

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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## **Faults**

"It is defective oysters that produce the pearls." – Anonymous

"A good garden may have some weeds." – Thomas Fuller, M.D.

"What you dislike in another, take care to correct in yourself." – Thomas Sprat

"I'm not perfect, but those flaws make an interesting person." – Mary Frann

"We only confess our little faults to persuade people that we have no large ones." – Francois de La Rochefoucauld, *Maximes*

All of us have faults. Webster defines them as, "A bad quality or part of someone's character: a weakness in character." And in truth, we don't like to admit that we have them. Our objective, however, should be to eliminate them and not to apologize for them.

If one would try to list potential faults, it is utterly amazing the things that come to mind. Competitive, negative, forgetful, disrespectful, rude, domineering, selfish, always blaming others, habitually late, talks too much, harbors grudges, insists on always having the last word, gossips, backbites, hypocritical, worrier, proud, unthankful, mean spirited, weak, compromiser, overbearing, etc.

The apostle Peter had his faults, and yet he was able to have a profound impact upon the church. Throughout the Gospel accounts, time and again, he opened his mouth and proverbially inserted his foot. After Peter confessed Jesus as the Christ, Jesus revealed to His disciples His impending death. "Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, 'Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!' (Matt. 16:22). Jesus then rebuked Peter. On the mount at the occasion of the transfiguration, he blurted out the words, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah" (Matt. 17:4). The Father from Heaven had to then place appropriate emphasis upon His Son.

Granted, not every fault we possess would we say is serious or for that matter, sinful. But if we recognize such things as faults, then we know what it is that we need to work on to remove from our lives.

If, for example, you struggle with shyness, then strive to force yourself to converse with people. And in time, that shyness can be put aside. Perhaps you tend, like Peter, to speak before you think. Then learn to discipline yourself to refrain from speaking up so quickly. Think about what it is you wish to say (James 1:22).

Overcoming faults can indeed make us stronger and better, and more useful for the Lord's work in spreading the Gospel.