



How Do You Manage Failure? (Part I)

Luke 22:32: (NASB) ...but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.



Nobody likes failure. Even when we have been told that failure is good for us, that it is a stepping stone and you do not learn from success nearly as much as you learn from failure, we still do not like it! For many of us, failure can be discouraging, debilitating and even depressing. What do we do with this? We learn from it. We look into the lives of those whom we consider successful and study their failures and their reactions to those failures to see how we can use their experiences to help us navigate our own experiences. The Bible is full of great examples of faithful ones who had many failures, and the Bible is also full of their success stories afterwards. What are we waiting for? Let's get started with this whole making-failure-work-for-me thing!

 **Michael Jordan, *Failure is Part of Success*, Eduardo Zanatta, TEDxBYU**

- *(Michael Jordan) I've missed more than 9,000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games. Twenty-six times I've been trusted to take the game-winning shot, and missed. I've failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed.*

First, let us suggest that failure arrives on four specific roads. Understanding these four paths will help us to better learn from failure. They are in order of easiest to rectify first. A brief example of each:



Acts 17:22-23: (NASB) ²²So Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, Men of Athens, I observe that you are very religious in all respects. ²³For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, what you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you.

How could the Athenians properly worship God Almighty if they did not understand God Almighty? Paul saw they were religious, and they did not want to leave any god out. He took that ignorance and turned it into opportunity. *What you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you* - “I will give you the chance to not have that ignorance prevail - I will tell you about that Unknown God.”



FAILURE DUE TO IMMATURITY:

YOU JUST DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH EXPERIENCE OR UNDERSTANDING TO BE ABLE TO SUCCEED

Matthew 16:21-23: (NASB) ²¹From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day. ²²Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, God forbid it, Lord! This shall never happen to you. ²³But he turned and said to Peter, Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's.

Peter simply did not know enough spiritually to grasp what Jesus absolutely needed to do. Pride and ego can get in the way of recovering from failure. They can play a role in every one of these paths to failure.

FAILURE DUE TO WEAKNESS:

YOU DO KNOW BETTER, YOU HAVE DONE BETTER, BUT YOU SIMPLY FALL ANYWAY

Galatians 2:11-12: (NASB) ¹¹But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. ¹²For prior to the coming of certain men from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he began to withdraw and hold himself aloof, fearing the party of the circumcision.

Peter knew better and was mature as a Christian, but he was weak and gave in to serious peer pressure.

 Pain is your friend, *Struggle Makes You Stronger, Motivational Video*

- *Imagine if you got what you want every time, no struggle, no hard work, no challenges, no hard work required. Some of you are saying that would be great. You would be weak, and then when something hard comes up in your life you wouldn't know how to handle it, because you have never gone through anything that strengthens you. You cannot grow without struggle. You cannot develop strengths without resistance, without challenging yourself, without struggle. Pain is your friend...maybe not in the moment but for the evolution of your soul, for the long-term benefit of you, as a stronger human being. Pain is your friend.*

Failure brings pain, but pain is our friend if we are focused in building our lives into something bigger. This is the biggest kind of failure:

FAILURE DUE TO CHOICE:

BEYOND MERE WEAKNESS, THIS FAILURE IS FOUNDED IN SELF-WILL



Genesis 3:17: (NASB) ¹⁷Then to Adam He said, because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, you shall not eat from it; Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you will eat of it all the days of your life.

Adam made a specific choice to partake of the fruit. Adam chose to disobey; Eve was deceived. Adam was held more accountable.

Eve was deceived - she failed.

Why then, is deception not one of the paths that failure arrives on?

Deception certainly does line us up for failure, but deception only works when it has something to hold onto. We give deception a hand-hold when we do not have important knowledge to fight it, or when we are not yet mature enough to recognize it, or when we are too weak to resist it.

Deception is an external attitude in our lives. It piggybacks on one of those roads to failure, enabling us to speed down that road faster.

Unfortunately, there are a lot of deceptions in churches. They can come from places we love and respect, but idolatry and false teachings are rampant. That is why it is so important to study the Bible on a personal basis. Studying the Bible topically is a great place to start. Tradition and ceremony are hard to break.



We would all love to put up a “road closed” sign on those failure roads, but it is not possible nor is it recommended.



The consequences to never failing are never growing. We have to experience a lack of knowledge, immaturity, weakness and choices for us to grow. Failure is an important part of our lives. Let’s instead focus on building a new road that leads us *through* our failed experience towards a positive “failure’s lessons learned” attitude.

