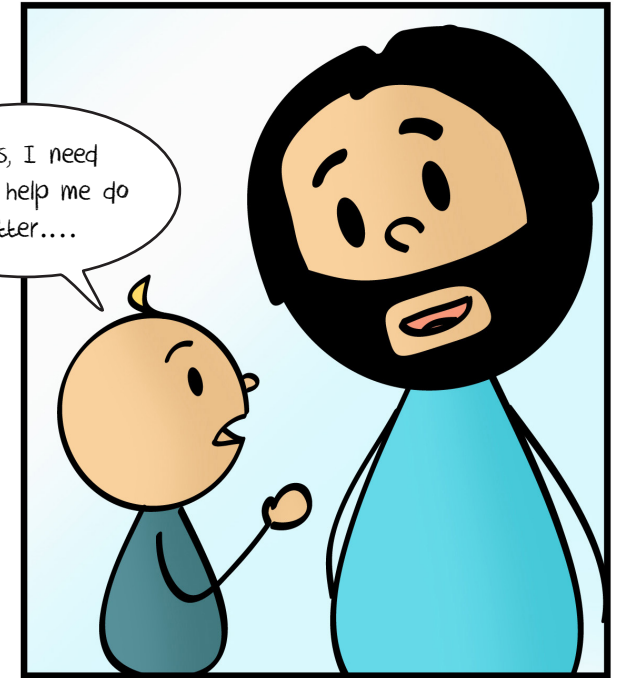
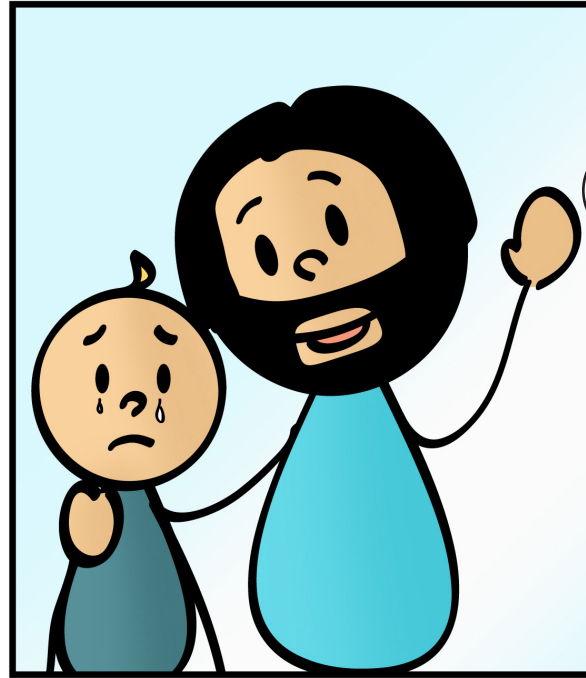
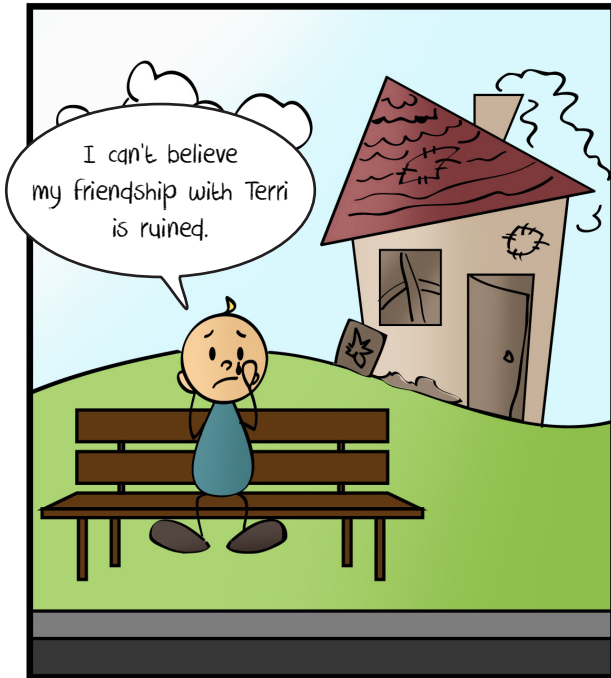


