God Will Provide What is Lacking in Us

It was heartbreaking to watch! Yesterday, at the Olympics, Ilia Malinin of Virginia was skating for the United States, and the world held their breath as the universally acknowledged *best in the world, ever,* failed miserably. He had been ahead after the short program; he does what no other figure skater in the world can do, or has ever done, 4.56 rotation jumps, and he lands them almost every time… almost!

Then, in his own words, "I blew it!" Failure! From first place to #8, no podium, no medal, no accolades, just "I blew it." To Ilia's credit, he was the first to make his way to the gold medal winner from Kazakhstan and hug him tightly and congratulate him genuinely. Then, like the two time world champion he is, Ilia took full responsibility for his own failure. He blamed no one else, no rant, no rave, no deflecting responsibility, just frustration and, I'm sure, determination for the future. In the skating world, Ilia Malinin really is the best there ever was but yesterday was not his day for success.

Let's move to the spiritual world. You've had great days, amazing successes, wonderful victories. But, sometimes, occasionally, you just *blow it!* You fail, miserably, sometimes publicly. Frustration, regret, embarrassment, all flood in and sometimes feel overwhelming. You are tempted to blame someone else, deflect responsibility, duck the consequences. Deep down you know you *just blew it.*

Now what? For the spiritually mature, the call to humility, confession and eventually forgiveness are the order of the day. But again, deep down, you know failure, sometime, somehow, somewhere, will strike again. Is there no hope for victory?

Enter Jesus! We remember Eugene Bartlett's old hymn, *Victory in Jesus* and remember, unlike Ilia Malinin (whose ice victories must come from himself), our spiritual victory comes from the cross, from Jesus' sacrifice, from His blood. *"What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus!"*

Never forget, Jesus is the only one who can supply what is lacking in our own souls. As we *skate* through life, Jesus lifts us when we fall. He supplies all our needs, 2 Cor. 9:8. More than the birds of the air, Jesus provides for us, Matthew 6:28. If we truly allow Him to be the shepherd of our hearts, we shall not be in want of any real necessity, Psalm 23. He loves us as His children and gives us every good gift if we only ask, Matthew 7:11. "God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus, Philippians 4:19. In victory and in defeat, "… the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus, Philippians 4:7. No wonder we can rejoice, He is with us, Philippians 4:9.

So, when you fall, get back on your feet and *skate* through some more of life's challenges - God will lift you up!

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