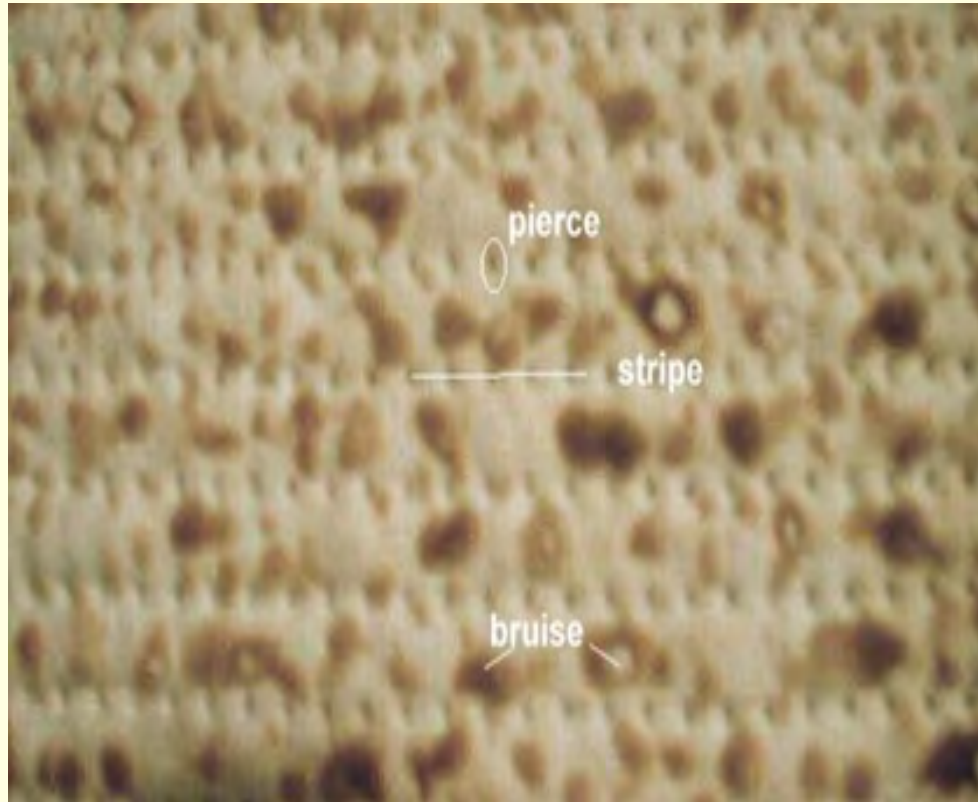


What Do We Do When We Stumble?

Matthew 26: 31-35

November 5, 2023



Verse 31

Truth: *We will all stumble!*

Stumble = “*skandalizo*” = to throw someone to ruin; to give occasion for ungodly conduct resulting in mischief and ruin

Why do we fail Christ? Why do we stumble?

We are in a depraved state; we are not truly sane until we are in our new, glorified state

As a father pities his children,
So the Lord pities those who fear Him.
For He knows our frame;
He remembers that we are dust.
Psalms 103:13, 14



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@GodDrivenInAllThings

We are depraved, BUT:

We have the Holy Spirit who gives us the power to do, and to not stumble!!

Now to Him Who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of God's glory with great joy. Jude 1:24

Knowing-Jesus.com

But I still fail yes,

because you are not abiding in Christ

Abide = success

Not abide = **failure**

When we move from abiding in Christ to flesh foraging, failure and stumbling will happen