 **Struggle makes quality, *Struggle Makes You Stronger, Motivational Video***

- *If you didn’t have failures, if you didn’t have struggles, if you didn’t have disappointment, you could have no strength, no courage, no compassion. How could you? Those qualities are made from your pain and struggle. You are given pain because you are strong enough to handle it! You are given this life because you are strong enough to live it! Because you are strong enough to drive through it, to thrive through it, to inspire others through it. They will look to you and say, “He did it. She did it. I have the strength to do it, too.”*



We want to be an example to others, by the grace of God enabling us to do something. The grace of God does not work absent from our own efforts. We have to make the effort so the grace of God can bless that effort. Sometimes our efforts lead us to failure.



Failure due to a lack of knowledge is perhaps the easiest type of failure to learn from, because it is more easily recognizable than other paths of failure. It usually has less to do with our ego.

We can fix our lack of knowledge:

Acts 19:1-7: (NASB) ¹It happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus, and found some disciples. ²He said to them, did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed? And they said to him, No, we have not even heard whether there is a Holy Spirit. ³And he said, into what then were you baptized? And they said, into John's baptism.

WHAT WENT WRONG?

They were not true Christians because of a simple lack of knowledge - they were never taught. Without God's Spirit, His power and influence working in our lives, we cannot be true Christians. Being a footstep follower of Jesus is having the Holy Spirit of God guiding us. We can be appreciative of Christianity - but without being begotten by the Spirit, that deep, self-sacrificial Christianity blessed by God does not exist.

⁴Paul said, John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in him who was coming after him, that is, in Jesus. ⁵When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking with tongues and prophesying. ⁷There were in all about twelve men.



An intervening external source of knowledge. Paul found them, listened to them and fellowshiped with them. He then taught them what they needed to know.

Failure due to a lack of knowledge is easily remedied if our heart is in the right place and we are willing to absorb what we need to hear.

God saw their need and sent the Apostle Paul. Failure can be remedied through intervention.





One - Don't quit too early, *Failure is Part of Success*, Eduardo Zanatta, TEDxBYU



- I wish to discuss three principles today that if applied, it will impact your lives now and forever. Number 1: don't quit too early. Most obstacles we face are here to test our character, not to stop us. Who here has heard of NCAA coach John Wooden before? John Wooden is perhaps the greatest college basketball coach in the history of the world. He has won 12 championships, 11 of which were consecutive titles. The true personification of success, both on and off the court. But most people don't spend any time trying to understand what happened to John Wooden and his career before all that success. He went 16 years without winning anything. Now think about that, 16 years and no titles, then 12 years and 11 titles. Many people would call phase one of his career a failure, but he called it preparation.

Another example:

2 Corinthians 12:7-10: (NASB) ⁷Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me - to keep me from exalting myself! ⁸Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me.

WHAT WENT WRONG?

In hindsight, Paul saw the reason for the trial and is relating to us his original failure to grasp the meaning of his experiences. He felt stifled and would not let go of his desire to better serve God. He was not immature or weak. He just did not know what the reason for the experience was. Until he knew it, he would not rest because he wanted to serve with everything he possibly could.

⁹And he has said to me, my grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness. Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. ¹⁰Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.



While the Bible does not specifically say, it is generally believed Paul's thorn in the flesh was his eyesight. Three citations may be clues:

Acts 9:8-9: (NKJV) ⁸Then Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened he saw no one. But they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹And he was three days without sight and neither ate nor drank.

Galatians 4:15: (KJV) Where is then the blessedness ye spake of? For I bear you record, that, if it had been possible, ye would have plucked out your own eyes and have given them to me.

Galatians 6:11: (KJV) Ye see how large a letter I have written unto you with mine own hand.



An internal searching and prayer and then an intervening answer from above. He needed to hear it from outside of himself.



Defeat is not the worst of failures. Not to have tried is the true failure.
— *George Edward Woodberry*

It is okay to suffer defeat, but if we do not try then failure is automatic. The idea is to fall down and be able to get up again. Realize that God does not look at us when we fall down and say, "Oh, you fool!" He says, "Oh, My child. Let Me help you up." Did you learn from falling? Are you better because of it? Are you able to look at your life in a little bit of a different way so you can come towards Him with more strength?

The Lord judges our intent. We fall flat often, but our intent should be to honor and please Him, to be an example for Him.

FAILURE DUE TO LACK OF KNOWLEDGE:
YOU SIMPLY DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU NEED TO SUCCEED

Failure's lessons learned:
Correcting a lack of knowledge that brings us failure requires humility. It can be remedied through the intervention of those around us who truly care for our highest welfare, as well as through prayer and action on our part.

