

September 2026 Newsletter

Failure - How Can We Learn From It?



Let me ask you a question. It is something most of us think about from time to time, and it is something many of us are afraid of. What does failure look like in your life? Before we can answer that question, we need to understand that failure can look

different for everyone. We can fail academically, athletically, occupationally, socially, relationally, financially, spiritually, or morally.

Some failures have deeper and longer-lasting effects than others. Regardless of the type, most of us do not like the feeling that comes with failure. Failure can bring embarrassment, disappointment, shame, or fear. Because of this, we often try to avoid failure at all costs. Sometimes we will even go to unhealthy lengths to keep from failing. We may lie, cheat, make excuses, blame others, or cover up what happened. We convince ourselves that if we can hide our failure, we can somehow avoid dealing with it. But hiding failure doesn't make it go away.

How Did We Learn to View Failure? Our experiences growing up can shape how we respond to failure today. As children, we learned that certain choices brought consequences. We might have been corrected or punished for lying, cheating, stealing, talking back, defiance, or failing to follow directions. When consequences are involved, we often learn one of two things: change our behavior or hide our behavior. If correction was harsh, humiliating, or disconnected from love, we may have learned that failure is something dangerous that must be hidden. We may have developed the mindset that making a mistake means we are a bad person. But correction given in love can teach us something different. It can help us understand that mistakes have consequences, but those mistakes do not have to define who we are. There is a difference between failing and being a failure. You may have made a bad decision, but that does not make you a bad person. You may have fallen down, but you do not have to stay down.

Failure Can Be a Teacher - Failure is painful, but it can also teach us things that success sometimes cannot. Failure can cause us to stop and ask: What went wrong? What could I have done differently? What can I learn from this? What do I need to change? Do I need help from someone else? These questions allow us to turn a difficult experience



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into an opportunity for growth. Sometimes failure shows us a weakness that needs attention. Sometimes it reveals that we were going in the wrong direction. Other times it reminds us that we need more preparation, wisdom, patience, or guidance. Failure can even teach us humility. It reminds us that we don't know everything and that we were never meant to navigate life completely on our own.

Failure Is Not the End - The Bible gives us many examples of people who failed but were not defined by their failures. Peter denied Jesus. David made serious mistakes. Moses made mistakes. Jonah ran from what God had called him to do. Yet God continued to work in their lives. Their failures were real, but their failures were not the end of their stories. **Proverbs 24:16** reminds us: *"For though the righteous fall seven times, they rise again."* The verse doesn't say that a righteous person never falls. It says that when they fall, they get back up. That is an important lesson for all of us. Sometimes getting back up means admitting that we were wrong. Sometimes it means asking for forgiveness. Sometimes it means making a change. And sometimes it means allowing God to heal the shame and hurt connected to our past.

What Will We Do With Failure? - Maybe the question isn't, "Will I fail?" At some point, all of us will. A better question is: "What will I do when I fail?" Will I hide it? Will I blame someone else? Will I allow shame to define me? Or will I face it, learn from it, make the necessary changes, and get back up? We cannot always prevent failure. We cannot undo every mistake. We cannot change yesterday. But we can choose what we do with what happened. Failure is an event. It does not have to become our identity. We can learn. We can grow. We can change. We can receive grace. And with God's help, we can get back up.

A Thought to Take With You - Don't let the fear of failure keep you from trying, growing, or becoming who God has called you to be. Failure may be part of your story, but it doesn't have to be the final chapter. Sometimes the greatest lesson isn't found in how we succeeded, but in how we learned to get back up.



ENCOURAGEMENT NOW PODCAST



Kevin, Laura, And Joseph

We Need Your Help!

We are looking for corporate, church, and individual partnerships for our ministry. Mental health is one of the most sought after and talked about subject our society is focused on, but they are missing the Biblical truths that God's Word has to offer. Churches are finding themselves unable to handle some of the challenges they are presented with, and they need a safe place to send their members. We are that place, but we need your help. Encouragement Now Ministries (ENM) is donation funded. Monthly partnerships are the backbone of our ministry. This allows us to train up counselors, minister to the needs of churches and individuals, and grow our ministry. We are a 501(c)(3) organization that can be that place. Talk to your company about donating to ENM, and consider a monthly partnership. Every dollar is connected to a soul.