

Confronting Failure

"The only man who never makes a mistake is the man who never does anything." *Teddy Roosevelt*

"Failure is not the opposite of success, it's part of success."

What is Failure? Failure is an inability to meet an expectation. Falling short of a goal. Not doing something that you must do or are expected to do.

Causes of Failure

Sin

No ill befalls the righteous, but the wicked are filled with trouble.
Proverbs 12:21 ESV

Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous (sinful/wicked) way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting! Psalm 139:23-24 ESV

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.. Psalm 51:10 ESV

Misplaced Priorities

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Matthew 6:33

Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ. Philippians 3:8 ESV

Poor Planning and Unpreparedness

"Failing to plan is planning to fail"

"For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to

finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace."

Luke 14:28-32 ESV

Remedies for Failure

Reflection

Pain (failure) + reflection = progress

Wise Council

The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice.

Proverbs 12:15 ESV

Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety.

Proverbs 11:14 ESV

for by wise guidance you can wage your war, and in abundance of counselors there is victory.

Proverbs 24:6 ESV

Let a righteous man strike me—it is a kindness; let him rebuke me—it is oil for my head; let my head not refuse it.....

Psalms 141:5a ESV

Verses of Encouragement

Proverbs 24:16 The righteous may fall seven times but still get up, but the wicked will stumble into trouble.

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

James 1:12 ESV