How does God's plan for the future treat the world's present failure due to their lack of knowledge?

This is a really important question to ask, as we often get so tied up in trying to remedy our own personal issues with failure that we just write off the world's massive issues. The good news is that God's got this! He sees the world's failure and has a plan for their learning!



Struggle has a purpose, *Struggle Makes You Stronger*, Motivational Video

- *You are stronger than you think. You've survived all your challenges to this point and you will survive whatever is coming, but next time a struggle comes I don't want you to curse the skies. Know that it was sent for a reason and a lesson. It might be to make you stronger. It might be to teach you patience. It might be for you to show others your spirit. There IS a reason, so don't you give up. You have a purpose in this world, and you will only find it if you keep going and keep growing. Your struggle is a part of your story. Your struggle made you the person you are today.*



DID GOD'S PLAN GO WRONG?

The world is in a "lack of knowledge environment" and destined for failure:

Mark 4:11-15: (NASB) ¹¹And he was saying to them, to you has been given the mystery of the kingdom of God, but those who are outside get everything in parables, ¹²so that while seeing, they may see and not perceive, and while hearing, they may hear and not understand, otherwise they might return and be forgiven.

That was a strange thing to say. Why did Jesus not want everyone to be converted? Because it was not time for that part of the plan. The entrance of sin caused the rules of God's blessing to be narrowed in this present evil world. His blessing does NOT fully extend to all (yet)! God allowed this to happen. It is for the purpose of eternal learning. God gave (temporary) permission for evil to be here.

¹³...Do you not understand this parable? How will you understand all the parables? ¹⁴The sower sows the word. ¹⁵These are the ones who are beside the road where the word is sown; and when they hear, immediately Satan comes and takes away the word which has been sown in them.

Immediately Satan comes and takes away the word - Is it the listener's fault? God's word and power are not even allowed to take root in the hearts of many. The world "fails" because of this lack of knowledge.

For more on the insightful Parable of the Sower, please listen to our episode, "Is the Power of the Gospel Fading?" from February 21, 2016.

2 Corinthians 4:3-4: (NASB) ³And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, ⁴in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Satan is allowed to rule this world, and with that comes a blinded and hopeless state of failure.

 **Two - No such thing as failure, Failure is Part of Success, Eduardo Zanatta, TEDxBYU**

- *Number 2: There's no such thing as failure. If you learned the lesson and gave your best, you succeeded. Ever thought of that before? Because we usually measure failure or success by the outcome, not by the effort, but if you've given your best, you've succeeded. Robert Kiyosaki put it well when he said, "Sometimes we win, sometimes we learn." Usually when we win, we tend to party, but when we lose we tend to ponder.*

Applying what you have learned in your life is an important part of making failure work for you.

What is God's future remedy for this failure? The remedy has already been accomplished:

1 Timothy 2:3-6: (NASB) ³This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires all men to be saved and to come to the **knowledge <1922> of the truth.** ⁵For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶who gave himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time.



Mediator = A go-between to effect reconciliation





Jesus only wanted those who were following him to understand. Here we see a repeating that there is a blindness of everyone else. They are not capable of seeing, and Satan does his part to keep them in a blind state.



But if the people are blinded, how can God *desire all men to be saved and come to the knowledge <1922> of the truth?*

Knowledge: Strongs #1922, epignōsis, recognition, full discernment, acknowledgement

Thayer's Lexicon: Precise and correct knowledge

(Notice they are first saved and THEN come to full discernment...)

God wants all men to come to full knowledge. They are ignorant now because they are blinded by Satan. God's *desire* is for all men to break free of the stifling ignorance of our sinful world.

When? Soon! Read this future prophecy that sounds almost too good to be true:

Isaiah 11:6-9: (NASB) *6And the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little boy will lead them. 7Also the cow and the bear will graze, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. 8The nursing child will play by the hole of the cobra, And the weaned child will put his hand on the viper's den. 9They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.*

In the kingdom after mankind has been resurrected, here is how God will address man's ignorance: *For the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea - Finally, knowledge of the Lord will be rampant! We certainly do not see that today, nor have we ever - even when Jesus was on the earth.*

We believe the Bible is the inspired word of God. We believe the words written by the prophets were to show us what the world is going to look like. God's will is explicit: *For the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. It will literally cover the earth!*

God's *will* is expressed in prophecy and God's *will* is equal to His *desire!* *He desires all men to be saved.* Here in Isaiah, it shows His will accomplishing that desire.



