

# Seven Times

Randy Vild—May 24, 2015

Solomon was granted wisdom. He said to God, ‘I’m small; Your people are large. I need wisdom.’ God gave Solomon over 3,000 proverbs. Do you know how many proverbs there are in the 31 chapters? *915!* All the proverbs are not in the book of Proverbs. I’m going to read one today that is very powerful and life changing. Proverbs are formulas.

Proverbs 24:16: “For a **righteous one falls** seven times, and rises up again; but the wicked shall fall into evil.” Look at the first part of this: the righteous one falls. How can that happen? *King David fell many times to enemies!* Our enemies can knock us down, and we get up; not once, *but seven times!*

It’s also talking about something else. We can knock our own selves down. It’s called *sin*. When it happens to a righteous one, he gets up seven times. Why seven times? *It’s the number of perfection!* There are seven days in a week, and the seventh day—which happens to be today—is the Sabbath Day, Holy time. The seventh day is about the kingdom. During the week we’re getting closer and closer to the kingdom, and then it’s a new cycle of seven.

Today is interesting because it’s the count to Pentecost, which is 49. Seven of these Sabbaths have passed, so it is the #7 times 7. Seven is used in Scripture: there are seven Feast days of the plan of God. Pentecost is #3, because seven is completion. In secular life—physically speaking—our bodies regenerate every seven years. Did you know that? Every cell in your body is replaced every seven years. If you’re 49-years-old there have been seven of you.

In the music world there are seven notes. Not four, not nine, *seven!* When you get to the octave, that’s eight. Eight is after perfection. It’s a new beginning. That’s why for Pentecost there are 49 days, the count to this day and tomorrow is one more, a new beginning for the saints, the *resurrection!* Number seven is very powerful.

There are seven divisions in the Bible. It’s one of the great things about the *Faithful Version*. In the seventh division is Revelation, a book on to itself. Look at Revelation. Have you ever read the #7 in Revelation? It’s everywhere:

- 7 churches
- 7 angels—each church has an angel
- 7 trumpets that are blown
- 7 seals

After the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet, which happens to sound on Pentecost:

- 7 vial plagues

Why seven? *It’s the number of completion!* It takes seven vial plagues to complete God’s plan; seven is completion.

Now when you read the Scripture ‘*a righteous man gets up seven times*’ it has a little more meaning. It completes you. To put more proof into this, 1-John 3. When I received the *Faithful Version* over five years ago, the #1 gift it personally gave me was something that had unlocked in my mind. It’s revealed in here and the King James butchered this section of the Bible.

1-John 3:5: “And you know that He [Jesus] appeared in order that He might take away our sins; and in Him is no sin. Everyone who dwells in Him does not *practice* sin; anyone who *practices* sin has not seen Him, nor has known Him. Little children, do not allow anyone to deceive you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, even as He is righteous. The one who practices sin is of the devil because the devil has been sinning from *the* beginning.... [practices sin] ...For this purpose the Son of God appeared that He might destroy the works of the devil” (vs 5-8). That’s accomplished in the Lake of Fire!

Verse 9: “Everyone who has been begotten by God does not practice sin because His seed... [the sperma of God unites with the spirit in you] ...*of begettal* is dwelling within him, and he is not able to *practice* sin because he has been begotten by God. By this *standard* are manifest the children of God... [that’s you] ...and the children of the devil. Everyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, and neither is the one who does not love his brother” (vs 9-10).

Focus in on that you don’t love your brother if you don’t practice righteousness. I hope that Scriptures leaves you with something so powerful that it’s life changing.

The operative word/phrase I want to focus on is ***practice righteousness***. A righteous man, when he gets knocked down gets up seven times. He practices this. It doesn’t mean he doesn’t sin, like the *King James* wrote. So, don’t be discouraged if you’re battling with a sin. What you don’t want to do is—as in boxing if I may—‘throw in the towel’ and say, ‘Gehenna with it’—literally! That’s practicing wickedness.

This is why I like the Faithful Version, it appears all over the place once you investigate *practicing righteousness*. It’s a process! We are on a race, like the Apostle Paul said. It doesn’t mean

that the Apostle Paul never got knocked down.