We are all prone to flesh foraging

We will all stumble, *but we don't have to!*

Romans 6:12-14

12 Therefore **do not let sin reign** in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.

13 And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

14 For **sin shall not have dominion over you**, for you are not under law but under grace.

Verse 32

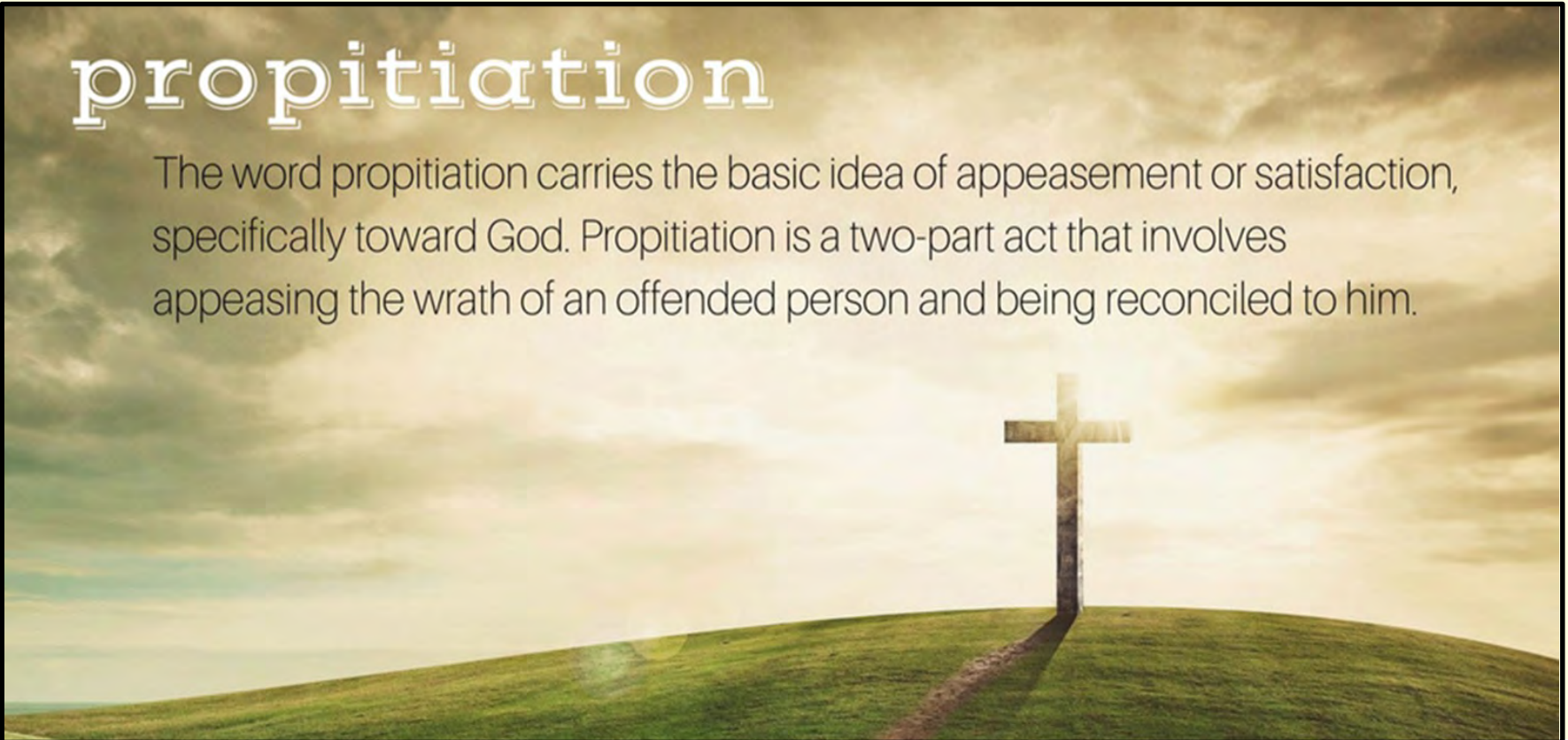
It will look bleak, but I will rise again

At the cross, Jesus paid our sin debt; He sacrificed His life for my life

Jesus was an acceptable sacrifice pacifying the wrath of God

propitiation

The word propitiation carries the basic idea of appeasement or satisfaction, specifically toward God. Propitiation is a two-part act that involves appeasing the wrath of an offended person and being reconciled to him.

