

The Comeback

Big Idea

Pastor Mark shares in this message that we need more than our own will power in order to achieve our resolutions and experience a comeback. We need the higher power of God in our lives. The Bible is full of examples of people who made comebacks once they got God involved in their situations and lives. Because God empowered each of them to overcome the difficulties of their situations, we can be confident that He can empower us as well. We are all candidates for a comeback from our own mistakes and the wounds we have from others' actions against us, as well as our current circumstances, no matter how difficult they are. Whatever we face, God can lead us out of it. First, we need to believe and have faith that God can and will help us. Then we need to let go and give our situation over to God, keeping our eyes focused on Jesus. Next, we need to get intentional with our lives and set priorities by putting God first and inviting other people into our lives. Then we can live confidently, knowing that the Holy Spirit lives inside us. We can have a comeback year if we get God involved. We don't need more willpower; we need a higher power! The key to a truly different year is Jesus.

The Lord hears His people when they call to Him for help. He rescues them from all their troubles. – Psalm 34:17 NLT

Discussion Questions

- Pastor Mark summarized the ways Peter made mistakes during his time with Jesus, Joseph was wounded by others throughout his life, and Job endured many situations that could have caused him to feel defeated. But by the grace and power of God, they all overcame. Talk about the lessons you took away from their examples. What steps can you take to overcome the difficulties in your life?
- Share with the group the priorities you need to establish or reorder in your life. Discuss how putting God first can help your other priorities fall into place. In what ways can having consistent people in your life help you keep your priorities in order?
- Discuss an area in your life where you once struggled but then experienced a comeback and growth. Was sheer willpower enough? Share what made the difference in your situation.
- How do you want your life to be different a year from now? Talk through what it will take to accomplish that goal.

Prayer Focus

Pray for God to reveal areas in your life that are not where they need to be, such as finances, relationships, or health. In prayer, let go of your situations, and turn them over to God. Acknowledge before Him that you know you won't succeed by doing things your way. Ask Him to take control of your life, and yield to His higher power. Tell God you need Him, and thank Him for hearing you and rescuing you from all your troubles.

Next Steps

As this year begins, identify a couple areas in your life that you need to turn over to God. Write them down, and pray over them during 21 Days of Prayer. Be sure to also submit them as a prayer request on a Connection Card so others can be praying for you as well. Commit to attending 21 Days of Prayer as often as you can over the next three weeks.

Leader Tip

Encourage your group members to begin the year by moving towards a better relationship with God and growing in their faith by participating in 21 Days of Prayer. Suggest that anyone who has not yet completed the Growth Track take that next step this month. Direct them to www.churchofthehighlands.com for more information on both areas.