A mistake is a failure that has not grown up yet

Honesty is the fastest way to prevent a mistake from turning into a failure. — James Altucher

We can make a mistake. Honesty can take that mistake and short circuit it by acknowledging it and apologizing for it.



Failure's lessons learned:
The world's miserable failure due to their lack of knowledge will be erased. God's plan intervened and the future will NEVER allow failure as a result of ignorance!



Some consider the majority of humankind eternally doomed because of their lack of knowledge. That is NOT what these Scriptures teach.

God *understands* failure due to a lack of knowledge. For the majority of the world, they are not YET on the road to harmony with God. But He assures us they will not be judged on their failures due to a lack of knowledge. Lack of knowledge will be erased - it will no longer exist. Lack of knowledge will not be an excuse for final judgment.

Next is failure due to immaturity. You cannot force maturity, so is this kind of failure inevitable?

Yes...this type of failure is inevitable and we are actually glad about that. As we seek to grow up be it through our adolescent years or to grow up into a mature Christian, we will find that these failures of immaturity can be particularly helpful *if* we know how to process them!

Others take the brunt of our immature failures. Let's hope they can forgive us and remember they have been there, too. For our part, we need to forgive and move on.

 **Your struggle is your gift, *Struggle Makes You Stronger, Motivational Video***

- *Your struggle is your life. Your struggle is your gift. See, many people look at struggle like it's a bad thing. Your struggle will be the gift that the world falls in love with. Nobody wants to hear the story of the man that was given everything. People want to hear the stories of men and women that endure pain, and turn their struggles into a gift. Do you want people to just feel sorry for you, or you want people to look up to you? Do you want to be a legend? Because legends are born in the belly of struggle!*

The path of the true followers of Christ is a path of struggle, difficulty and failure. But this will be an example in the future when the world walks up what the Bible calls the *highway of holiness*, in the future kingdom.



This type of failure can often be the most convenient type to grow from as being immature and failing implies that growth is already underway:

Matthew 14:25-32: (NASB) ²⁵...He came to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶When the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, it is a ghost! And they cried out in fear. ²⁷But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, take courage, it is I; do not be afraid. ²⁸Peter said to him, Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water. ²⁹And he said, Come! And Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus. ³⁰But seeing the wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, Lord, save me!

WHAT WENT WRONG?

He sunk! Peter started out in faith. Peter had not yet grown into his potential and as a result, his courage and enthusiasm ran ahead of his ability. That is just immaturity.

³¹Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and took hold of him, and said to him, you of little faith, why did you doubt? ³²When they got into the boat, the wind stopped.

You of little faith - Jesus was not reprimanding him. "You have a little faith. Now grow that faith into bigger trust. Why did you doubt?"



The strong intervening hand of Jesus. Our childlike enthusiasm needs a steady hand for guidance. We can find that steadiness in those whom we respect.

🔊) Three - Past is not future, Failure is Part of Success, Eduardo Zanatta, TEDxBYU

- *Number 3: The past does not equal the future. Who here has been rejected by a girl or a guy before, and if you don't raise your hands I'm calling you a liar. A lot of people have not raised their hands, I am surprised. I'll raise both. Well, all of us have, but the tragedy of the experience is not the experience itself, it's the meaning that we usually take home with us: Because I was rejected then, I'll be rejected again. The past will equal the future. Perfect formula for misery. The past does not equal the future. Tony Robbins, one of the greatest teachers that I know, has taught this principle in a marvelous way. He said, "If you're going to take home anything from my talk, take this principle. The only thing that keeps us from getting what we want is the story we keep telling ourselves about why we can't have it."*

(Although sometimes we do not get what we want because the Lord does not want us to have it.)

Matthew 20:20-23: (NASB) ²⁰Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to Jesus with her sons, bowing down and making a request of him. ²¹And he said to her, what do you wish? She said to him, Command that in your kingdom these two sons of mine may sit one on your right and one on your left.



WHAT WENT WRONG?

The mother was very immature. This is one of at least three times the immature arguments about greatness among the Apostles came up. While greatness would be in their future, their present task was to grow into the spiritual men who could handle carrying the burden of greatness. Greatness was for later.

²²But Jesus answered, you do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink? They said to him, we are able. ²³He said to them, my cup you shall drink; but to sit on my right and on my left, this is not mine to give, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father.

What was the remedy for this failure?



The powerful and intervening words of Jesus. Children need to be taught what it looks like to be an adult, and we always need forgiveness for our failures. If we are not taught what it looks like to be an adult, we will not make good adults.

Having knowledge of something means you have a sense of its existence. Understanding it, or full disclosure, tells you why it works and the application of it. Maturity seeks for complete understanding; immaturity settles for knowledge. Experience and failure help us to get that understanding.

Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts.
— *Winston Churchill*

Ephesians 4:14-15: (KJV) ¹⁴*That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; ¹⁵But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things...*



Failure's lessons learned:

Failure due to immaturity can provoke growth when we see ourselves as humble children seeking forgiveness and the example and teaching of those who are grown in Christ.

Immaturity can be in all of us at different times of our lives. It needs to be brought to our attention - usually that happens through failure. We should stay humble, seek forgiveness and learn the lessons of the examples put before us so we can grow into Christ. Immaturity is good if it means there is still room for growth.



What does God’s plan do with an immature world? How does He make them grow up?

The general maturity level of the world seems to go lower as time goes on. In our society, we have gone from teenage boys and girls in the past working to contribute to and support their families to present day college students who need puppies and coloring books to cope with an opposing viewpoint. God does have a plan to use all of this for good!

How does God view the world’s failure? Does He judge them due to their immaturity?

 **Reality is your struggle and gift, *Struggle Makes You Stronger, Motivational Video***

- *Fear is only a fictional movie, but reality is a struggle. Reality is the struggle, so take the struggle and change your reality, because the whole time you were thinking that your struggle was holding you back, it was really giving you the tools to become one of the greatest. No more second-guessing. No more blaming others for the problems you have in your life. It’s a new day. This is my one-way ticket to my dreams. Your struggle is your gift!*

Some people blame others for their own failures. They won’t admit fault, so they will never learn from those experiences. They will continue to cause pain and heartache to others by finger pointing. That is an immature attitude, which is what permeates our world. Our world is overflowing with blame and self-justification.

**DID GOD’S PLAN
GO WRONG?**



But does God look at the world and make a final judgment on them because of that immaturity?

With the level of the world’s maturity so low, it may seem like God messed up.

See the **Bonus Material** of this Rewind to see how the “roads” from this lesson match up with the seed ground of the Parable.

Back to the explanation for the Parable of the Sower - the second group:

Mark 4:16-17: (NASB) ¹⁶In a similar way these are the ones on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy; ¹⁷and they have no firm root in themselves, but are only temporary; then, when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately they fall away.

The first seed we talked about was taken by Satan - it did not have a chance to work its way into the ground. There was no opportunity due to a lack of knowledge. This second seed takes root but is choked out by the individual themselves due to a desire for comfort in the face of adversity. It was clearly foretold that things would be this way. This is an unfortunate but powerful example of many who claim the name “Christian” today. You get excited about it, you get emotional about it and then something goes wrong or gets difficult and you forget about it.



There are many who accepted the name of Christ but no longer believe or act like a true Christian. Does God pronounce permanent judgment upon them?



Again, Jesus' sacrifice as the basis for the remedy has already been put in place. God understands failure. He will not, with certain kinds of failure, hold us eternally accountable.

Lack of knowledge is not an eternal accountability failure in His eyes, but what about immaturity?

What follows is opportunity through testing:

John 5:28-29: (NASB) ²⁸Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear his voice, ²⁹and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.

No matter who you are, resurrection applies to you:

Those who followed after Christ - *a resurrection of life*

Those who did not follow after Christ - *a resurrection of judgment*

This resurrection of judgment is the beginning of the context of a new heaven and a new earth, as described in Revelation 21:1-5. The resurrection is the beginning of the process of growing up, becoming mature. Often Christians look at the time of resurrection as an instantaneous "pass/fail" judgment, but this is just the beginning of the re-standing process. There is a growth process God puts in place. Knowledge and full disclosure take time to develop into understanding.

It will take time for the resurrected humanity to grow into godly maturity:

Isaiah 65:20: (NASB) *No longer will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his days; For the youth will die at the age of one hundred and the one who does not reach the age of one hundred will be thought accursed.*

They will not only be given the time to grow up, but they will be given the evidence to follow the right examples. That is part of maturity. God looks at the immaturity of the world in a similar way He looks at the lack of knowledge. Eternal judgment is not based on these things.

With God's plan, immaturity will no longer be a cause of failure.

How merciful is our heavenly Father to allow humanity an opportunity to mature with full knowledge! They can decide if they love the Lord and want to live eternally or if they want nothing to do with a kingdom of love, forgiveness and kindness.

Zechariah 8:21-23: (NASB) ²¹The inhabitants of one will go to another, saying, Let us go at once to entreat the favor of the LORD, and to seek the LORD of hosts; I will also go. ²²So many peoples and mighty nations will come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem and to entreat the favor of the LORD. ²³Thus says the LORD of hosts, In those days ten men from all the nations will grasp the garment of a Jew, saying, let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.