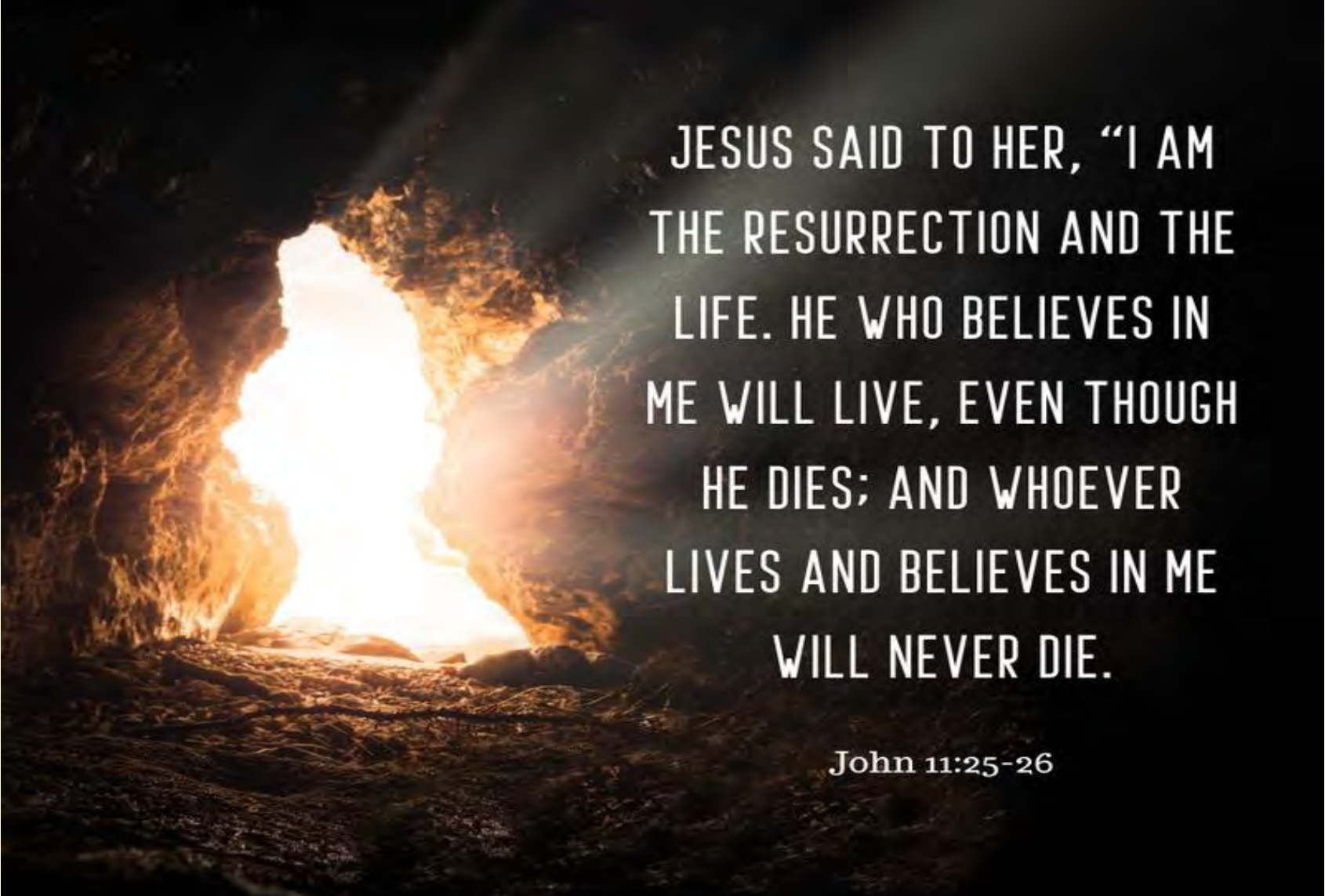


At the cross, Jesus assured Satan's defeat

Christ is victor over sin and death!

The Resurrection tells us Jesus' sacrifice was complete and sufficient for our salvation

The Resurrection tells us that death was destroyed for the believer



JESUS SAID TO HER, "I AM
THE RESURRECTION AND THE
LIFE. HE WHO BELIEVES IN
ME WILL LIVE, EVEN THOUGH
HE DIES; AND WHOEVER
LIVES AND BELIEVES IN ME
WILL NEVER DIE.

John 11:25-26

Verse 33 - 35

Big talk before a Big fall

No one made Peter stumble

The right stressor at the wrong time and
anyone can stumble

Peter is full of Peter-pride;

It's all about his strength and fortitude – **WRONG!!**

Peter argues with Omniscience;

Jesus is the all-knowing God - ***Peter is not!!***

CLOSING THOUGHTS: *What Do We Do When We Stumble?*

Since we are all flesh and blood, we are all prone to wander, prone to sin, and prone to stumble

We are all faced with multiple opportunities to stumble – *but we don't have to stumble!*

You have the indwelling Holy Spirit; you can make a faith choice instead of a flesh choice

