shout or worship. I wonder how many times it has discouraged that person if they heard it or how many observers silently resolved never to be subject to that treatment?

Your work habits. Do you have a job? Do you show up on time? Do you constantly carp and complain about what God has given you? Take your career seriously! Excel for your own sake and for that of those watching you. Do your work as unto the Lord.

Your dating habits. Worldly dating is harmful. I know...I grew up there. If there is ever a time in life that you need to walk close to the Lord and prevail in prayer it is this time. Hardly any decision in life will impact you more than the choice of a spouse. I also know from experience that, unless you are very careful, you will actually become irrational and make mistakes that seem perfectly well reasoned to you. There will be stop signs the size of a billboard everywhere, but all you will see is green lights. Listen to your parents and those in authority over you. Youths will be fascinated with every detail of your romantic life. Make sure you do it right.

Your observation of authority. I saved this until last on purpose. It may have always been this way, but among young people today I see so many problems that can be traced back to one thing: rebellion against authority on one level or another. This little devil will creep into your life and wreck it. No wonder the Bible says that rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft (1 Samuel 15:23). I have watched over the years as some members of your age group resist any attempt to hold them accountable through reporting, timekeeping, meeting, being on time, questioning, training, paperwork, and the list goes on. You can usually draw it back to that age-old enemy, the spirit of rebellion. One of the tools I use is my pastor. My pastor feels very strongly about the authority of the shepherd in the spiritual lives of his sheep, so he is a figure that is subject to bringing up that old rebellious feeling. He is a blessing to me in this way as it has allowed me to handle it by being extreme the other way, by submitting myself. I can demonstrate in my life that laying down my will and doing my best to curb my tongue shoves it in the face of that spirit of the enemy such that, in a sense, I am in rebellion against the spirit of rebellion. I am in rebellion against my flesh and the old man. Young brother and sister...they are watching.

I learned some time ago that it is a scientific fact that the human brain does not fully develop the portion that has to do with moral and ethical decision making until age 26

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on average. That means that most have not fully decided “who they are” until that time. They also do not fully comprehend the implications of many of the decisions they are asked to make. It is why quality, Holy Ghost filled advice is so important. It is why the young lady with the high hemline who has been sent to her room to change by her mother does not “get it”; Or why the young man that is interested in that worldly girl from school thinks his parents are crazy and “behind the times” when they forbid him to interact with her.

One of the traps the enemy and life lay for us is the feeling that people in authority over us have some kind of agenda that is somehow harmful to us. In your holiness church life and upbringing, that just is not true the vast majority of the time. Many things we spend time debating may be insignificant to you but matter greatly in light of what impact it has on you, on those around you, and on eternity. The pushback could just be a justification for a rebellious

attitude.

One final anecdote: I was recently witnessing to a man that I have known all my life and have been talking with about spiritual matters for many months. He knows what I had been into years ago in terms of sin, he remembers my old carnal man. As we were talking about a spiritual matter, I invited him to fellowship with the pastor and me and with some other men that I thought could pour into him. To my amazement, he said yes! He added, “I have been watching you for years, and there is something extra that drives you. I can tell how you have changed over the years, and I know it is genuine. I am curious about that.” That is not for my glorification but is an illustration of how closely people are watching you. That is hardly truer than with the young adult group.

I urge us all to reconsider how much influence we have on others. I guarantee they are watching.



THE LIONS OF LATER LIFE

Pastor Dwain Galiher

Junction Hill Pentecostal Church - West Plains, MO

Notice in Daniel 1 that Daniel was taken into captivity by Nebuchadnezzar;

this took place in approximately 605 BC. We read about him purposing in his heart that he would not defile himself with the king’s meat and wine, about his promotion in the kingdom, about God using him to interpret dreams, and about some of the visions he received concerning Israel’s future.

By the time Daniel was conspired against and put into the lion’s den, he was NOT a YOUNG man anymore! Historians say that Babylon was overcome in 539 BC, so let’s do a little math. If Daniel was 15 when taken captive in 605 BC, then he was 65 when the Medes and Persians took over the kingdom. The point is this — He faced the lions in later life.

We usually preach our strongest mes-

sages of warning to our young folks.

We preach passionately about various ways the devil can get a foot hold in their lives and bring them to ruin. However, not all the lions we face in life come to us when we are young folks.

Daniel had already been faithful to the Lord for 50 years! He had received amazing prophetic visions. STILL, he faced these lions in later life.

Let me talk to you about some of the Lions of Later Life that people in the Bible faced. Some overcame them in victory, but sadly some were overcome by them.

