

Troubleshooting

My wife's sewing machine Instruction Booklet has a *Troubleshooting* section: condition, cause, reference page. For example, "*the needle thread breaks.*" Six possible causes along with reference pages are listed. The manufacturer assumes two facts: minor glitches may happen and the consumer can be guided to and through a solution.

Here's a classic troubleshooting section of the Bible: "*If we admit our sins, He can always be trusted to forgive us and take our sins away.*" **Notice**—our Father assumes that we'll **screw up**. "*The Lord is as kind to His followers as a father is to his children. He knows we are made of dust.*"[1] Case in point: Peter. In the Upper Room Peter said, "*Master, I'm ready for anything with You. I'd go to jail for You. I'd die for You!*" However, in the Courtyard a few hours later he crumbled: "*I don't even know the Man!*"

"**If we admit our sins...**" The first step in problem solving is **identifying and admitting the problem**. Step One of Alcoholics Anonymous is: "*We admitted we were powerless over alcohol...*" If the problem is *objective*, acknowledgment is rather easy. However, it's a different story if the malfunction is *personal*. Did you ever watch a young child in the throes of owning a failure? It can be rather humorous.

"*He can always be trusted to forgive us and take our sins away.*" The Screw-Up in Luke 15 experienced this firsthand. "*When he was still a long way off, his father saw him. His heart pounding, he ran out, embraced him, and kissed him. The son started his speech: 'Father, I've sinned ...' But the father wasn't listening. He was calling to the servants, 'Quick. We're going to*

celebrate!'"