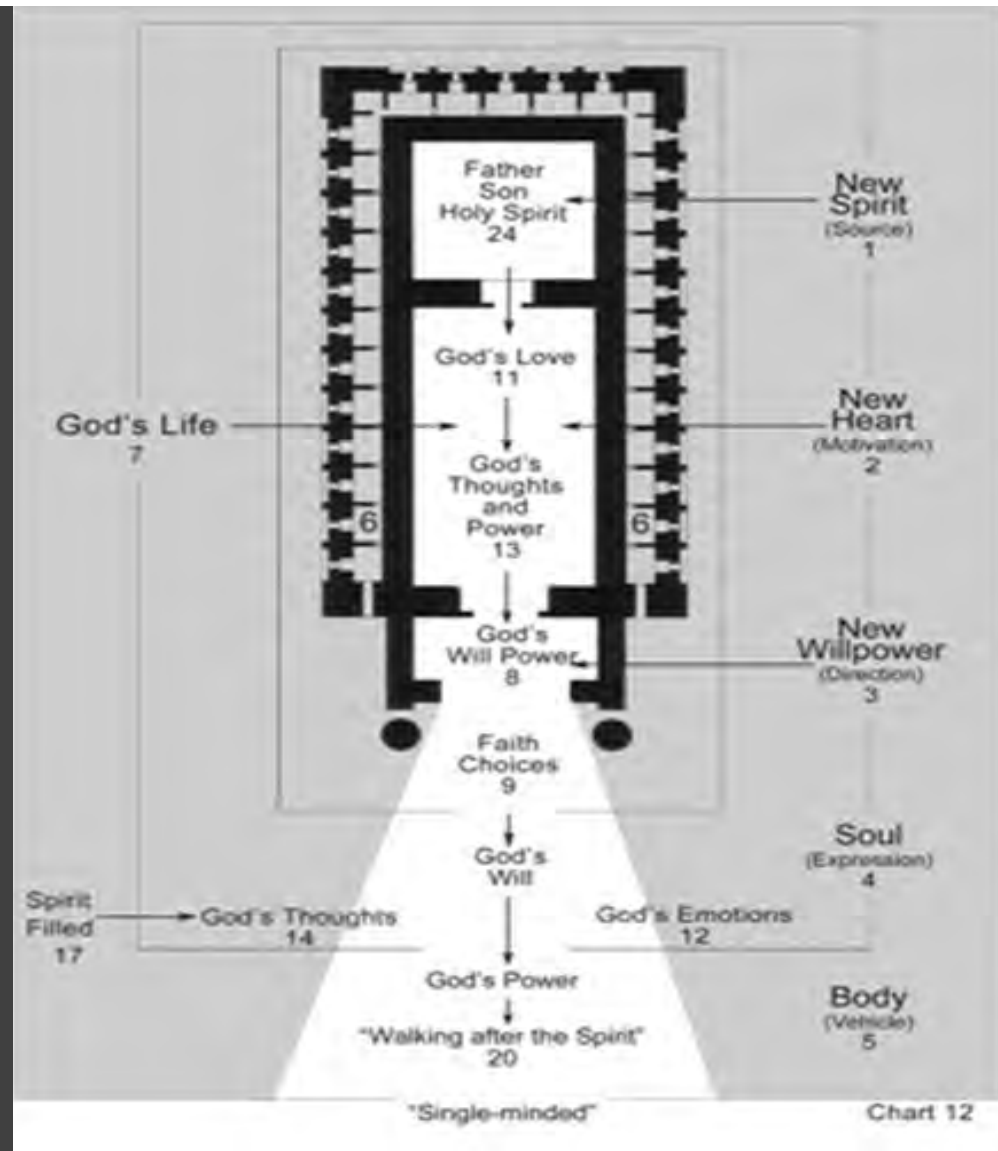
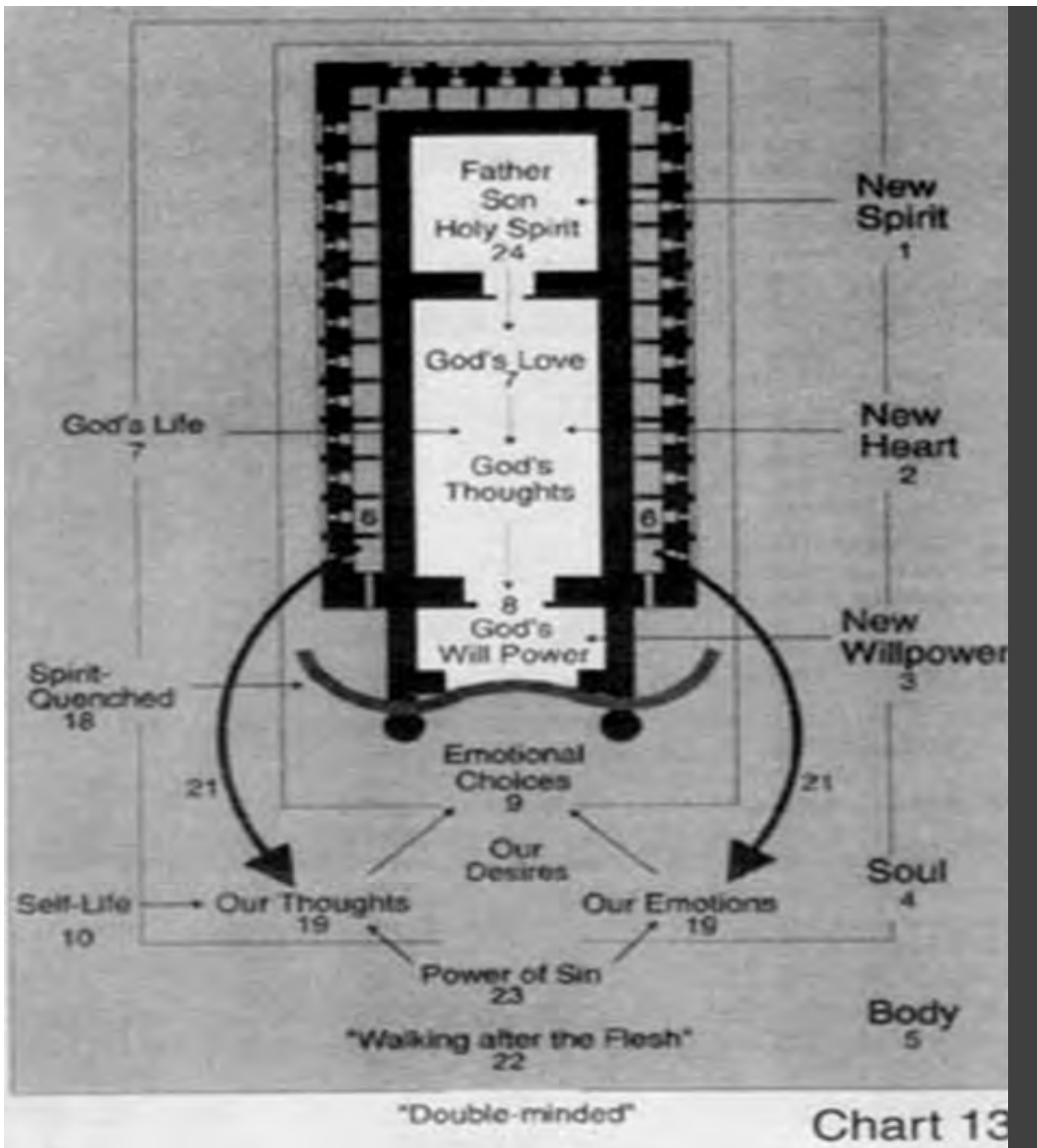
We do not have to be controlled by our urges and our emotions