1) Lions of Carelessness - Noah fits in this category, and this is my opinion. I don’t believe that Noah deliberately became drunken and naked in his tent, although that is a possibility. I think the change of nature after the flood caused the wine to ferment

when it had not done so before the flood. However, Noah certainly was at least a victim of carelessness. After being one of the heroes of the faith by finding grace in the eyes of God and by obeying God in the building an ark to the saving of his house, he became careless and allowed drunkenness to make him less of a man. What terrible repercussions come to those who are destroyed by the Lions of Carelessness in later life.

Hezekiah had been greatly blessed by God with peace for Israel and even with longer life! Then, when the king of Assyria sent diplomats, Hezekiah took them in like old friends and showed them all his kingdom. Such carelessness caused him terrible consequences, and he ended up giving the Assyrians all the treasures from the house of God and his own person-

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al treasures as well.

2) Lions of Tolerance - Eli was a priest of God for Israel. He was in charge of worship in the tabernacle and responsible for the spiritual leadership of God's people, BUT when his sons were grown he faced the Lions of Tolerance. His sons did not follow God. Eli wanted them to be priests in the family tradition so much that he was willing to tolerate wrong behavior, sin, and wickedness in their lives rather than reprimand them and put them out of the priesthood.

How many good Christian people have you known who lived faithfully for the Lord from their teens, into their marriage, and through the years when their children were young only to face the Lions of Tolerance when their children became teens and began to exert their own will? Many faithful moms and dads begin to tolerate immodesty in their children, to tolerate their sons to growing their hair too long, to tolerate ungodly music in the home, to tolerate ungodly videos and movies, and to tolerate ungodly dating practices. Lions of Tolerance have destroyed numbers of faithful Christian marriages, homes, and families.

3) Lions of Doubt - Sarah was the wife of Abraham, the great man of faith. She had left her homeland to go with Abram to the land God had promised them and had seen the hand of God in their lives over the years. She knew that God had promised to bless them with a child; YET in her later life the Lions of Doubt attacked her. She decided she must take matters into her own hands. She gave Hagar to Abram to help God provide the promised son and heir, and you know the story from there — nothing but frustration and friction from then on.

John the Baptist was a mighty prophet of God, the forerunner of the Messiah. His coming was prophesied in the OT, and his birth was miraculous. He declared that there was One coming after him who was greater than he; that he was not even worthy to unloose his shoes. He cried out on Jordan's banks, "Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world!" and was regarded as a prophet by the entire nation of Israel. THEN, in later life, he was attacked by the Lions of Doubt — doubting what he had KNOWN to be true.

It is not uncommon for us to face the Lions of Doubt in later life. There are things that at one time were settled and sure, that NOW are unsettled and unsure. Now there is not just a shadow of doubt, but a cloud of doubt. Never doubt

in the night what God told you in the light.

4) Lions of Compromise - Aaron was the high priest chosen by God himself. He served as Moses's assistant and witnessed the mighty power of God in delivering Israel from Egypt. STILL, when the people began to clamor about Moses's absence and wanted idols made for them to worship, Aaron gave in to the Lions of Compromise and formed the golden calf. What a tragic sin for a man in his later life who knew the glory and power of God.

5) Lions of Covetousness - Achan was a man with a wife, children, and extended family. He was a man who had experienced the mighty hand of God in bringing them through the wilderness, across the Jordan River, and into the promised land. God declared that they would live in great plenty but had decreed that the spoils of Jericho were accursed and that no one in Israel was to take any of the spoil for themselves. Achan took of the spoil when he knew it was wrong. He hid it in his tent but was found out by the Spirit of God, and his sin caused not only his own death but the deaths of all those in his family.

How tragic to be destroyed by the Lions of Covetousness in later life! God has been faithful through those teenage years and through those young family years. Why allow the Lions of Covetousness to choke your spiritual life; to change your priorities; to dominate your time and your life; to hinder your spiritual life, your walk with God, and even your Ministry!

I have preached to young people through the years about not allowing a job to keep them from God's house and God's work and about not getting in debt for new cars and trucks so that they cannot effectively live for or serve the Lord. NOW, oftentimes, it's we adults who should know better who are falling prey to the Lions of Covetousness.

6) Lions of Lust and Immorality - David was a real man of God who had been brought from being a shepherd to being the king in the palace. He already had wives that loved him, children that respected him, and a fulfilled life. HOWEVER, the Lions of Lust and Immorality are no respecter of persons. Why would David be so susceptible to lust? The only reason is because he was not really doing what he should have been doing at the time. He was at home idle when he should have been doing God's work as the king out leading the armies of Israel. When those Lions of Lust and Immorality attacked him, he went down in defeat. What a tragedy it was for him, for Bathsheba, for her hus-

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band, Uriah, for the baby that was conceived, and for David's other family members.

Older folks are certainly not immune to the Lions of Lust and Immorality. People who have been married for 20 or 30 years, and often times saved for just as long, are sometimes overcome by these lions. Technology has released the Lions of Lust and Immorality into the lives of older saints (who really do know better) through the internet, videos, YouTube, and through the smart phone (which is not so smart at times).

