

Frayed around the edges

Not one person in the Bible had it all together.

We sometimes imagine Bible characters as spiritual superheroes - always strong, faithful, and brave.

But the Bible tells a different story. They were ordinary people who became tired, afraid, and made serious mistakes. Yet God did not abandon them.

That is the message of Psalm 40: *"I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit... and set my feet on a rock."*

So, this psalm is not about perfect people, but about a faithful God who rescues imperfect people.

David was a great king who defeated Goliath and wrote many psalms. But he also committed adultery, lied, and arranged a murder. When confronted, David confessed and God forgave him. David wrote as a rescued man, not a perfect one.

Elijah was a mighty prophet who saw remarkable miracles. Yet after confronting the prophets of Baal, he became exhausted and afraid. He ran into the wilderness and wanted to give up. God did not growl him but came in a gentle whisper, giving him strength and hope.

Paul once persecuted Christians and approved of Stephen's death. But after meeting the risen Jesus, his life was transformed. Paul later wrote, *"By the grace of God I am what I am."* (1 Corinthians 15:10)

Peter boldly followed Jesus but denied him three times on the night of Jesus' arrest. He wept bitterly, yet Jesus forgave and restored him, calling him to strengthen others.

David, Elijah, Paul, and Peter all failed in different ways, but God listened, forgave, and gave them new beginnings. Their mistakes did not define them, and ours do not have to define us either.

When we fail, God invites us to confess, receive forgiveness, and move forward, as Jesus did not come to condemn us, but to save us (John 3:17).

So, when we feel discouraged or burdened, we can call out to God with confidence. He hears us, rescues us, and will never let us go.