We can be Spirit controlled!

Every temptation we go through is an invitation to act independent of God

There is a critical moment:

A time when a person decides which way he or she will go



PROCESS OF SALVATION

PERFECTED
IN CHRIST

THE
CHRISTIAN
LIFE

DEAD
IN SIN

BIRTH



POINT OF
DEATH:
GLORIFICATION

PROGRESSIVE
GROWTH:
SANCTIFICATION

POINT OF
CONVERSION:
JUSTIFICATION

TIME



What do we do when we stumble?

- 1) Own it - don't make excuses - I did it, **“but”**, is an indication we are not getting it
- 2) Confess it - 1 John 1:9 is our go to place
- 3) Don't wallow in it - don't wallow in despair; don't allow Satan to make you wallow in guilt
- 4) Forgive yourself - this can be the most difficult; allow God to take your guilt and restore you
- 5) Forgive others - don't live in payback land; anger and resentment are joy and peace stealers

Learn from the past; learn from our stumbles

But do not live in the past!

You are not identified by who you were and what you did

*But by who you are in Christ **NOW!!***

A young boy in a blue shirt and khaki shorts is walking on a sand dune. He is looking forward, away from the camera, symbolizing the concept of not looking back. The sand dunes are golden and have ripples. The background is a vast, open desert landscape.

No looking back!

Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead. I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:13-14

www.heartlight.org

**Life is full of painful events, some caused by us,
some caused by others –**

In any event, MOVE ON!!

**We are not defined by our past, but how we
respond to our past**

**C.S. Lewis (*Screw Tape Letters*) describes Satan's
strategy:**

***“He gets Christians to become
preoccupied with their failures;
from then on, the battle is won.”***

What do we do when we stumble?

Run to the Father, He will forgive

Own it, confess it, don't wallow in it!

Forgive yourself!

**This will result in a spiritually healthy,
joyful, fulfilled you!**