

# A Man Should Not Be Too Downcast When He Falls Into Defects

by Thomas a Kempis

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*The sermon emphasizes the importance of patience and humility in adversity, and encourages listeners to trust in God's help and consolation.*

**Scripture:** Psalm 34:17, Psalm 46:1, 2 Corinthians 12:9, James 1:2, 1 Peter 5:6

**Topics:** "Spiritual Growth", "Faith Trials"

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## Description

Thomas a Kempis, in 'The Voice of Christ,' emphasizes the importance of patience, humility, and trust in God during times of adversity. He encourages believers to endure trials with grace, reminding them that challenges are opportunities for growth and strengthening of faith. Kempis highlights the need to remain steadfast in the face of opposition, to control one's words and reactions, and to trust in God's constant help and consolation. He acknowledges human weakness but points to God as the source of rescue and divine grace in times of trouble.

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## Transcript

THE VOICE OF CHRIST

MY CHILD, patience and humility in adversity are more pleasing to Me than much consolation and devotion when things are going well.

Why are you saddened by some little thing said against you? Even if it had been more you ought not to have been affected. But now let it pass. It is not the first, nor is it anything new, and if you live long it will not be the last.

You are manly enough so long as you meet no opposition. You give good advice to others, and you know how to strengthen them with words, but when unexpected tribulation comes to your door, you fail both in counsel and in strength. Consider your great weakness, then, which you experience so often in small matters. Yet when these and like trials happen, they happen for your good.

Put it out of your heart as best you know how, and if it has touched you, still do not let it cast you down or confuse you for long. Bear it patiently at least, if you cannot bear it cheerfully. Even though you bear it unwillingly, and are indignant at it, restrain yourself and let no ill-ordered words pass your lips at which the

weak might be scandalized. The storm that is now aroused will soon be quieted and your inward grief will be sweetened by returning grace. "I yet live," says the Lord, "ready to help you and to console you more and more, if you trust in Me and call devoutly upon Me."

Remain tranquil and prepare to bear still greater trials. All is not lost even though you be troubled oftener or tempted more grievously. You are a man, not God. You are flesh, not an angel. How can you possibly expect to remain always in the same state of virtue when the angels in heaven and the first man in paradise failed to do so? I am He Who rescues the afflicted and brings to My divinity those who know their own weakness.

#### THE DISCIPLE

Blessed be Your words, O Lord, sweeter to my mouth than honey and the honeycomb. What would I do in such great trials and anxieties, if You did not strengthen me with Your holy words? If I may but attain to the haven of salvation, what does it matter what or how much I suffer? Grant me a good end. Grant me a happy passage out of this world. Remember me, my God, and lead me by the right way into Your kingdom.

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Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/thomas-a-kempis/a-man-should-not-be-too-downcast-when-he-falls-into-defects/>

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