

*Overcoming  
Failure!*

Finding The  
Missing  
Pieces Of  
The Puzzle!

## James 3:2 (NASB)

<sup>2</sup> For we all stumble in many *ways*. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well.

## **Romans 3:23 (NASB)**

<sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,




We have all failed in our lives.

- Vincent Van Gogh: sold 1 painting while alive.
- Albert Einstein: failed math.
- Walt Disney: fired for lack of creativity.
- Michael Jordan: failed to make HS BB Team.
- Dave Ramsey: financial guru filed for bankruptcy.
- Henry Heinz, Milton Hershey, Henry Ford, J.C. Penny.


## Greatest figures in Scripture failed:

- Abraham slept with wife's servant.
- Moses was a murderer.
- David was an adultery.
- Peter denied Christ 3 times.
- Saul [Paul] persecuted the church.



Failure does not discriminate by wealth, status, education, or influence.

- Failure takes all forms: vocational, relational, physical, spiritual.
- The real issue is not that we fail or that we are failures.
- Failure is an event not a person.



Your response to failure determines your level of success and accomplishment in life.

- It determines who you become as a person.
- It determines who you become in Christ.
- It's the difference of failing forward or failing backward.
- The real issue is how to respond to failure as a follower of Christ.

# How do we fail forward?

- First, face your failures honestly.
- Claim your responsibility.
- Don't blame others.
- No one has control over you.
- People fail to the direct proportion to the excuses they make concerning their failure.
- Excuses are exits off the freeway of life.



Roman 3:23 says we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

Romans 3:10 says no one is perfect no not one.

James 3:2 says we have all stumbled.



Second make God a part of your failures.

- Do you think that God did not know that Abraham, David, Moses, Peter were going to fail?
- Do you think that you are any different, God knows!

## Joshua 7:6 (NASB)

<sup>6</sup> Then Joshua tore his clothes and fell to the earth on his face before the ark of the LORD until the evening, *both* he and the elders of Israel; and they put dust on their heads.



Who we turn to determines our success.

- All too often we turn to a friend, a co-worker, relative when we should have turned to God first.
- Scripture does not say find a friend and seek wisdom.
- Those we seek usually have more problems than we do.

## Matthew 6:33 (NASB)

<sup>33</sup> "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

## James 1:5 (NASB)

<sup>5</sup> But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.



When we let God be involved in our failures it draws on His wisdom and insight and allows us to keep perspective.

- In God's eyes He doesn't see us as a failure but learning a lesson.

Before successfully creating the light bulb Thomas Edison had made 10,000 attempts.

- When asked about his attempts he said I did not fail 10,000 times I just showed 10,000 ways how not to make a light bulb.
- God is not looking for perfection He is looking for obedience.
- With God roadblocks become stepping stones.





Third learn from your failure.

- IBM founder Tom Watson had a junior executive make a \$10,000.00 mistake.
- He is called in the office and says to Watson I guess you want my resignation.
- Watson replied, “You can’t be serious, I just spent \$10,0000.00 educating you.
- Mistakes are great teachers.

## Joshua 7:11 (NASB)

<sup>11</sup> "Israel has sinned, and they have also transgressed My covenant which I commanded them. And they have even taken some of the things under the ban and have both stolen and deceived. Moreover, they have also put *them* among their own things.


Fourth put your failure behind you.

**Proverbs 24:6 (NASB)**

<sup>6</sup> For by wise guidance you will wage war, And in abundance of counselors there is victory.

***Proverbs 23:7 (NASB)***

<sup>7</sup> *For as he thinks within himself, so he is.*



Oliver Goldsmith says, “Our greatest glory is not in never failing but in rising each time we fall.”


**Psalm 103:5 (NASB)**

<sup>5</sup> Who satisfies your years with good things, *So that* your youth is renewed like the eagle.

*Eagles always fly into the storm!*

## Philippians 3:13-14 (NASB)

<sup>13</sup> Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of *it* yet; but one thing *I do*: forgetting what *lies* behind and reaching forward to what *lies* ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.



A young boy was with his friends, cheering him on to jump from the cliff, he was faced with a decision: one step would decide his success or failure.

- Those who fail forward come to the resolve to always move forward, forgetting what was behind, because when God is for you then no one or nothing can be against you.