This shows maturity, growth, observation and seeing the kingdom of God unfolding. The people will realize that God’s favor comes in very specific ways. If they want a part of that favor, they will have to go to the places and people who can help get that kind of favor. It shows how the world will be given the opportunity to grow up! God’s plan gives them time, knowledge and understanding. It provides these so that failure will not take them by surprise.

The world’s miserable failure due to their lack of maturity will be eliminated. God, through Jesus’ sacrifice, will never allow immaturity to determine a man’s destiny.



All men will be given a time to mature and God will not prejudge them until that time.

Will mankind be allowed to fail? YES! Will it be easy? NO! Will it be fair? YES! Stay tuned for Part II!

Failure is simply the opportunity to begin again, this time more intelligently. – Henry Ford



FAILURE DUE TO LACK OF KNOWLEDGE:
YOU SIMPLY DO NOT KNOW WHAT YOU NEED TO SUCCEED



FAILURE DUE TO IMMATURITY:
YOU JUST DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH EXPERIENCE OR UNDERSTANDING TO BE ABLE TO SUCCEED



Watch for Part II of this important subject when we explore the next two paths to failure:

Failure can happen because of a lot of different reasons. Do not lose heart. Stay focused, stay clear and make failure a tool for your life.



*So, how do you manage failure?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*

*And now even more to think about...
only in the **Full Edition** of CQ Rewind!*



*Success consists of going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm.
— Winston Churchill*

*I can accept failure, everyone fails at something. But I can't accept not trying.
— Michael Jordan*



More on the Parable of the Sower and how it connects to the "roads of failure:"

FAILURE DUE TO LACK OF KNOWLEDGE:

YOU SIMPLY DO NOT KNOW WHAT YOU NEED TO SUCCEED



"Beside the road"

Birds eat the seed and it never takes root.

Signifies: a lack of understanding

Matthew 13:19: (NASB) *When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road.*

If now was the only time for salvation, then why does a simple lack of understanding of the word give Satan the ability to take that salvation away? Is simple ignorance a just cause to NOT give someone salvation? Should someone be held accountable for something they don't understand if they never really had a chance because Satan was more powerful?

FAILURE DUE TO IMMATURITY:

YOU JUST DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH EXPERIENCE OR UNDERSTANDING TO BE ABLE TO SUCCEED



"Rocky ground"

With no deep soil, the seed springs up but withers in the hot sun. It takes root but dies.

Signifies: Emotional acceptance but no heart acceptance

Mark 4:16-17: *In a similar way these are the ones on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy; ¹⁷and they have no firm root in themselves, but are only temporary; then, when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately they fall away.*

There is an initial euphoria but it soon fades away. Is that the Gospel failing or succeeding? Is the Gospel supposed to be bringing every man, woman and child to Christ now, or is there a priesthood for the purpose of blessing all of the non-Christians later, as we read in [1 Peter 2:9?](#)



FAILURE DUE TO WEAKNESS:

*YOU DO KNOW BETTER, YOU HAVE DONE BETTER,
BUT YOU SIMPLY FALL ANYWAY*



	<p>"Thorny ground"</p> <p>The seed is choked out, produces no crop, does not necessarily die</p>
<p>Signifies: Heart acceptance but no discipline to follow through</p>	
<p>Mark 4:18-19: ¹⁸And others are the ones on whom seed was sown among the thorns; these are the ones who have heard the word, ¹⁹but the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.</p>	
<p>The worldliness and paganism of our day was predicted in Luke 17:29,30. There is so much around us that can distract from our consecration to God.</p>	

FAILURE DUE TO CHOICE:

*BEYOND MERE WEAKNESS,
THIS FAILURE IS FOUNDED IN SELF-WILL*



	<p>"Good ground"</p> <p>There is an increase of 30, 60, 100-fold. The seed thrives!</p>
<p>Signifies: Heart acceptance and the seed flourishes and provides fruitage</p>	
<p>Mark 4:20: ²⁰And those are the ones on whom seed was sown on the good soil; and they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold.</p>	
<p>Obviously there is more unsuccessful ground than successful ground and there are a lot of reasons why the majority don't accept the Gospel seed.</p>	



Theme text context:

Luke 22:24-38: (NASB) ²⁴And there arose also a dispute among them as to which one of them was regarded to be greatest. ²⁵And he said to them, the kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who have authority over them are called Benefactors. ²⁶But it is not this way with you, but the one who is the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like the servant. ²⁷For who is greater, the one who reclines at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at the table? But I am among you as the one who serves. ²⁸You are those who have stood by me in my trials; ²⁹and just as my Father has granted me a kingdom, I grant you ³⁰that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel. ³¹Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; ³²but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers. ³³But he said to him, Lord, with you I am ready to go both to prison and to death! ³⁴And he said, I say to you, Peter, the rooster will not crow today until you have denied three times that you know me. ³⁵And he said to them, When I sent you out without money belt and bag and sandals, you did not lack anything, did you? They said, No, nothing. ³⁶And he said to them, but now, whoever has a money belt is to take it along, likewise also a bag, and whoever has no sword is to sell his coat and buy one. ³⁷ For I tell you that this which is written must be fulfilled in me, and he was numbered with transgressors; for that which refers to me has its fulfillment. ³⁸They said, Lord, look, here are two swords. And he said to them, it is enough.



A section of the theme text highlighting the Apostles’ fixation about their own future greatness:

Luke 22:24-30: (NASB) ²⁴And there arose also a dispute among them as to which one of them was regarded to be greatest. ²⁵And he said to them, the kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who have authority over them are called Benefactors. ²⁶But it is not this way with you, but the one who is the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like the servant.

WHAT WENT WRONG?

Even up until the night before his crucifixion, the Apostles showed their childish immaturity by arguing about their greatness - right after Jesus had washed their feet!

²⁷For who is greater, the one who reclines at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at the table? But I am among you as the one who serves. ²⁸You are those who have stood by me in my trials; ²⁹and just as my Father has granted me a kingdom, I grant you ³⁰that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.



One other instance where the Apostles were fixated on their future greatness:

Luke 9:46-48: (NASB) ⁴⁶An argument started among them as to which of them might be the greatest. ⁴⁷But Jesus, knowing what they were thinking in their heart, took a child and stood him by his side, ⁴⁸and said to them, whoever receives this child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me; for the one who is least among all of you, this is the one who is great.



Another prophecy revealing the expanse of knowledge that the world will have in the future:

Jeremiah 31:31-34: (NASB) ³¹Behold, days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, ³²not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them, declares the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,



declares the LORD, I will put My law within them and on their heart, I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ³⁴They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD, for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, declares the LORD, for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.

A text for the weakness portion of the subject:

The potential for almost certain failure averted:

John 17:13-21: (NASB) ¹³But now I come to You; and these things I speak in the world so that they may have my joy made full in themselves. ¹⁴I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. ¹⁵I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. ¹⁷Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. ¹⁸As You sent me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. ¹⁹For their sakes I sanctify myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth. ²⁰I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in me through their word; ²¹that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent me.

(Source: Wisebread.com. “11 Famous Failures That Led to Success (And the Lessons They Teach)” by Keith Whelan, May 20, 2014) Have you ever noticed how focused we are on winners? Most of our time and attention is devoted to people who have already succeeded – entertainers who now fill the stadiums or walk the red carpet, influential politicians, famous CEOs. But that's merely the end of the story. So much more can be learned from the failures that got them there. Failure provides some of life's most enduring lessons. One part of our culture where failure is not only accepted but is actually looked upon favorably is in business, among entrepreneurs. To entrepreneurs, failure is worn like a badge of courage. It often leads them to greater insights and solutions and, with a healthy dose of persistence, eventual success. This helps to explain why the United States continues to lead the world in innovation.

Here are 11 examples of initial failures – and the lessons learned – by entrepreneurs and others who ultimately achieved great success in their fields.

1) Fran Tarkenton. Tarkenton is an NFL Hall of Fame quarterback, a television personality, and businessman. But his transition to entrepreneurship came with a costly lesson. Says Tarkenton, "When I was 27, a lawyer friend told me he could help me start a business, and he could run it, but I should use my money." Later, after spending \$250,000, he opened up Scrambler's Village restaurant in Atlanta, but it never caught on. The lawyer lost some of his time; Tarkenton lost all the money. But he picked himself up, learned from the experience, and founded a successful computer software company.

Lesson: Be wary of shortcuts and do your homework before making a big decision.

2) Barbara Corcoran. One of the Sharks of TV's *Shark Tank*, Corcoran is one of 10 children, all of whom became business owners. In her book *Shark Tales*, she describes her failures without apologies. She had 23 jobs – and was fired from three of them – before finally finding success in New York City real estate. Ms. Corcoran sets an example for how to confront and overcome failure, using it to fuel future success. But she also shows how it can help build confidence and self-fulfillment.

