

"FAILURE DOES NOT HAVE TO BE FINAL"

Matthew 26:75

INTRODUCTION:

We have all experienced failure at some time! My first sermon that I preached at my home church, I walked back to my seat and said "I quit."

Yes, we all fail at times.

1. Abraham failed. He lied about his wife in – *Genesis 12:10-20*
2. David failed. The sad story of David and Bathsheba reminds us of this - *Psalms 51*.
3. Moses failed. In - *Exodus 2:12* - he killed an Egyptian and tried to hide his sin.
4. Peter failed - *Matthew 26:69-75*. He denied the Lord - three times.

I repeat WE ALL fail at times.

1. We fail in Bible study, we fail in prayer, we fail in witnessing, we fail in preaching, and we fail in singing.
2. We fail in living for Christ. We fail to show forth Christ to others.
3. We fail in efforts to help others.
4. We fail as parents.
5. Fail in business.

In our failures we sometime lose the presence of God, the peace of God and the power of God.

Folks, your failure is not final. Abraham, Moses, David, and Peter failed, but they came back!

Trans. Sentence:

Now, what you do when you fail will determine your future.

- A. [Some Quit And Live A Life Of Defeat And Failure. Never Getting Over Their Failure And Begin To Take The Attitude Of – What's The Use.](#)

- B. For Those Who Take That Attitude, Failure Is Final. But, Today Let's Look At God's Word And See That Failure Does Not Have To Be Final.

I. ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR FAILURE – *I John 1:8-10*

Confess it to God and to others, if necessary. Be honest with yourself. Be honest with God.

A. First, Confess Your Failures To Yourself

1. Be big enough to say, "I failed."
 - a. Some people don't want to do this, they are to egotistical.
 - b. They do not want to confess their failures.
 - c. They try to cover up.
2. Many try to blame others.
 - a. Husband blames wife - wife blames husband.
 - b. The child blames the parent.
 - c. Poor, stumbling church members blame the pastor.
 - d. Always blame someone else for failure - never take the blame.
3. Change will never be made in one's life until failure is acknowledge
 - a. "I failed"
 - b. "I was wrong."
 - c. "Whatever the circumstances I am at fault."

B. Secondly, Confess Your Failures To God.

1. Acknowledge your failures; be honest with God and with yourself.
2. Perhaps you have failed in:
 - a. Your dedication to God and his service.
 - b. Your being the Christian father or mother you should have been.
 - c. Perhaps you have failed as a teenager - got out into the world. Correct it and turn your life a round.
 - d. Failed in your finances by getting head over heels in debt by spending foolishly, and stopped tithing.
 - (1) Correct your spending and debt problems.
 - (2) Confess your sin to God, and begin to give God His tithe.
 - e. Get your priorities all out of order:

- (1) Putting God in the background of your life.
- (2) Confess the sin and by God's grace get it organized, and put God back in proper place in your life.

C. Acknowledge Your Failures, Face Them, And Determine To Do Something About Them. Failure Is Not Final Unless You Stay Where You Are.

II. RENEW YOUR VOWS TO GOD

A. Now! At This Moment! Don't Wait.

B. Peter Failed But He Confessed It To God And Was Forgiven. God Forgave Him, Note Peter's Message In - **Acts 2:14-36**

C. Don't Write Yourself Off Because You Failed. Failure Is Not Final!

1. Get right with God – **John 1:9**
 - a. Failure IS final IF NOT changed.
 - b. Confess your failure and claim the promise of God.
2. Begin to do what God says.
3. Renew your vows to God. Failure IS NOT final.

III. KEEP PRESSING ON

A. **Philippians 3:10-14.**

1. Paul did - he kept pressing on.
 - a. In prison, out of prison.
 - b. He kept pressing on.
2. Are you discouraged by your failures? Are you embarrassed?
3. Are you afraid to press on to make changes and do better?

B. When I Saw Myself As A Sinner He Saved Me. When I See Myself So Weak And So Afraid, He Used Me.

C. Failure Does Not Have To Be Final! Note This Example I Found About Abraham Lincoln Who Struck Out Eleven Times Before He Was Elected President.

1. Failed in business in 1831.
2. Defeated for the legislature in 1832.
3. Had his second business failure in 1833
4. Suffered a nervous breakdown in 1836.
5. Defeated for speaker in 1838.
6. Defeated for elector in 1840.
7. Defeated for Congress in 1843.
8. Defeated for Congress in 1848.
9. Defeated for the Senate in 1855.
10. Defeated for Vice President in 1856.
11. Defeated for the Senate in 1859.

But he was elected President of the United States in 1860.

D. Was Lincoln A Failure?

1. No, failure is not final.
 - a. Keep pressing on - if you failed, get up, get right and go on.
 - b. All men fail at times.
2. The winners are the ones who get up and go on.

E. Note: - **Luke 23:39-43**

1. The world would consider this thief a failure:
 - a. A thief - criminal
 - b. By the world's standards he was a low-life, dying as a failure.
2. It was his failure that brought him to God. Notice **verses 39-43**.
3. His failure was not final.
 - a. It was used to bring him to salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - b. He did not die a failure, he died a child of God.

CONCLUSION: In closing let me say:

1. Don't glorify your failures.
2. Don't brag about them.
3. Don't let failure stop you.
4. Don't let failure give you a complex.
5. Don't let failure make you a critic of others.

Get right or keep right with God and keep going on for His glory!