

The background of the cover is a painting of a man with grey hair and a shocked expression, his mouth wide open in a scream or shout. He is wearing a light-colored, striped shirt. He appears to be looking out from behind a broken wall made of large, jagged, brownish-grey stones or bricks. The wall is crumbling, with many pieces missing, revealing a dark interior space behind him. The overall style is that of a classical oil painting.

# Stuck in Stupid

*Traits of Individuals Who  
Struggle to Move Forward*



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STRUGGLE TO MOVE FORWARD

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The phrase “stuck in stupid” often refers to individuals who repeatedly make poor choices or fail to learn from their mistakes. Here are some traits and characteristics of people who may find themselves perpetually “stuck” in negative patterns or behaviors:

## Traits of Individuals Who Are “Stuck in Stupid”

### 1. Lack of Self-Awareness

- They may not recognize their own flaws or the negative impact of their actions on themselves and others.

### 2. Resistance to Change

- They often resist new ideas, feedback, or constructive criticism, preferring to stay in their comfort zones.

### 3. Blaming Others

- Instead of taking responsibility for their actions, they frequently blame external circumstances or other people for their problems.

### 4. Negative Mindset

- They may have a pessimistic outlook on life, believing that nothing will ever improve, which can lead to a cycle of inaction.

## 5. Fear of Failure

- A strong fear of failure can paralyze them, preventing them from taking risks or trying new approaches.

## 6. Poor Decision-Making Skills

- They might struggle to make sound decisions, often opting for immediate gratification over long-term benefits.

## 7. Inability to Learn from Mistakes

- They may repeat the same mistakes without reflecting on past experiences or seeking to understand what went wrong.

## 8. Dependency on Others

- They might rely heavily on others for validation or direction, rather than developing their own independent thought processes.

## 9. Avoidance of Responsibility

- They often avoid taking responsibility for their actions, which can lead to a lack of personal growth.

## 10. Complacency

- They may become comfortable in their current situation, even if it is detrimental, leading to a lack of motivation to change.

## 11. Lack of Goals or Ambition

- They might lack clear goals or aspirations, making it difficult for them to move forward or seek improvement.

## 12. Toxic Relationships

- They may surround themselves with negative influences or toxic relationships that reinforce their destructive behaviors.

## 13. Emotional Reactivity

- They may react impulsively or emotionally rather than thoughtfully, leading to poor choices.

## Hebrew Word Meaning for “Stupid”

The Hebrew word for “stupid” is “כֶּסִּיל” (kesil), which refers to a person who is foolish or lacks understanding. This term often conveys a sense of moral or intellectual deficiency, emphasizing a lack of wisdom or discernment.

## Biblical Examples of Men Who Overcame Being “Stuck in Stupid”

### 1. Moses

- Context: Initially reluctant to lead the Israelites out of Egypt due to insecurities and past mistakes.
- How He Got Unstuck: Through God’s reassurance

and signs, Moses learned to trust in God's plan and his own abilities, ultimately leading his people to freedom.

## 2. David

- Context: Made significant mistakes, including his affair with Bathsheba and the murder of her husband, Uriah.
- How He Got Unstuck: After being confronted by the prophet Nathan, David sincerely repented, sought forgiveness, and made efforts to restore his relationship with God, ultimately becoming a man after God's own heart.

## 3. Peter

- Context: Acted impulsively, denying Jesus three times out of fear.
- How He Got Unstuck: After Jesus' resurrection, Peter was restored and empowered by the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, becoming a bold leader in the early church.

## 4. Jonah

- Context: Initially ran away from God's command to preach to Nineveh, thinking he knew better.
- How He Got Unstuck: After being swallowed by a great fish and spending three days in its belly, Jonah repented and fulfilled God's command, leading to the salvation of many in Nineveh.

## 5. Saul (Paul)

- Context: A zealous persecutor of Christians, blinded by his own beliefs.
- How He Got Unstuck: After a dramatic encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus, Saul transformed into Paul, becoming one of the greatest apostles and spreading the Gospel.

