Two Hammers: When Those in Christ Mess Up

When we mess up, the enemy wants us to use his hammer against ourselves. God wants us to use His Word to break the enemy's thoughts and get back on track.

Understanding how the enemy works when we fail and how God's Word helps us get back on track.

This video reveals how the enemy works when those in Christ mess up and, more importantly, what we can do to get back on track with God's help.

This video comes from the teaching **"Ambassadors for Christ – Part 1."** (See link below.)

We Are Ambassadors for Christ

The Bible tells us that we are ambassadors for Christ. However, being an ambassador does not mean we are perfect. We will make mistakes and sometimes fail.

2 Corinthians 5:20 (NKJV)

"Now then, **we are ambassadors for Christ**, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God."

One of our goals as believers is to obtain a good testimony by faith.

Hebrews 11:1–2 (NKJV)

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders **obtained a good testimony**."

Our testimony is the ongoing account of what God has done in our lives. It is not a statement that we have never made mistakes. It is a witness of God's faithfulness throughout our lives.

A dictionary definition of testimony is a public profession of religious experience.

We can use our testimony to communicate as ambassadors for Christ.

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What happens when we mess up matters.

How we respond to our failures affects our reputation and reveals something about our character. But something else happens: the way we allow God to help us recover can become part of our testimony.

Others can see not only that we failed, but also how God helped us get back on track.

It is not simply about the mistake we made; it is also about how we respond to that mistake with God's help.

Two Hammers: Which One Are You Using?

Let's talk about how to handle ourselves when we mess up.

Usually, when we make a mistake, we begin beating ourselves up. We replay what happened, remind ourselves how bad we were, and talk down to ourselves.

But consider something important:

The enemy wants to influence what we think after we fail.

Look at what happened when the devil spoke directly to Jesus.

Matthew 4:8–9 (NKJV)

"Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, 'All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.'"

Notice that the devil spoke to Jesus. Jesus never sinned or messed up, yet the enemy still attempted to influence His thinking.

I call these damaging thoughts and accusations **THE HAMMER OF THE ENEMY**.

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Hammer #1: The Enemy's Hammer

When we mess up, the enemy wants us to take his thoughts and use them against ourselves.

For example:

- "You are such a failure!"
- "How could you do something like that?"
- "You will never change."
- "God must be disappointed with you."
- "You might as well give up."

These thoughts can cause us to keep beating ourselves up over and over again.

Here is the interesting part of this illustration:

Once the enemy gets us to accept his wrong thoughts, we may continue doing his work for him!

We take his hammer (his damaging thoughts) into our own hands and begin hammering ourselves senseless.

In other words, we are beating ourselves up with the enemy's hammer!

But we do not have to keep doing that.

Hammer #2: God's Hammer

God has given us something far more powerful: **HIS WORD!**

Consider what God says:

Jeremiah 23:29 (RSV)

"Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer which breaks the rock in pieces?"

God's Word is described as both fire and a hammer.

We can use the truth of God's Word to burn away the wrong thoughts the enemy wants us to accept and to break those thoughts into pieces.

Instead of repeatedly hammering ourselves with the enemy's thoughts, we must take God's Word and use it against those thoughts.

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We have a choice:

- The enemy's hammer brings condemnation, discouragement, and defeat.
- God's hammer brings truth, correction, restoration, and direction.

The Important Difference

When we mess up, we should not pretend it did not happen, excuse our behavior, or refuse to take responsibility.

Instead:

1. **Recognize it.** Be honest about what happened.
2. **Repent.** Turn back to God and acknowledge where you went wrong.
3. **Reject the enemy's hammer.** Do not accept thoughts that tell you there is no hope or that you cannot change.
4. **Use God's hammer.** Bring your thinking back into agreement with God's Word.
5. **Get back on track.** Receive God's forgiveness, learn from the experience, and move forward.

Remember, correction is not the same as condemnation. God can correct us without us destroying ourselves with accusations.

The goal is not to remain focused on our failure. The goal is to allow God to restore us and help us move forward.

Final Thought

As ambassadors for Christ, our testimony is still being written. When we mess up, we have an opportunity to demonstrate what God can do in a person's life.

