

## A SECOND CHANCE

**Genesis 35:1    Jonah 3:1-3    Luke 15:18**

**Introduction:** Everybody at one time or other needs a "second chance," to make a new start, including Christians. Christians can't keep all their resolutions and sometimes they just give up and don't make any more new ones. Who has ever done all he/she planned to do? Who has ever kept all his/her promises? However, everyone who has tried to do better, HAS done better. Those who try do more than those who do not try.

No matter how much one has failed as a Christian, God is always willing to give that Christian another chance - a second, third, fourth chance. Here are some whom God gave a second chance:

### I. GOD GAVE JACOB A SECOND CHANCE

1. In running from his brother, Esau, Jacob met God at Bethel.
  - He had a dream of a ladder reaching from heaven to the earth and decided it was a holy place.
  - There he made a promise that if God would take care of him, he would follow God and tithe.
2. God did His part and Jacob gained property, a great family.
  - His wives worshipped idols, however.
  - One of his daughters was raped and two of Jacob's sons killed the entire male population of the rapists' city.
  - Everyone turned against Jacob for he had left God, backslidden.
3. God commanded Jacob to go back to Bethel. (*Genesis 35:1-3*)
  - There Jacob repented, cleaned up his life and went back to God.
  - Jacob then did away with the idols and from Bethel he made a new start.

### II. GOD GAVE JONAH A SECOND CHANCE

1. Jonah was a "flop" as a servant of God.
  - God commanded him to go preach to the city of Nineveh but he ran the other way.
2. While on a ship as he was running from God, God sent a storm.
  - The sailors found out that Jonah had made his God angry so upon his request they threw him overboard and a large fish swallowed him.
3. While in the belly of the fish Jonah did some repenting and praying, making promises to God.
  - The fish then threw Jonah up on the shore.
4. God had to get Jonah's attention by a bit of punishment and this time Jonah preached to the city of Nineveh and the whole city was spared God's wrath.
5. God gave Jonah a second chance and a city got another chance at life.

### **III. GOD GAVE MOSES A SECOND CHANCE AFTER 40 YEARS**

1. Moses had a temper, raised as the son of Pharaoh's daughter, found out who his real people were and decided to go join them. Trying to free his new-found people he killed an Egyptian.
2. Everybody turned against him - the Egyptians and the very people he was trying to free, so he had to run for his life and lived 40 years tending sheep in the wilderness.
3. God appeared to Moses in a burning bush and gave Moses a chance, a second chance to free God's people, Moses' real people. Doing things God's way, Moses succeeded.

### **IV. GOD GAVE SAMSON A SECOND CHANCE**

1. The story of Samson is not new to the Christian for we know how an angel told of his coming birth and that he would be filled with God's spirit and would judge Israel.
2. His accomplishments by his physical strength were many, killing a lion with his hands, killing 30 Philistine soldiers, and a thousand with the jaw bone of an ass, carrying off the city gates, nothing could withstand him when the power of God came upon him.
3. Samson drifted away from God however, doing things God didn't want him to do. He visited prostitutes, fell in love with Delilah, telling her the secret of his strength, his long hair. She told others, they cut his hair off, his strength was gone. They put out his eyes and made a slave of him. He had left God.
4. Blind, imprisoned Samson repented, cried out to God for forgiveness. His hair grew back, he for God to give him back his strength one more time. Give him a second chance. God did. Samson pulled down the heathen temple pillars upon thousands of Philistines.

### **V. GOD GAVE PETER A SECOND CHANCE**

1. Simon Peter, chief of the apostles, failed Jesus. Afraid, hiding, cursing denying that he ever knew Jesus, doing all this before Roman soldiers and servants.
2. Peter fled weeping bitterly for he realized what he had done. His heart was broken. Grief filled his heart and his faith was gone. He quit preaching and went back to fishing.
3. After Jesus' resurrection, Jesus met Peter again, forgave him, cooking dinner for him and Peter repented, asked for forgiveness and was forgiven, and given a second chance by Jesus.

### **IV. THE PRODIGAL SON STORY IS AN EXAMPLE HOW GOD GIVES A SECOND CHANCE**

1. The story of the wild lad, who left home in pride, who spent his inheritance on wine, women and song, falling into the pits of filth is well known to us.

2. We also remember how he finally came to himself (*Luke 15:17-20*) and decided to go home.
  - What a happy ending - the father running to meet the wayward son, a kiss of forgiveness, a ring for his finger, shoes for his feet, a new robe, a party of celebration.
  - That son who was lost has now come home. This is the same story of many Christians who were given a second chance by God.

## **VII. GOD GIVES THE BACKSLIDDEN, WAYWARD CHRISTIAN A SECOND CHANCE**

1. How many Christians have had some bad times filled with heartaches, troubles, temptations, powerlessness, backsliding from God.
2. God speaks now, willing to give every backslidden, wayward Christian a second chance.
3. *1 John 1:9* Out of fellowship with God, fruitless life for God, needing, wanting to get back where you belong with God, then confess those sins and God will wipe them out in a moment. ***"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy..."***
4. God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, to cleanse every person who confesses his/her sins.

## **CONCLUSION:**

1. Christian, do you need to make a new start? Do you need a second chance with God?
2. God is waiting for that one who has drifted away to realize where he/she is and what he/she has done and to decide to come back. At that moment of decision, God will step in and help get rid of all that does not belong and restore that lost relationship.
3. Is all well between you and God? Is God pleased with you? Do you need to make some adjustments?
4. God is waiting, there where He was left.