## 6. Samson

- Context: Known for his strength but made poor choices in relationships, particularly with Delilah, leading to his downfall.
- How He Got Unstuck: After being captured and blinded, Samson turned back to God in his final moments, praying for strength one last time to defeat the Philistines, demonstrating that repentance and reliance on God can lead to redemption.

## 7. King Saul

- Context: The first king of Israel who struggled with jealousy and disobedience, particularly in his relationship with David.
- How He Got Unstuck: Saul had moments of clarity, especially when he sought guidance from the prophet Samuel. However, his inability to fully embrace change ultimately led to his downfall, illustrating the importance of humility and the need to heed wise counsel.

## 8. Lot

- **Context:** Chose to live in Sodom, a city known for its wickedness, and was influenced by the negative environment.
- **How He Got Unstuck:** When angels warned him of the impending destruction of Sodom, Lot took action and fled with his family, demonstrating that recognizing a toxic environment and making a decisive change can lead to salvation.

## The Seven Biblical Laws to Get Unstuck

### 1. Law of Acknowledgment

- Recognize and admit your mistakes and shortcomings. Acknowledgment is the first step to change.

### 2. Law of Repentance

- Genuine repentance involves turning away from past behaviors and seeking forgiveness, both from God and those affected.

### 3. Law of Accountability

- Surround yourself with trustworthy individuals who can provide guidance and hold you accountable for your actions.

### 4. Law of Wisdom

- Seek wisdom through prayer, scripture, and



counsel. Make decisions based on sound judgment rather than impulsiveness.

## 5. Law of Action

- Take decisive steps toward change. Action is essential to breaking free from negative patterns.

## 6. Law of Perseverance

- Stay committed to your goals and the path of change, even when faced with obstacles or setbacks.

## 7. Law of Faith

- Trust in God's plan for your life and have faith that He will guide you through the process of transformation.

# Fables Illustrating the Theme of Being “Stuck in Stupid”

## 1. The Frog and the Ox

- Fable: A frog saw an ox and wanted to be as big as the ox. The frog began to inflate itself, trying to match the ox's size. In its attempt, the frog eventually burst.
- Moral: This fable illustrates the dangers of complacency and lack of self-awareness. The frog's desire to be something it was not led to its demise. Recognizing one's limitations and being true to oneself is essential for growth.

## 2. The Lion and the Mouse

- Fable: A lion caught a mouse and was about to eat it. The mouse pleaded for its life and promised to help the lion someday. The lion laughed but let the mouse go. Later, the lion was trapped in a net, and the mouse gnawed through the ropes to free him.
- Moral: This fable emphasizes the importance of recognizing value in others and that help can come from unexpected places. The lion learned that sometimes, letting go of pride and accepting help can lead to freedom from difficult situations.

## 3. The Goose That Laid the Golden Eggs

- Fable: A farmer had a goose that laid a golden egg every day. Greedy for more wealth, the farmer killed the goose to get all the gold at once. However, he found nothing inside and lost his source of wealth.
- Moral: This fable teaches about poor decision-making and impatience. The farmer's greed led to his downfall, illustrating that sometimes it's better to appreciate what you have rather than risk it all for immediate gain.

## 4. The Wolf and the Lamb

- Fable: A wolf accused a lamb of muddying the water he was drinking from, even though the lamb was downstream. The wolf had no real justification for his actions and ended up eating the lamb anyway.
- Moral: This fable highlights the blame-shifting

behavior often seen in those who are “stuck in stupid.” The wolf’s refusal to take responsibility for his actions serves as a reminder of the dangers of projecting one’s flaws onto others.

## Conclusion

These biblical examples and fables illustrate that individuals who find themselves “stuck in stupid” can break free from negative patterns through self-awareness, repentance, and decisive action. Recognizing one’s flaws, seeking guidance, and embracing change are essential steps toward personal growth and redemption.

Ultimately, overcoming these challenges requires humility, accountability, and a commitment to change. By learning from both biblical narratives and timeless fables, we can reflect on our own lives and strive to move forward positively. The Pentecostal Preachers Pulpit Commentary Series emphasizes that through faith and adherence to biblical principles, individuals can find the strength to overcome their challenges and achieve spiritual and personal growth.