

“This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day.” – John 6:39



Defeating Despair

Part 2



Recap

➤ Important Facts

- What is “despair”?
- Despair is the devil’s ultimate prize
- How do I distinguish godly sorrow from ungodly sorrow (despair)?
- Despair is not justifiable

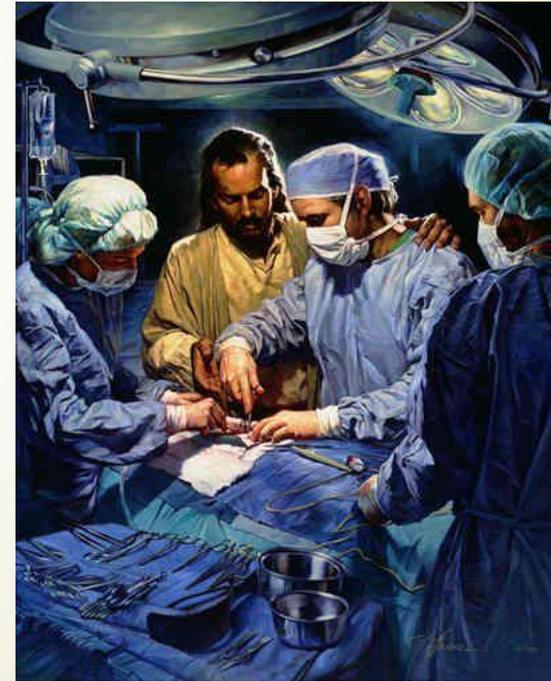
➤ Today

- Facts we must know about God
- When tempted to despair

Facts we must know about God

► God disciplines out of love

- “My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, Nor detest His correction; For whom the Lord loves He corrects, Just as a father the son in whom he delights.” (Prov. 3:11-12)



Facts we must know about God

➤ **God's mercy is boundless**

- The Samaritan woman
- God accepts the slightest repentance



Facts we must know about God

➤ God is always seeking our return

- Nothing can prevent our reconciliation
- Lost Son
- The Corinthian sinner
- “...deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.” (1 Cor. 5:5)





When Tempted with Despair

➤ Keep fighting

- “You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.” (Heb. 12:4)
- “But he who endures to the end shall be saved.” (Mk. 13:13)
- *“We need not mourn over the dead but over the soul that may not be able to return to God.” (St. John Chrysostom)*



Death of King David's son

- “So David arose from the ground, washed and anointed himself, and changed his clothes; and he went into the house of the Lord and worshiped. Then he went to his own house; and when he requested, they set food before him, and he ate.” (2 Sam. 12:20)
 - “While the child was alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, ‘Who can tell whether the Lord will be gracious to me, that the child may live?’ But now he is dead; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.” (2 Sam. 12:22-23)
- 

When Tempted with Despair

- **It's not about falling, but about getting up**
 - The Lost Son
 - “For a righteous man may fall seven times and rise again, But the wicked shall fall by calamity.”
(Prov. 24:16)





When Tempted with Despair

- ▶ **Do not separate yourself from God and the Church**

- ▶ “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.” (Jn. 15:5-6)



Conclusion

- ▶ “He raises the poor out of the dust, And lifts the needy out of the ash heap, That He may seat him with princes—With the princes of His people. He grants the barren woman a home, Like a joyful mother of children.” (Ps. 113:7-9)
- ▶ Facts we must know about God
 - ▶ God disciplines out of love
 - ▶ God’s mercy is boundless
 - ▶ God is always seeking your return
- ▶ When tempted with despair
 - ▶ Keep fighting (don’t give in to thoughts of despair)
 - ▶ It’s not about falling, but about getting up
 - ▶ Do not separate yourself from God and the Church