

# “We All Stumble in Many Things”

James 3:2 (NKJ)

## Introduction:

- A. A fact that every Christian must face. (cf. 1 John 1:8,10)
- B. A fact that provokes different reactions
  - 1. Some use it as an excuse to continue in sin.
  - 2. Others use it as a reason to strive against sin.
- C. Facing this fact should make us better Christians three important ways:

## Discussion:

### I. It Should Make Us All More *Reassured*.

- A. Knowing that we are not alone in this matter.
- B. Knowing that we do not have to be absolutely perfect to be saved - just forgiven.
  - 1. “Perfect” is sometimes relative. (Acts 24:22; Acts 18:26 -KJV).
  - 2. “Perfect” is sometimes “complete”, “mature” or “whole” (Mt. 5:48; 19:21; Phil. 3:12,15; James 2:22)
- C. Knowing that stumbling people can be saved and used by the Lord.
  - 1. The twelve. (“O ye of little faith.”)
  - 2. Peter.
  - 3. Paul.

### II. It Should Make Us All More *Reserved*.

- A. Enough to know that we need help.
  - 1. From the Lord. (Heb. 4:16).
    - a. To be saved.
      - (1) Saved by His power, not ours. (Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 15:1).
      - (2) Saved by His wisdom, not ours. (1 Cor. 1:29-31).
      - (3) Saved by His grace, not our goodness. (Eph. 2:8-10).
    - b. To stand as Christians. (1 Cor. 15:1; cf. Rom. 14:4).
    - c. To succeed as Christians. (1 Cor. 15:9, 10; cf 3:5-7)
  - 2. From faithful brethren. (Eph. 4:16; 1 Cor. 12:21).
    - a. One reason we meet *together*. (Heb. 10:25).
    - b. One reason we worship and work *together*. (1 Cor. 14:16,17; Eph. 5:19)
- B. Enough to *effectively* teach others.
  - 1. All Christians ought to become teachers in due time. (Heb. 5:12).
  - 2. All teachers ought to be properly equipped.
    - a. With necessary wisdom and knowledge. (v. 13).
    - b. With “the meekness of wisdom” - Modesty, humility, reserve (v. 14-18, cf. Gal. 6:1).
    - c. With an awareness of their own weakness (Matt. 7:1-5).

### III. It Should Make Us All More *Resolved*.

- A. To improve our lives.
  - 1. Always going toward perfection (Heb. 6:1; Phil. 3:12-15).
  - 2. Always growing. (2 Pet. 3:18).
- B. To strive against sin (cf. Heb. 12:4)
  - 1. By always trying to avoid sin. (Rom. 6:1; 1 Cor. 9:27; 1 John 2:1).
  - 2. By always repenting and turning from sins. (1 John 1:7-9).
  - 3. By always trying to help others overcome sin (Prov. 24:24-25; Lk. 17:3; Jas. 5:19, 20)
  - 4. By always refusing to let “nobody is perfect” be an excuse.

## Conclusion:

- A. 1. Let us profit from knowing that “we all stumble in many things”:
  - 1. By letting it keep us humble.
  - 2. By letting it cause us to seek forgiveness.
  - 3. By letting us seek to forgive.
  - 4. By letting it keep us on guard against sin.
- B. Let us have our sins washed away our sins in the blood of Christ (cf. Acts 22:16; 1 John 1:7-9).