

How do we get OVER/IT when IT is something we have done?

- Regret
- Failure
- Source of shame
- Sin
- Our past

The Issue:

- We do not get do overs.
- Time alone is insufficient to heal.
- The “IT” becomes defining and/or limiting -x2:
 - Engrained fear; insecurity
 - Functional identity

Another Issue:

- When we say this is “*not an issue*” ...
 - Repression ...?
 - Self-righteousness ...?
 - ME generation & BLAME generation ...?

I Corinthians 15:1-2

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, ²and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

A Gospel-defined life:

- Disruption
- Uprooting

2 Dangers:

- 1) Forgetfulness
- 2) Vain belief

Believing the **FACTS** of the Gospel does not mean we are enjoying the **FRUITS** of the Gospel.

I Corinthians 15:3-8

For I delivered to you as of **first importance** what I also **received**: that Christ died for our **sins** in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to **Cephas**, then to the **twelve**. ⁶Then he appeared to **more than five hundred** brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he **appeared also to me**.

Gospel facts → Gospel-implications for LIFE

- Gospel >> sins

I Corinthians 15:9

For I am the **least** of the apostles, **unworthy** to be called an apostle, **because** I persecuted the church of God.

I Corinthians 15:10a

But **by the grace of God I am what I am**, and his grace **toward me** was **not** in vain.

Who Paul is by **grace** is **greater than** who Paul is by **nature, past and performance**.

- Objectively true
- Personally (existentially) true
- Emotionally true

Zephaniah 3:17

The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will **rejoice over you** with gladness; he will **quiet you by his love**; he will **exult over you** with loud singing.

Who Paul is by **grace** is **greater than** who Paul is by **nature, past and performance**.

- Objectively true
- Personally (existentially) true
- Emotionally true
- Directionally true

I Corinthians 15:10b-11

... On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but **the grace of God that is with me**.¹¹ Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

1) Allow God to be **very personal (*individualized*) with us.**

- He has no regrets → Ephesians 1:4
- His love is not infected with frustration or disappointment.
- Our worth is not the issue

Exodus 34:6-7a

The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord, a God **merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness**,⁷ keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin ...

Exodus 34:7b-8

... but **who will by no means** clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation.”⁸ And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth and **worshiped**.

2) We receive and experience this amazing grace and steadfast love through **Jesus Christ → *Gospel in which we stand!***

- **Life: redefined!**
- **Past does not (have to) threaten our future nor our present potential.**

A) Give no respect or time to **what is NOT of God**

- **Oppression & accusation are not from Him**
- **Refuse to validate the flesh: self-righteousness**
- **Refuse to validate the devil ... accuser & thief**

The Devil: accuser & thief

- **Accuses us based on our past**
- **Distorts the heart of God**

B) **Accept the past and **allow** God to have it.**

The Past We Must Accept Includes:

Parents	Faults
Hard things	Marriage
Sins	Singleness
Limits	Physical challenges

Value of Our (-) Past:

- **Blessed are the poor in spirit ... (Matthew 5:3)**
- **Opens me up to God's way & wisdom**
- **Shows me my need for Jesus**
- **Reveals the depth of His love for me**
- **Takes me on a journey of hope & holistic restoration**
- **Let's me in on the great Family secret**

Romans 8:28

And we know that for those who love God **all things** work together for **good**, for those who are called according to his purpose.

C) **Accept the calling: forgetting, straining, pressing on ...**

Philippians 3:13-14

¹³ Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: **forgetting** what lies behind and **straining** forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I **press on** toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 1:5-7

... he predestined us for adoption to himself ... through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶to the **praise of his glorious grace**, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the **riches of his grace**