



ANSWERS TO LIFE'S 7  
MOST IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

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**HOW TO START OVER WHEN I'VE BLOWN IT?**

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Introduction: Everybody makes mistakes. Some of our mistakes are minor, but others are life-altering. Today we are going to discover four principles for starting over after we've blown it.

I. A \_\_\_\_\_ Our Mistakes

A. Barriers to Admitting Our Mistakes

1. P \_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 3:23; 5:12)

Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Romans 5:12 "Therefore, just as through one man [Adam] sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned."

2. F \_\_\_\_\_ (Hebrews 4:13)

Hebrews 4:13 "And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do."

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### B. Benefits of Admitting Our Mistakes (Proverbs 28:13)

Proverbs 28:13 “He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion.”

1. R\_\_\_\_\_ God’s forgiveness
2. R\_\_\_\_\_ our physical and emotional \_\_\_\_\_  
(Psalm 32:3-4; 5, 11)

Psalm 32:3-4 “<sup>3</sup>When I kept silent about my sin, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; <sup>4</sup>my vitality was drained away as with the fever heat of summer.”

Psalm 32:5, 11 “<sup>5</sup>I acknowledged my sin to You and my iniquity I did not hide; I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord and You forgave the guilt of my sin. <sup>11</sup>Be glad in the Lord and rejoice you righteous ones, and shout for joy all you who are upright in heart.”

3. L\_\_\_\_\_ from our mistakes (Proverbs 10:17, 12:1, 28:13)

Proverbs 10:17 “Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid.”

Proverbs 12:1 “He is on the path of life who heeds instruction, but he who ignores reproof goes astray.”

Proverbs 28:13 “He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper but he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion.”

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### II. E\_\_\_\_\_ God's Forgiveness

#### Two Kinds of Forgiveness

#### A. J\_\_\_\_\_ Forgiveness (Psalm 32:1-2)

Psalm 32:1-2 “<sup>1</sup>How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered! <sup>2</sup>How blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity and in whose spirit there is no deceit!”

#### 1. F\_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 103:12)

Psalm 103:12 “As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.”

#### 2. C\_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 51:7)

Psalm 51:7 “Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.”

#### 3. I\_\_\_\_\_ (Isaiah 64:6; 2 Corinthians 5:21)

Isaiah 64:6 “For all of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; and all of us wither like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.”

2 Corinthians 5:21 “He [God] made Him [Jesus] who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

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### B. P\_\_\_\_\_ Forgiveness (Isaiah 59:2; 1 John 1:8-10)

Isaiah 59:2 “But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.”

1 John 1:8-10 “<sup>8</sup>If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup>If we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.”

### C. Why Do Forgiven People Still Hurt? (Psalm 119:67)

Psalm 119:67 “Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep Your word.”

## III. W\_\_\_\_\_ For God's Direction

### A. The Need for “\_\_\_\_\_” (Acts 7:29-30)

Acts 7:29-30 “<sup>29</sup>Moses fled and became an alien in the land of Midian, where he became the father of two sons. <sup>30</sup>After forty years had passed, an angel appeared to him in the wilderness of Mount Sinai, in the flame of a burning thorn bush.”

### B. The \_\_\_\_\_ of An “Intermission”

1. R\_\_\_\_\_ our emotional and physical energy (1 Kings 19:1-18)

2. R\_\_\_\_\_ on our failure and our future

## HOW TO START OVER WHEN I'VE BLOWN IT?

(a) Reflective questions about your failure

- Have I really failed or just fallen short of an unrealistic goal?
- Is my failure the result of other people, adverse circumstances, or my own wrong choices?
- Whom do I know who has made the same mistake and recovered from it?
- What can I do differently in the future to prevent a similar failure?
- Is there anything in my life that is displeasing to God?

(b) Reflective questions about your future

- What three things would I like to accomplish before I die?
- Am I in the vocation I want to be in ten years from now?
- What do I feel most passionately about in life?
- What do other people think I'm gifted to do?
- What would be an ideal day for me? (Where would I be living, what job would I have, what people would be around me?)

IV. S\_\_\_\_\_ Over With A New Beginning

A. P\_\_\_\_\_ for Your New Beginning (Proverbs 16:3, 20:18, 21:5)

Proverbs 16:3 "Commit your works to the Lord, and your plans will be established."

Proverbs 20:18 "Prepare plans by consultation, and make war by wise guidance."

Proverbs 21:5 "The plans of the diligent lead surely to advantage, but everyone who is hasty comes surely to poverty."

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### Components of Your New Beginning Script ...

1. C\_\_\_\_\_ of the problem
2. V\_\_\_\_\_ of the goal
3. I\_\_\_\_\_ of barriers
4. S\_\_\_\_\_ of action steps

B. B\_\_\_\_\_ Your New Beginning (Exodus 14:15)

Exodus 14:15b "...Tell the sons of Israel to go forward."

### Look for changes in ...

1. Your \_\_\_\_\_
2. Your \_\_\_\_\_
3. Your \_\_\_\_\_

Conclusion