

1. Galatians 6:1: To be “overtaken in a fault” here means to be surprised or hit by an unexpected and sudden turn of events.... and now you find yourself in the middle of a sin you didn’t see coming.

- a. These unexpected providences happen to all of us, everything is going great, and suddenly, someone says something to or about you, or they do something to you that you were not ready for, and you REACT in anger, sinfully and in such a way that is completely out of character for you as a child of God.
- b. In times like this, we come to understand and appreciate the great value of having a faithful brother or sister in Christ, “a close friend” TO HELP US when we fall into sin suddenly, when we are “overtaken by a fault”.
- c. You weren’t scheming, this sin wasn’t premeditated, but now you’re in it, and you’re angry and beside yourself. *Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, Proverbs 17:17*
- d. You need someone who will come to your side, who will plead and reason with you, turn you back to the Lord and help you to recover.
 - i. *Last week: James taught us that we should do all that we can to “turn about” and recover a brother or sister who has erred or wandered from the truth; so here, Paul teaches us to do all that we can to restore a brother or sister in Christ who has been overtaken in a fault!*
- e. Our tendency might be to disengage and distance ourselves from a sinning brother/sister and to NOT get involved, but beloved, to not do anything is to NOT BE a brother or sister who is borne for adversity and a faithful friend!
 - i. *We don’t like messy situations, but, at times children of God, the Christian life is messy, and God will call you into that mess.*

2. One of the best examples of a believer (who was overtaken in a fault), who was doing so well is David.... This was when he was hit by an unexpected sidewind, the personal insults of Nabal! 1 Samuel 25.

- a. This is NOT so much about David, as it is about Abigail, who became “David’s Spiritual Restorer”, who courageously put herself in the middle of a very messy situation, which would have been a lot worse had she not intervened!
- b. I want you to see her meekness and wisdom in stopping David, who was in a rage.... it was Abigail who caused David (+400 men) to pull back on the reigns of his horse, it was Abigail who admonished and calmed David, it was Abigail who reasoned with him and stopped him from a worse sin.
- c. Consider what would have happened had Abigail said, I’m not getting in the middle of this mess, come on boys, let’s get away from the house.
- d. But she didn’t avoid this situation, instead, she submitted herself to God, to be used by God to “RESTORE” David, who was “overtaken in a fault”.
 - i. *Proverbs 25:12, Psalm 141:5, Hebrews 10:24*

3. There is much to be learned in this passage for each of us as Christians!

- a. You will find yourself in both David’s and Abigail’s shoes! IF AND WHEN you find yourself in David’s shoes, listen to the Abigail whom God sends to you to admonish and restore you. When you find yourself in Abigail’s shoes, seek the Lord for wisdom, and go to your struggling brother or sister in the Lord, restore them in the spirit of meekness, and by the love of Christ IN YOU!