

Freedom from Failure

"Failure is one of the hardest and harshest realities of life."

No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. —1 Corinthians 10:13 ESV

Read 5:1-11.

Peter and the fishermen were cleaning their nets after experiencing the failure of not catching any fish. Jesus stepped onto Peter's boat, and after teaching the people, Jesus instructed Peter to take the boat out again to deep water and let down the nets. Peter did as Jesus said and the nets were filled to overflowing.

When it comes to failure...

- **Sometimes your best is not enough.**

Peter came back with an empty boat. It is easy to feel defeated and discouraged when you give your best and experience failure in the task.

- **Past successes do not guarantee future victories.**

So often, we "get on a roll" and assume we are invincible. However, Peter learned failure as his point of strength. Yet, failure turned Peter's heart toward surrender and service.

- **Nothing is harder than the "Risk of Return."**

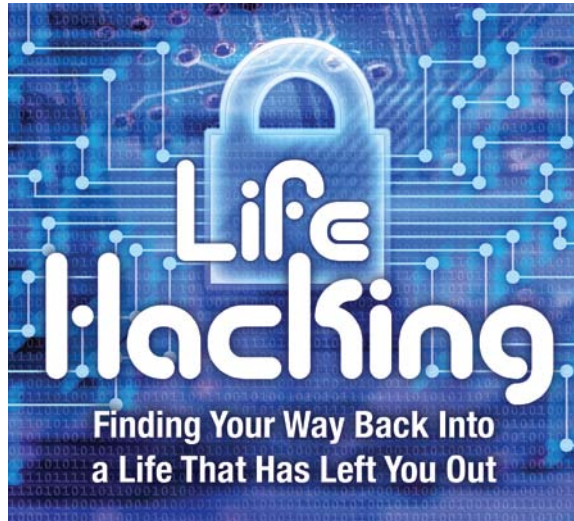
We must risk returning to the place of failure. There are four things to remember when you experience failure:

Attitude—Peter experienced a new attitude in his fishing: humility

Opportunity—Peter left shallow waters for the open sea.

Growth—"Success is to be measured, not so much by the position that one has reached in life, as by the obstacles which he has overcome by trying to succeed." —Booker T. Washington

Faith—*The steps of the godly are directed by the Lord. he delights in every detail of their lives. Though they stumble, they will not fall, for the Lord holds them by the hand. —Psalm 37:22-23 NLT*



- **You can be your own worst enemy.**

Much of failure is "self-inflicted stubbornness."

"To err is human, but it's stupid to continue."

Why do we fail?

- Haste or carelessness
- Lack of patience and perseverance
- Poor quality or inadequate equipment
- Lack of knowledge

- Poor timing
- Lack of vision
- Selfishness
- Unwillingness to listen or learn from the experience of others
- Lack of flexibility
- Failure to count the cost

- **Your decision determines your destiny.**

If you choose to dramatize, generalize or categorize something as a failure, it will always be a failure. But if you choose to change the course of the future, you can see failure as a defining moment of opportunity.

"The things that hurt, instruct." —Benjamin Franklin

"We cannot change the past, but we can be changed by the past. Many people are controlled by past sins, past regrets and past failures. The past should be a rudder to guide us and not an anchor to drag us back." —Warren Wiersbe

Peter left all and followed Jesus.

"Satan's strategy is to get believers to become preoccupied with their failures; from then on, the battle is won." —C.S. Lewis, The Screwtape Letters

"People say motivation does not last. Well, neither does bathing—and that's why we recommend it daily." —Zig Ziglar