

# MISTAKES

(πλανᾶσθε)

*To be in error, deceived, or led astray.*

Many people wonder if they must suffer for the rest of their lives for mistakes made in the past. Unfortunately, such fear and condemnation is not uncommon among teenagers. Many Christians (young and old alike) think they are being punished for their mistakes. The truth is we all make mistakes! Therefore, we need to discern the difference between punishment and the consequences of our choices. Romans 8:1 says, **"There is NO condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."** Hence, God does not punish you for your mistakes. If peace, joy, and fulfillment are eluding you, it's probably because you have your cup upside down, and this is preventing you from receiving the blessings that God is pouring out. He can work in any situation in your life, provided you trust Him enough to hand it over. So many of us have missed great opportunities simply because we don't trust God enough to fix our mistakes. While things may seem hopeless and unchangeable, if you will turn everything over to God, He can turn it all around and create something good from it.

In 1818 a nine-year-old French boy was watching his father at work in his leather shop. "Someday," said Louis, "I want to be a harness-maker just like you." The father took a piece of leather and drew a design on it. "Now, my son, take the hole-puncher and a hammer and follow this design, and be careful you don't hit your hand." Excited, the boy hit the hole-puncher hard, but it flew out of his hand and pierced his eye! He lost the sight of that eye immediately. Later, sight in the other eye also failed. The boy was now totally blind. A few years later, Louis was sitting in the garden when a friend handed him a pinecone. As he ran his sensitive fingers over it an idea came to him. It wasn't long before he created an alphabet of raised dots on paper so that the blind could feel and interpret what was written. Thus, Louis Braille opened up a whole new world for the blind - all because of a dreadful mistake he had made!

God can turn a tragedy into a blessing... your mistake into a miracle! You may say, "Okay, I believe God can change things for me, but why should He? Why would God do that?" Deuteronomy 23:5 tells us why! *"Instead, He changed the curse into good (a blessing) for you, because the Lord your God loves you."* God loves you, He cares for you, and that's why He is willing to turn your mistake into the greatest miracle in your life. So, no matter what you're going through today, give it over to God. When you do, stand back and watch what He does to turn your situation around. Note, there are only two things you need in order for this to happen. One, you must be completely convinced that God can turn any problem, any trial, any situation that has come about because of your own failings, or somebody else's mistake, into a miracle. And two, you must be fully persuaded that God loves you unconditionally. No matter what life throws your way, you can live in the reality that you are "more than a conqueror through Him who loves you." You are not meant to suffer for your mistakes, but rather, to be victorious in Christ and experience the miracle-working power of His great love.