What did he say in the resurrection chapter? *"I die daily!"* That means he gets knocked down. But when a righteous man gets knocked down, it bothers him/her and they don't like it.

When an Olympic gold medallist marathon runner gets knocked down, he gets back up and he sees the finish line; *he sees Pentecost!* He has vision and seeks the kingdom first. This is a life-changing phrase: *practice righteousness!* If you get knocked down, get back up!

Now I want to tell you a Bible story. Remember the Shunemite woman with the Elisha. She was from Shuman, and that's the land of the Issachar tribe. The Shunemite woman was very wealthy. What she would do when Elisha and Gehazi would come and visit is give them bread and water. Then after frequent visits offered him a room, and set it all up.

This happened so much that finally Elisha asked, 'Do you need anything? Want me to appear before the king and ask about you?' That's about favor. She was granted, because she was barren, a child. It happened from that moment nine months later she bore a child. One day that child was working out in the field with her husband and he said, 'My head hurts.' The father sent the child to the mom and he sat on her knees where he died. She sent out for her servant and both of them when to Elisha.

Once she found Elisha, she said, 'What is this? You gave me a child? Have you deceived me?' Elisha took his servant Gehazi and gave him a staff. That connected to a Elisha. Remember that someone touch Elisha's bones and lived. He said, 'Go,' and he went in and guess where the Shunemite woman put the boy when he died? *In the room where Elisha stayed; on his bed!*

The servant went in and touched the face of the boy with the staff. Nothing happened! Dead! He went back to Elisha and he came into the room where the boy was lying. He took both of his hands and laid upon the boy, eye-to-eye, mouth-to-mouth and prayed to God. The boy became warm; his body became warm. But nothing happened, yet. Elisha got up and went out of the room and it said he walked back and forth pacing. Then Elisha went back in the room and repeated the process. You know what happened, brethren, the first thing that boy did, besides his body warming? *He sneezed!* You know how many times? *Seven times!* The Bible gives that number for this story for a lesson. That sickness that had to come out of him *took seven times* to get out of him. After that it says that his eyes were opened.

A little hint there: *If you practice righteousness, when you fall, eventually your eyes will be opened!* This coincides with the next story. He helps the Shunemite woman and then he goes to Naaman. To make a long story short, he says, 'Naaman, go wash' how many times? *Seven times in the Jordan!* Why seven? He didn't believe it!

- How about you, brethren?
- Do you believe this formula in Proverbs?
- Do you practice seven times?

Naaman at first did not. He wanted a magic wand—POOF!—'I'm healed of leprosy.'

- Is that what we want?
- The first prayer and you want this magic wand?

God can do whatever He wants, and sometimes it takes seven times. Naaman did wash seven times and guess what happened? *It says that his skin became a smooth as a baby!*

We are going to have glorified bodies after seven times on Pentecost. See how this all ties in? Let's start practicing righteousness, brethren. *It works!* Remember that the plan of God is not just about us; *it's about a family!* Pentecost, which pictures the Feast of the Firstfruits, this Scriptures will help you how to encourage your brother.

Luke 17:3: "Watch yourselves; and if your brother commits a sin against you... [Does it say forgive him? *Not immediately!*] ...**rebuke him**... [first thing] ...and **if** he repents, forgive him." There's a standard. There are two things. We're in the Church of God, we know about standards.

Verse 4: "And **if** he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, 'I repent,' you shall forgive him." Why should the formula only work for you and not for your brother, as well? We need to be more patient with our fellow brethren. They're practicing righteousness, too, and sometimes it takes seven times. It's a process!

See the power of seven times? God loves numbers! He's a master builder! We're the clan and He's the Potter. It's a process! We must understand this process, share this narrow pathway with fellow brethren. Learn the Proverbs, study them and encourage one another. We look forward when we are completed and a new beginning starts tomorrow at Pentecost.

Scriptural References:

- Proverbs 24:16
- 1 John 3:5-10
- Luke 17:3-4

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