

REDEEMING FAILURE

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FAILURE THAT DERAILS

- 1. Failure by comparison:** you can feel like you're failing when you compare yourself to others.
- 2. Failure by proximity:** you're not the one who failed, but their failure is impacting you.
- 3. Failure by risk:** you're the entrepreneur who took the bold leap, and you lost it all.
- 4. Failure by stupidity:** frontal lobe failure, people not thinking before they act.
- 5. Failure by sin:** this is universal. We all fail by sin.

BIBLICAL HEROES AND FAILURE

People who we consider to be heroes of our faith...they have one thing in common. Failure.

- **Abraham:** Lied that his wife was his sister and gave her into the hands of another man...not once, but twice.
- **Moses:** Lost his temper and committed murder and tried to cover it up.
- **David:** Lusted after Bathsheba, forced himself on her, conceived a child with her, and then had her husband killed.
- **Paul:** Persecuted the followers of Jesus, and he approved the murder of Stephen.
- **James:** failed to recognize Jesus as the Messiah.
- **Peter:** chopped off Malchus' ear, denied ever knowing Jesus.

“Our failures don't have to define us. It all depends on how we respond. If we curse our luck, blame others, and fail to take responsibility, we'll continue to fail. But if we face the facts, accept responsibility, and humbly get back on the right path, our failures can lay the groundwork for future success... Don't forget that the vast majority of biblical heroes failed spectacularly at one

point or another, many of them more than once. What set them apart was their refusal to let these failures define them. Instead of becoming angry and disillusioned with God, they repented and turned to God. And once they did, he turned losers into champions.”

- **Larry Osborne, Thriving in Babylon**

Failure that is given to God can be repurposed for redemption.

GOD REDEEMS FAILURE WHEN WE:

1 Take Ownership

- **1 John 1:9** “If we confess our sins, he [God] is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”
- **Proverbs 28:13** “Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.”
- **Psalms 32: 3-5** “When I refused to confess my sin, my body wasted away, and I groaned all day long. Day and night your hand of discipline was heavy on me. My strength evaporated like water in the summer heat. Finally, I confessed all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide my guilt. I said to myself, ‘I will confess my rebellion to the LORD.’ And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone.”

2 Turn to God

3 Ask for Forgiveness

- **Psalm 51:1-2** “Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!”
- Not only do you need to ask forgiveness from God, but also from others you’ve failed.

4 Receive God’s forgiveness and mercy.

- **1 Timothy 1:12-14** “I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.”

5 Walk in Freedom

6 Shut Out the Noise

- Turn up the volume on God's voice, and listen to what He alone says to you and about you.

7 Share Your Story

- **Revelation 12:11** "We will overcome by the blood of the lamb and the word of our testimony."

"Your story of failing forward can become the spark that inspires someone else to keep going." - **Jacob Brown, Fail Forward Mentality**