

17: THE TRAIL BELONGS TO THE MAN WHO STANDS AGAIN

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In [Week 4: Perseverance & Consistency](#)

3 Min read



“For the righteous falls seven times and rises again, but the wicked stumble in times of calamity.” — *Proverbs 24:16*

On the trail, stumbling is inevitable. If you’ve spent any time hiking trails you’ve probably lost your footing in loose gravel, tripped over a hidden root, or slipped on some wet rocks. After losing your balance you didn’t throw your hands up in despair, and head back to the car. You steadied yourself and kept moving down the trail. There are also missteps in life.

Some men assume failure disqualifies them. They believe falling means they have stepped off the trail permanently. What often goes unsaid is that failure is a key ingredient in the formation of character. Proverbs 24:16 does not describe a man who never falls—it describes a man who keeps rising.

Unchecked, discouragement can quickly rewrite a man’s identity. A man stops seeing himself as someone learning endurance and starts seeing himself as someone unfit to continue. Failure becomes a label instead of an event.

Growth is not built by avoiding falls but by learning how to stand again. Restarting is part of perseverance. The trail does not belong to men who never stumble, but to those who refuse to give up and regain their position and keep walking.

APPLICATION

Failure reveals more about character development than success ever will. Success tests confidence; failure tests conviction. Failure is quite telling whether a man's faith is grounded in performance or perseverance.

On the trail, missteps signal decision points. After falling, a man can give up, become frustrated, and replay the mistake over in his mind, questioning his readiness for the trail. Or he can steady himself, learn from the fall, and move forward wiser than before. The ground that tripped him becomes an opportunity for instruction rather than condemnation.

Another tension few men address is how pride slows recovery. Admitting missteps or admitting failure feels exposing. Yet these steps accelerate healing and restore clarity faster than silent regret.

Proverbs remind us that righteousness is not proven by perfection but by resilience. A man grounded in the Spirit refuses to let failure define his direction. Each restart deepens humility, sharpens awareness, and strengthens endurance for the miles still ahead on the trail.

LIVE IT OUT

If you have slipped on the trail recently, don't quit. Stand up. Regain your footing and begin to walk again. Do not wait until you feel strong. Real strength is found in God's Spirit. Just restart. Learn from the fall. Each restart strengthens perseverance and restores clarity. God meets men who rise, not men who remain down. Take the next step forward today, even if it feels small.

PRAY THIS...

"Father, help me to regain my footing and continue on life's trail with You."

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***Information lays the foundation—
Practice builds the man.***

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