

Ecclesiastes 7:20 "There is no one on earth who does what is right all the time and never makes a mistake." (TEV)

CAUSES OF FAILURE

1. I don't PLAN AHEAD.

Proverbs 27:12 "A sensible man watches for problems ahead and prepares to meet them. But the simple-minded never looks, and suffers the consequences." (LB)

2. I think I am INVINCIBLE.

Proverbs 16:18 "Pride leads to destruction, and arrogance to downfall." (TEV)

3. I think KNOW IT ALL.

Proverbs 15:22 "Plans go wrong for lack of advice; many advisers bring success." (NLT)

4. I'm afraid to TAKE RISKS.

Ecclesiastes 11:4 "If you wait for perfect conditions, you will never get anything done." (LB)

5. I GIVE UP too soon.

Proverbs 24:10 "If you fail under pressure, your strength is too small." (NLT)

6. I DON'T LISTEN to God.

Proverbs 14:12 "There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death." (NIV)

HOW TO FACE THE FEAR OF FAILURE

1. Realize failure is not FATAL.

Proverbs 24:16 "No matter how often an honest man falls, he always gets up again." (TEV)

2. ACCEPT responsibility for my failure.

Proverbs 28:13 "A man who refuses to admit his mistakes can never be successful. But if he confesses and forsakes them, he gets another chance." (LB)

3. Avoid FEELING SORRY for yourself and make changes.

2 Corinthians 7:10 "For the sadness that is used by God brings a change of heart that leads to salvation—and there is no regret in that! But sadness that is merely human causes death." (TEV)

4. Focus on THE FUTURE

Philippians 3:13-14 "¹³No, dear brothers, I am still not all I should be, but I am bringing all my energies to bear on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God is calling us up to heaven because of what Christ Jesus did for us." (LB)

ANALYZING MY FAILURE/MISTAKE

- a. What lessons have I learned?
- b. Am I grateful for this experience?
- c. How can I turn the failure into success?
- d. Practically speaking, where do I go from here?
- e. Who else has failed in this way and how can that person help me?
- f. How can my experience help others someday to keep from failing?
- g. Did I fail because of a person, my situation, or because of myself?
- h. Did I actually fail, or did I fall short of an unrealistically high standard?

i. Where did I succeed as well as fail?

5. TRUST GOD to work it all out.

Romans 8:28 "And we know that all that happens to us is working for our good if we love God and are fitting into his plans." (LB)

FAILING BACKWARD	FAILING FORWARD
Blaming others	Take responsibility
Repeating the same mistake	Learning from each mistake
Expecting never to fail again	Knowing failure is a part of progress
Expecting to continue to fail	Maintaining a positive attitude
Accepting tradition blindly	Challenging outdated assumptions
Being limited by past mistakes	Taking new risks
Thinking I am a failure	Believing something didn't work
Quitting	Persevering

BOTTOM LINE

A. It's NEVER TOO LATE to start over!

2 Corinthians 5:17 "For if a man is in Christ he becomes a new person altogether. The past is finished and gone. Everything has become fresh and new." (Phil)

B. It's not that you FAILED, it's what you DO about your failure.

2 Corinthians 4:8-10 ⁸We are pressed on every side by troubles, but not crushed and broken. We are perplexed because we don't know why things happen as they do, but we don't give up and quit. ⁹We are hunted down, but God never abandons us. We get knocked down, but we get up

again and keep going. ¹⁰These bodies of ours are constantly facing death just as Jesus did; so it is clear to all that it is only the living Christ within who keeps us safe.” (LB)

C. Get BACK UP and don’t GIVE UP!

Galatians 6:9 “So let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up.” (NLT)