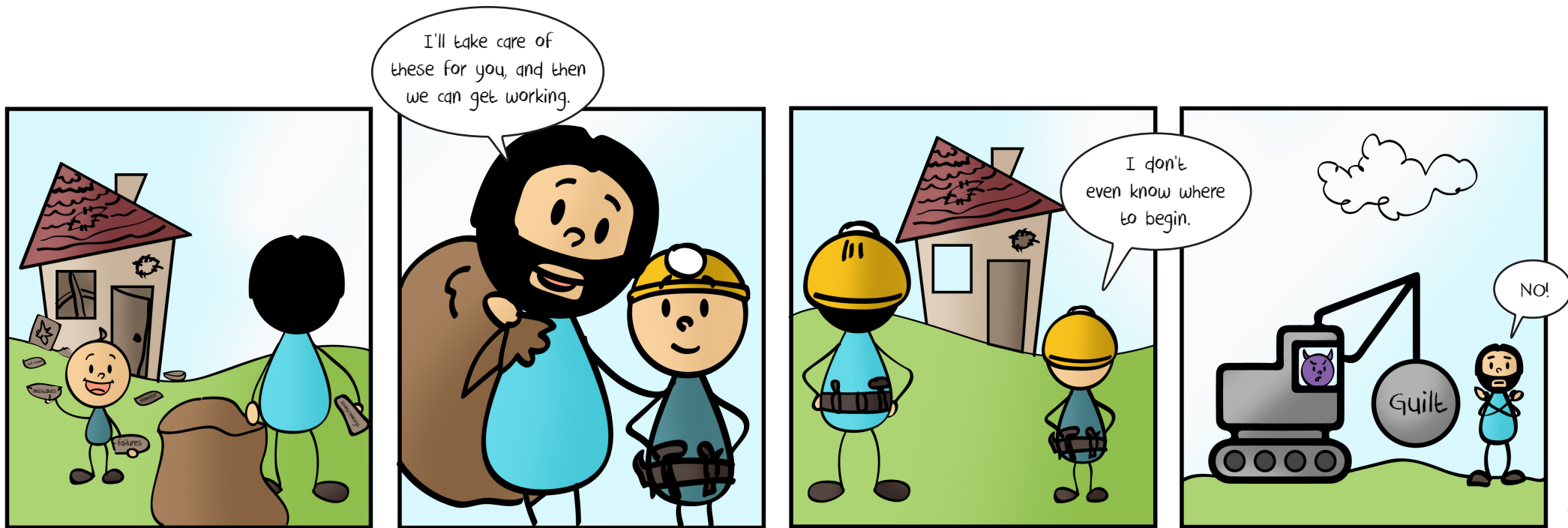
Restored



If you ever feel guilt, remorse, condemnation, or self-blame, remember that Jesus loves you unconditionally, no matter what your situation. The source of your negative feelings might be something you did or failed to do. It might be related to decisions that, with the benefit of hindsight, you now feel were wrong.

No matter what, Jesus' love for you is just as great as the love He has for any of His children. He wants you to garner good from every situation and to grow wiser as a result. There isn't a person on earth who hasn't had cause to feel the weight of his or her mistakes and sins at times, but God is powerful enough to use even those things for your good.

You can put down your burdens and let Jesus wrap His arms around you. This life isn't about you trying to do everything exactly right and Jesus punishing you for what isn't perfect. This life is God's gift to you. It's a time to experience and grow and learn under His loving guidance and care.

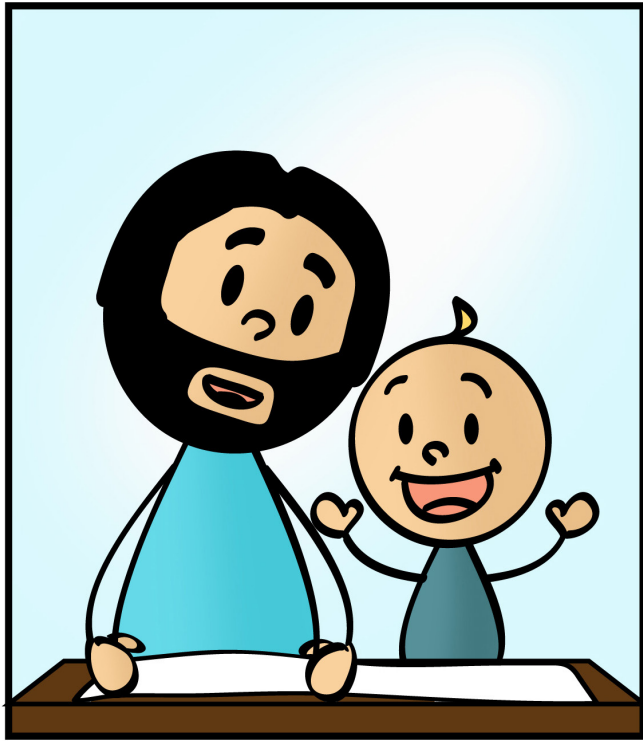


The Apostle Paul wrote that “there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin.”¹ You can make a conscious decision to “forget those things that are behind and look forward to the things that are before.”²

Why should you allow self-blame and condemnation to take over your hearts and minds when God wants you to learn and grow from your shortcomings, mistakes, and failures? When you berate and denounce yourself, you tear down what God is working to build in your life.

It’s like when you have a building that has experienced many decades of existence; it may look worn, and some parts may even need replacing. But the expert restorer sees beyond the surface to the building’s foundation and structure.

Like those buildings, Jesus sees the true value in you. He knows what He made you out of and that you are solid and worth preserving. The enemy of your soul wants to condemn you, to declare you worthless and deserving of the wrecking ball. He wants to convince you to let him tear down the good with guilt and condemnation over your imperfections. He does it because in doing so he hopes to crush the beauty and the solid core of what Jesus has helped you build.



Jesus is the ultimate restoration expert. He sees the solid foundations of faith and the compassion, mercy, conviction, and character that have developed through experience and walking with Him.



He may have to periodically remove things that need to be changed, but He works to retain and restore the irreplaceable qualities that He designed in you, uncovering the strengths and the beauty.



With God's love, all things are possible—if you put your will on His side. It takes humility, trust, and a lot of perseverance and determination, but you can refuse to dwell in the prison of guilt, condemnation, and discouragement. You can instead praise the Lord for the victory that Jesus has won for you! You can rejoice that there is a bright future waiting to embrace you. You may feel shattered beyond repair, but Jesus picks up every piece and continues to transform you into a usable, beautiful vessel for His glory.

¹ Romans 8:1–2 NLT
² Philippians 3:13–14