

# A Fall on the Ice

Paul Wylie was skating in the 1988 Winter Olympics at Calgary. He was nervous as he began his program before 20,000 people and a television audience of millions.

Then, in his first jump, something went wrong.

He writes, “A flash later, my hand touches the ice; the blade will not hold. I start slipping and now I realize it: I am falling. All I hear as I collapse to the ice is the empathetic groan of what seems like a million voices.”

Wylie was faced with a split-second choice: He could focus on the mistake and give up, or he could keep on skating and do his best.

Just then, this Scripture verse came to his mind: “Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down” (Psalm 37:24).

He continued his routine and decided to skate “heartily, as to the Lord” (Colossians 3:23).

At program’s end, the crowd burst into enthusiastic applause for his courage and determination.

You may have discovered this principle in your life’s experiences: It’s one thing to fall; it’s quite another to give up.

– Beecher Hunter

