

**“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

Once when he was standing on the shore of Lake Gennesaret, the crowd was pushing in on him to better hear the Word of God. He noticed two boats tied up. The fishermen had just left them and were out scrubbing their nets. He climbed into the boat that was Simon's and asked him to put out a little from the shore. Sitting there, using the boat for a pulpit, he taught the crowd.

When he finished teaching, he said to Simon, “Push out into deep water and let your nets out for a catch.” Simon said, “Master, we've been fishing hard all night and haven't caught even a minnow. But if you say so, I'll let out the nets.” It was no sooner said than done—a huge haul of fish, straining the nets past capacity.

They waved to their partners in the other boat to come help them. They filled both boats, nearly swamping them with the catch. Simon Peter, when he saw it, fell to his knees before Jesus. “Master, leave. I'm a sinner and can't handle this holiness. Leave me to myself.”

When they pulled in that catch of fish, awe overwhelmed Simon and everyone with him. It was the same with James and John, Zebedee's sons, coworkers with Simon. Jesus said to Simon, “There is nothing to fear. From now on you'll be fishing for men and women.” They pulled their boats up on the beach, left them, nets and all, and followed him. —Luke 5:1-11 MSG

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**“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**

**Nothing is harder than the “risk of return”:**

- **Attitude**
- **Opportunity**
- **Growth**
- **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**

**When it comes to failure:**

- **Sometimes your best is not enough.**
- **Past successes do not guarantee future victories.**
- **Nothing is harder than the “risk of return.”**
- **You can be your own worst enemy.**

**“To err is human, but it’s stupid to continue.”**

**Why do we fall?**

- **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**

When it comes to failure:

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- Past successes do not guarantee future victories.
- Nothing is harder than the “risk of return.”
- You can be your own worst enemy.
- Your decision determines your destiny.

“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

“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