

running on empty

selections from Genesis and Romans

What happens when we blow it? When we mess up? Usually we feel bad, guilty—like we’re running on empty. There are at least four things that happened as a result of Adam and Eve’s blowing it. Watch out for these things in your own lives also.

▶ **Read Genesis 3:6-13** and identify the four things that sin led to for Adam and Eve (vss. 7-8, 10, 12-13).

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- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

▶ **Read Romans 3:23-26.** What does Romans 3:23 teach about humanity’s “fallenness”?

□ What does a person need to do to be accepted by God? (Rom. 3:24-25)

□ How does God reveal His justice? (Rom. 3:26)

God has dealt with the sin problem. He sent His Son, Jesus Christ to bring about a new way of life, a new order that offers satisfaction and fulfillment. In Jesus Christ, called the “Second Adam,” we have brand-new possibilities. When we receive Jesus Christ into our lives by faith, we are forgiven and free.

Genesis 3:6-13

⁶When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

⁸Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?”

¹⁰He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid.”

¹¹And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”

¹²The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

Romans 3:23-26

²³For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. ²⁴and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

²⁵God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—²⁶he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

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Sin means to “miss the mark.” Think about archery. The target or mark is God’s standard of righteousness. If sin is any thought or action that falls short of that target, it is easy to see that we all have sinned. What are some of the ways that we sometimes “fall short” of God’s standard?

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If sin is missing the mark, what causes “poor marksmanship”? Unbelievers miss because of spiritual blindness. Thank God for spiritual eyes with which to aim well.

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Even when we have spiritual sight, we still can miss the mark if we do not keep our focus on God. Use this time now to stay focused on Him.

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It helps to remember the target! Sometimes we simply get distracted and forget to aim. We can let our thoughts, words, and actions go out aimlessly, or we can point them in the right direction. What will you do today?

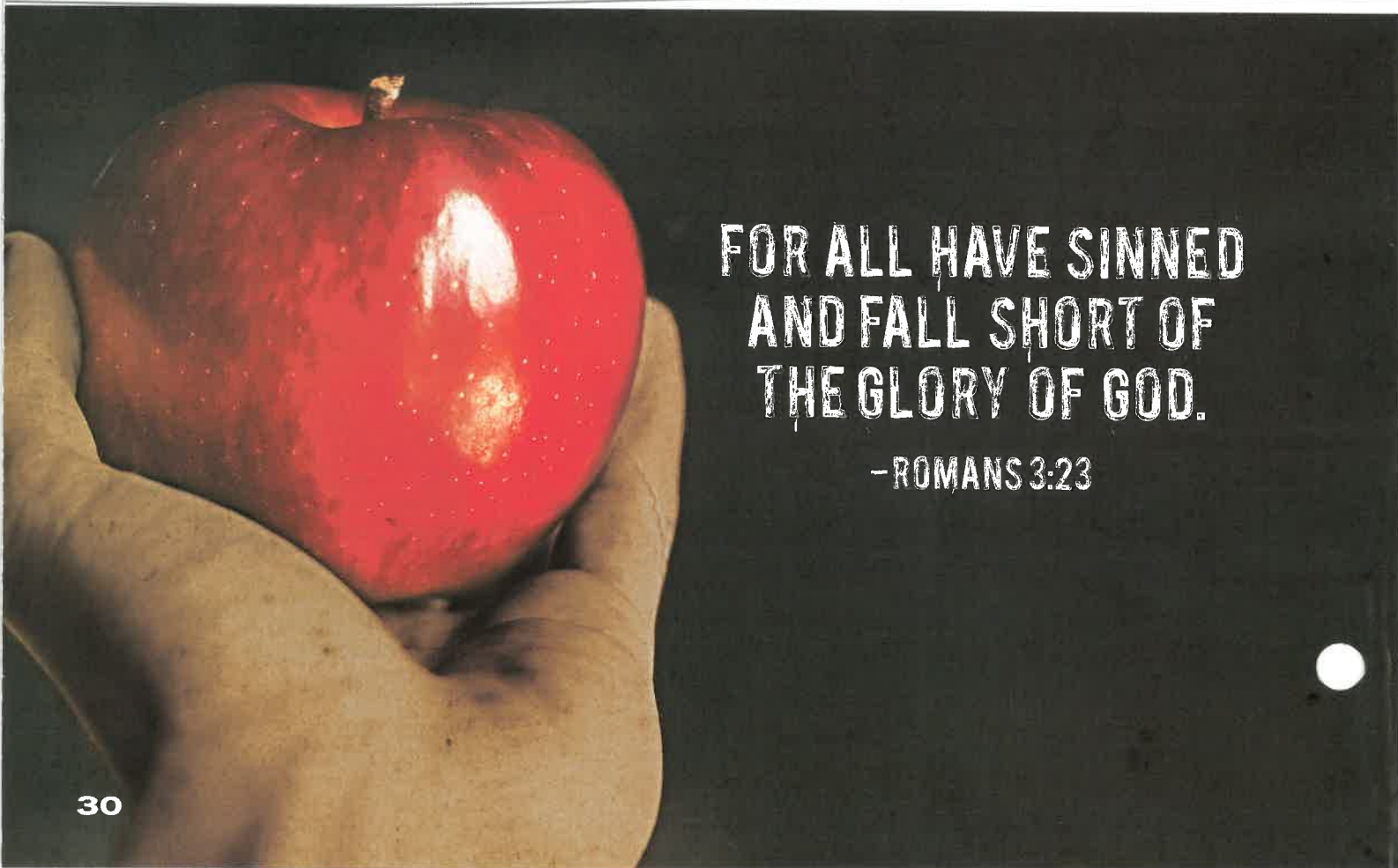
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It’s tempting to choose a so-called target others aim for. But a bull’s-eye on the wrong target is not only missing the mark—it’s playing someone else’s game. Ask God to

help you recognize His target today.

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Sin is falling short of God’s glory. His glory is intense, and being a part of it is the most exciting adventure a human being can have. Ask for God’s help to keep from missing out on His glory.



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—ROMANS 3:23