Lesson: Accept failure as a gift that helps you learn how to do it better next time.

3) Harrison Ford. The actor struggled for nine years, getting only small non-credited movie roles and working on the side as a carpenter to support his wife and two sons. He was hired to build cabinets at the home of director George Lucas, who recognized



his talent and cast him in a supporting role in the film *American Graffiti*. Shortly afterwards, Ford was hired by Lucas to read lines for actors auditioning for *Star Wars*. Lucas was so impressed with Ford's character portrayals during the readings that he offered the Han Solo role to the cabinet maker. And the rest, as they say, is history.

Lesson: Get your message out there. Find as many ways as you can to open doors.

4) J.K. Rowling. A struggling novelist, Rowling nurtured her vision to become an author during a seven-year period that included the death of her mother, divorce from her first husband, and raising her children in near-poverty. After her manuscript was repeatedly rejected by major publishers – 12 times, in fact – a small London publisher chose to publish it only after the CEO's 8-year old daughter begged her father to print the book. Rowling's Harry Potter books have now sold more than 400 million copies. The franchise holds the distinction of having both the best-selling book series in history and also the highest grossing film series in history.

Lesson: Follow your passion.

5) The Beatles. After two years of practicing and performing relentlessly, often for 10 or more hours a day, the Beatles were finally given their first audition for a recording contract with Decca records. Decca turned them down without hesitation, stating that "guitar groups are on the way out."

Lesson: Nobody wants to be the first to like a new idea (or sound) – but everybody wants to be second.

6) Reed Hastings. The shock of a 40-dollar late fee charge in 1997 for a VHS tape of *Apollo 13* spurred Reed Hastings to explore the idea of how to create a movie rental business by mail. So, he started a company called Netflix. His original "pay per rental" business model was like Blockbuster's, and it wasn't very popular. So, he listened to customer feedback and in 1999 he re-launched the business as a subscription service. Netflix wound up almost single-handedly putting Blockbuster out of business, and Hastings continues to adapt his business model to meet changing technology and customer needs. Netflix now has over 40 million streaming customers and an academy award-nominated original production, *The Square*.

Lesson: Listen to those who have something constructive to say, and be open to "pivoting" (changing direction) based on their feedback.

7) Oprah Winfrey. Oprah, of course, hosted one of the highest-ranking TV shows in history and is the richest self-made woman and the only black female billionaire. However, she was fired from her first television job as an anchor in Baltimore. According to CNN, Oprah's first boss told her she was too emotional and not right for television.

Lesson: Avoid the naysayers. Recognize how to distinguish between those with "can do" versus "can't do" attitudes.

8) Tom Corley. After his book *Rich Habits* was published, Corley spent 18 months attempting to drum up publicity from 1,000 newspaper and magazine book editors (none of whom reviewed the book) and dozens of schools, libraries, civic, and business groups all to no avail. Throughout the process, though, he learned who the few key media players were and then focused on getting their attention. The strategy worked. A series of four interviews – with Yahoo! Finance, Dave Ramsey, MSN Personal Finance, and CBS TV – almost instantly catapulted the book to the #1 Bestseller position on Amazon.



Lesson: Focus. Identify the one or two activities that will generate the biggest outcome.

9) Dr. Seuss. Theodor Seuss Geisel submitted his first book, *And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street*, to 27 different publishers. All of them rejected it. According to Geisel, as he was walking home to burn the manuscript he happened to run into an old Dartmouth classmate who helped him find a publisher for the book. Dr. Seuss went on to become a legendary children's author of classics like *The Cat in the Hat* and *Green Eggs and Ham*. His books have sold over 600 million copies.

Lesson: You can't always do it alone. Use your network and seek the help of good partners.

10) James Dyson. The British inventor, industrial designer, and founder of the Dyson company is best known for inventing the Dual Cyclone bagless vacuum cleaner. What is less well known is that, while developing his vacuum, he went through 5,126 failed prototypes before getting it right. He also exhausted his savings in the process. He is now worth an estimated 4.5 billion dollars, according to Forbes.

Lesson: Persistence, persistence, persistence!

11) "Colonel" Harland David Sanders. For decades, Harland Sanders held many jobs including fireman, insurance salesman, and gas station owner before trying his hand at selling fried chicken from a roadside restaurant in Kentucky. Just as his local restaurant was gaining some traction the construction of a nearby highway put him out of business. He then made over 1,000 pitches of his chicken recipe to investors before, at age 68, he found a buyer and started franchising the business. Seven years later he sold the fried chicken company for 15 million dollars.

Lesson: It's never too late to start.