You had better be on guard against the Lions of Lust and Immorality.

7) Lions of Peer Pressure - I know that sounds like something to preach to teens about, but what about a man later in life like Peter? Peter was not an impressionable teenager when he faced the Lions of Peer Pressure. When he was recognized as a disciple of Jesus, he felt tremendous pressure to deny it. Jesus was not popular at that moment, and disciples of Jesus were not popular right then either. There was a chance that he would also be taken by a mob, arrested, accuse, tried, and sentenced. SO, he gave in to the pressure and denied the Lord!

In later life we face tremendous pressure from co-workers, our families, folks in our social circle, even from other "Christians". We that are in our later life need to stand up for truth just as much as teens need to. We must stand for Jesus and stand for righteousness even if we stand alone.

8) Lions of Rebellion - Again, I hear you saying, "This one is for teens." I say we in later life are not immune to the attack of Lions of Rebellion and self-will.

Jonah was not a teenager when he deliberately rebelled against God's command to go to Nineveh. He did not want to go, and figured he was old enough to make his own decision. He was also old enough to realize that if he didn't repent, he was going to drown in the sea. Thank God he repented and got back on the right track.

Sadly, Uzziah rebelled in later life and never got his life back. He took it upon himself to offer incense before the altar of God. Even when the priests of God withstood him and tried to reason with him, he persisted in his rebellion and self-will. He left the temple and died as a leper isolated from the rest of the world.

I have been told by more than one older person who had been a faithful Christian but now was going off into sin and rebellion that they KNEW it was wrong! Rebellion is as the

sin of witchcraft for it opens up your life to satanic influence and demonic spirits.

Time and space fail to go into detail about others who faced lions in later life like:

- Miriam, who was overcome by Lions of Jealousy;
- Elijah, who suffered from the Lions of Depression;
- Isaac, who fell to Lions of Deception;
- David and Michal, whose marriage was destroyed by Lions of Disrespect and Ridicule.

Let me finish on a better note by reminding you of some who faced lions but were not destroyed by them.

- Daniel, after all, faced lions in later life but was not destroyed by them. God gave him a great deliverance.
- Abraham faced the lions of a severe trial when he was commanded to offer up his only son Isaac. His obedience brought great blessing from God and provided a wonderful picture of the glorious salvation provided by God the Father and his willing Son Jesus.
- Samuel faced the lions of offense when he was set aside by the people of Israel after a lifetime of faithful service while they clamored for a king to be like the other nations around them. Still, he refused to become bitter and vowed that he would not cease to pray for them. It also seems that Samuel started the school of the prophets and provided its leadership after his "forced retirement" as the prophet and judge of Israel.
- Paul faced many lions in his later life: he lived without the companionship of a wife; was persecuted in city after city; suffered physically and emotionally; forsaken by close friends; abandoned by other ministers of the gospel; and slandered by people who were jealous of him. Still, he pressed toward the mark for the prize of the high calling in Christ Jesus. He wept, preached, taught, and ministered in the worst of conditions and wrote most of the NT.
- Job faced lions of affliction in later life, and even though he THOUGHT he was being punished by God, he still held true to his integrity and would not curse God. He endured the personal attacks of his friends and the misunderstanding of his wife and came out blessed by God with a double portion.
- John the Apostle faced lions in later life. He was terri-

bly persecuted. Tradition says that authorities tried a number of times to execute him including by boiling him in oil! Finally, he was exiled to Isle of Patmos — that desolate, rocky island where pitiful prisoners labored in the rock quarries. Still, while there in life's worst circumstances he was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day and received a startling vision of the Glorified Christ. He was given the majestic Revelation of Jesus Christ and his coming kingdom (which we are all still trying to figure out).

You and I do not have to be overcome by the lions we face in later life. The Lion of the Tribe of Judah is more than able to deliver us from Satan and his lions who roam about seeking whom they may devour.



A COMEBACK AFTER A SETBACK

Brother Don Woolett
Hodgenville Pentecostal Church

When a person gets saved they never have the intention of failing. Yet life does have a way that may cause one to lose focus. It may be by disappointment, sickness, tragedy, death of a

loved one or simply the trap of negativity. During these times it is of utmost importance to not lose focus. In Matthew 14:28-31 Peter did walk on the water. It wasn't until he ceased to focus on Jesus, that he began to sink. "...And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.³⁰" But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.³¹ And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand,..." When your focus is no longer on Jesus you, too, will begin to spiritually sink. This is where many people fall out of church. Don't ignore the problem! Instead, do what Peter did - cry out to Jesus saying, "Lord, save me!"

"Failure can be a steppingstone on the path to success." Just because you make a mistake does not mean you can't get your life back together. God has made a way of restitution; a come back after a setback.