Don't pick up the enemy's hammer and beat yourself up. Pick up God's hammer—His Word—and break those wrong thoughts into pieces!

Which hammer are you using?

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Recommendation!

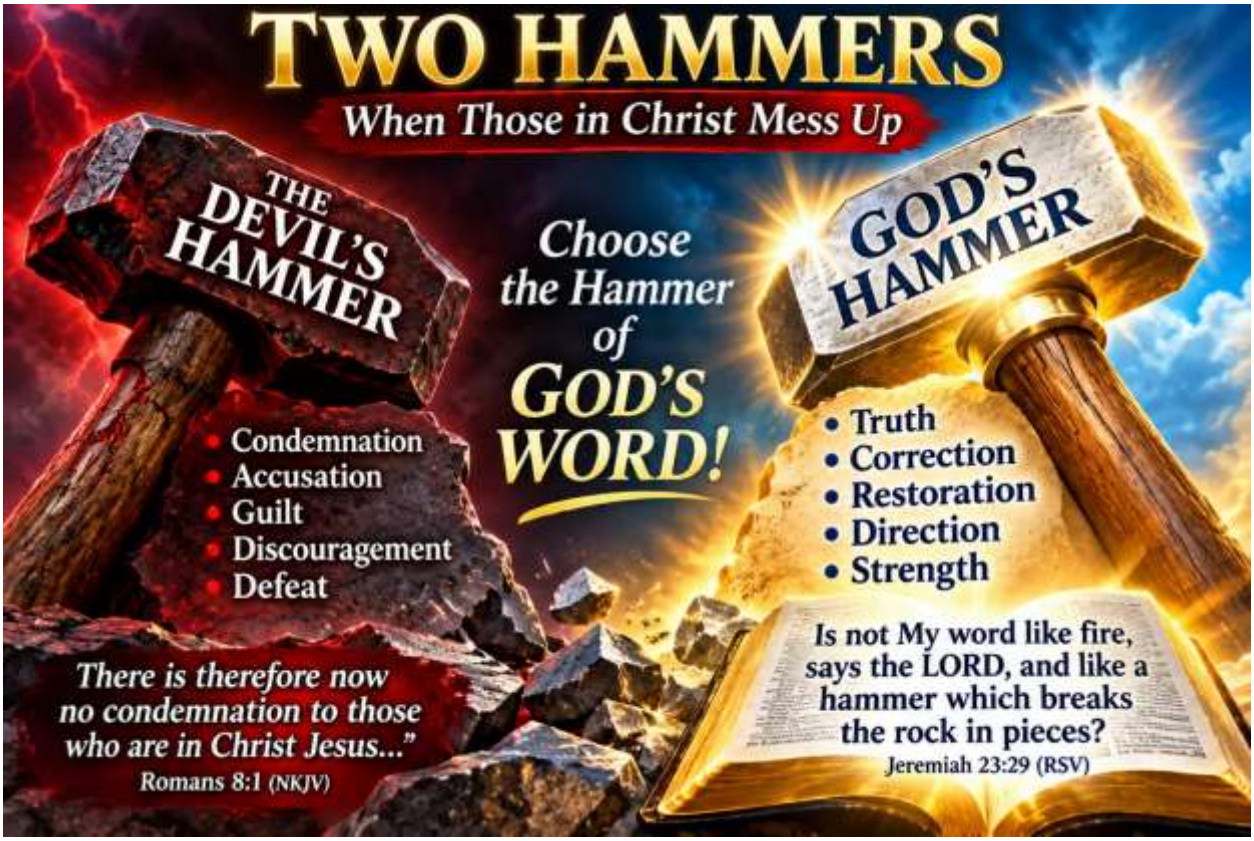
"Don't let the enemy use your failure to turn you against yourself. Take God's Word, break those wrong thoughts into pieces, and get back on track!"

Also, one additional Scripture would reinforce the teaching beautifully:

Romans 8:1 (NKJV): "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus..."

This helps distinguish between the Holy Spirit's conviction, which leads us toward repentance, and the enemy's condemnation, which tries to keep us defeated.

Click here. God's Hammer vs. the devil's hammer! What to do when we mess up!



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