Proverbs 24:16, *For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again:*

Micah 7:8, *Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise;*

The world measures success quite differently than God does.

1. Money and wealth
2. Power (politics, corporate positions, stardom, sports gods, etc.)
3. Prestige (importance, fame, educational achievement,

etc.)

4. Material possessions (expensive cars, boats, airplanes, houses & lands, etc.)

But God, in His Word, has the formula for real success in life. The Bible tells us very plainly:

Joshua 1: 8 & 9, ⁸This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

⁹Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

What about the times when a storm hits you for no apparent reason? You have been praying, giving your tithe and offerings, and trying to live right and honor the Lord. Just when things are looking bright, the roof caves in. You get fired from your job or evicted from your house. Your spouse walks out on you or one of your children becomes addicted to some substance. You go through a serious health crisis that depletes your financial resources. Suddenly, your whole world has collapsed around you. In desperation you cry out, "Why, God? Why did You let this happen?" You see, we tend to want to blame God when bad things happen in our lives.

Have you ever felt defeated? Through defeat, Satan limits us and robs us. He wants us to give up. He often places us in a state of despondency. Satan brings questions and doubt toward God. When defeat is used with doubt, it becomes a powerful tool of the Devil. True victory over defeat is described in 1 John 5:4, *For whatsoever is born of*

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Comeback - continued from page 10

God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

Discouragement causes you to look at your problems rather than at God. Discouragement is a stepping stone to despair. God will not allow despair to rule in our lives if we trust Him and His word.

The devil attacks us the hardest when we are on the brink of a major breakthrough in our lives. Setbacks usually occur just outside the promised land. As the saying goes — it is always darkest right before dawn. Keep in mind that Satan is out to steal your future. Jesus said, "The thief cometh not but for to steal, kill and destroy. I am come that they might have life, and have it more abundantly."

We've all sinned, made mistakes, and stumbled on the path of life; but by God's grace and through faith in Christ we can make a comeback. If something knocks you down, don't stay down. 1 Corinthians 15:57, *But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

The Bible is full of people who fell short but had great comeback stories. For example:

Moses - Moses, although a murderer, fugitive, and obscure shepherd for forty years, came back to deliver his fellow Israelites from slavery in Egypt and lead them to the borders of the promised land. Moses gave to the people the Law, which he received from the hand of the Lord, and even became known as the friend of God. If Moses made a comeback, you can, too.

David - David came back from lust, adultery, and murder to many more years of effective leadership as Israel's king. Through confession and repentance of his sin, David was restored to the fellowship with God that he had previously enjoyed, and he continued to be a man after God's own heart. If David made a comeback, you can, too.

Joseph - Joseph's story is a little different. Through no sin or fault of his own, Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers and endured years of false imprisonment. At all times, Joseph maintained his integrity and his faith in God. Even while Joseph was subjected to such injustice God was preparing him for a great future. Eventually, God caused Joseph to rise to prominence as the most powerful official in Egypt, second only to Pharaoh himself. From this position, Joseph was instrumental in preserving the people of Egypt and the surrounding region, including his own fami-

ly, through a time of great famine. When Joseph had the opportunity to take revenge on his brothers, he chose forgiveness and mercy instead. He understood that all that had happened to him was God's way of preparing him for his destiny. If Joseph made a comeback, you can, too.

Job - The Book of Job relates what is certainly one of the greatest comeback stories in all of Scripture. In one day, he lost his wealth, his health, and his family. All he had left was his faith in God, and that proved to be enough. God had allowed Satan to test Job's faith and integrity to the very limit, and Job passed the test. What the devil meant for Job's destruction, God turned to Job's good. In the end, God gave Job twice the wealth and twice as many children. God also fully restored Job's health. Through it all, Job steadfastly maintained his faith, even saying at one point, "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him." (Job 13:15). There are some things that God has for you that you will not be ready for until you have passed through the fire.

Peter - Peter doubted the Lord many times. He cursed and denied the Lord three times before the crucifixion; yet he became one of the greatest disciples of all the New Testament! In fact, he preached and added about 3,000 souls to the Kingdom of God on the day of Pentecost! If Peter made a comeback after all that happened to him, you can too, because God is no respecter of persons!

"Greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world."

If you want sure and true victory over the situations in life, make sure you are prayed up and sure of your relationship with Christ. The formula is simple:

Acts 2:38-39, *³⁸Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. ³⁹For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.*

Acts 3:19, *Repent ye therefore and be converted that your sins may be blotted out when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.*

2 Peter 3:9, *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

Do you need a "come back" experience? You can have it!



ALL

THINGS

NEW



**HODGENVILLE
PENTECOSTAL
CHURCH**

Pentecostal by Experience - Holiness by Choice

Services and Times

Sunday School 10:00 am

Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 am

Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 pm

Wednesday Night Worship 7:30 pm