

DON'T LET YOUR PAST FAILURES STOP YOU

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Your past is over. All you need to do is to learn lessons from it and avoid the same mistakes you made in the past.

The mind of man was not designed to be a prison, but for many people, their minds have become their own prison. You cannot live above your thought life. Your thoughts determine how you live. Enthusiasm is a product of positive thoughts about life. Depression and bitterness are reflections of the conditions of the mind of man. When a man's thoughts are centered negatively on the hurtful past, there is the likelihood that his mind will become a prison. The thoughts of your mind limit you. It binds, oppresses, torments, beclouds your vision, cuts you off from good things and good people, makes you bitter and damages your health. It is important that you count the cost of allowing the evil past to dominate your mind before you do so.

Just as the Lord uses the past of each man to teach him lessons, motivate and mature him, the devil uses the past to torment and hinder man. An understanding of this will help you to be careful how you handle the evil past. Many today have not been able to recover from the failures of the past. They are yet to forgive themselves for a crime that God has forgotten about. Many today have not been able to recover from the fact that they lost their business, job, marriage or property several years after it happened. They are still mourning. They withdraw from all that will help them rise up in hope. They won't go to church where they will hear words of encouragement and faith and rise from the pit to the top again. For them, it is over; they can never make it again. That is what they have convinced themselves to believe. They have given up hope when they have a lot of things to accomplish in life according to the programme of God for their lives. They choose to believe the lie of the devil, rather than wake up from their sleep and depression and look at the sunny side of life.

Eccl 9:4

4 Anyone who is among the living has hope—even a live dog is better off than a dead lion!

NIV

God's word says there is hope for you, therefore, have hope in God for he will not fail you. There is hope for every man who dares to believe in God's ability to save and lift up. He is a specialist in helping people who are down. His compassion is great towards all he has made. He knows you by name and cares for you a lot. He cares so much that he sacrificed his Son for you to be saved, healed and established.

Ps 145:14

14 The LORD upholds all those who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down.

NIV

There is nothing that has happened to you that is not common to man. Someone somewhere has suffered what you have suffered or suffering now. Let go, and let God.

1 Cor 10:13

13 No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

NIV

Trust God to see you through this ugly situation. All it takes is to have faith in God your Maker and Saviour. Call upon him now, for he will not disappoint you.

Stop Hurting

Most pain that we feel are the result of the thoughts that we think as a result of what we suffered or are suffering. Every pain is a direct product of the meditations of the mind of man. When there is no thought, there will be no pain. Pain exists because of the multitudes of thoughts that run through our minds. Therefore, a man can reduce the hurt he feels or eliminate it completely by changing the thoughts he is thinking in his mind, irrespective of the loss he has suffered or is passing through.

Depression is a state of the mind that seizes a man's emotions and oppresses his body. It is so bad that it affects everything about his life – his relationships, marriage, work, enthusiasm, dreams and health. When a man hurts or suffers loss he feels so bad inside, and this bad mental situation is what pushes him into depression and bitterness. Every depressed person will attribute his depression to his bad experience or problem. The truth is that each sufferer is the cause of his own state. Problems come to man every now and then. It is the way we handle problems that create the depression – a man's attitude (thoughts) creates the depression. I am not denying the fact that you have gone or are going through a tough time, but someone has gone through what you are going through right now and did not go into depression. Have you wondered about people who lost their jobs, houses, marriage, access to their children, money, business, got swindled, suffered the loss of a loved one, who were not taken care of by their parents and family, felt cheated, wounded and abandoned, and yet did not go into despair, but took it as their fate and decided to make most of the situation. In the process, they turned their lives around and became achievers and successful in life. What stops you from being like them? Your thoughts of cause!

Whatever your reason for self-doubt, it is very important that you remember that your past is over. You can't relive it. Your past is history, but you have today and tomorrow – they are yet to happen. You can make most of your today and tomorrow, if only you will let the ugly past go, and focus on how to make today and tomorrow count, and bring about the change you desperately desire.

Phil 3:12-14

12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. 13 Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what

is ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

NIV

Move beyond the scars of yesterday. Stop talking about your limited education, but do something to change the situation. Quit complaining that everyone in your family is poor, but believe you will make it to the top anyhow. Stop repeating stories of those who failed you, but find solutions to the problems created. Stop pointing your fingers at the economy. In Christ Jesus, you can succeed in any economy. Stop advertising your pain. What you need is not pity, but to break new grounds. Stop meditating on your flaws. Everyone has limitations. Each of us is handicapped in some way: physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually.

You have no excuse to remain where you are. Concentrate on your future. **Stop looking at where you have been and start looking at where you are going.**

SOLUTION:

1. Do What You Have Never Done

The Bible teaches that when you want something you have never had, you have to do something you have never done.

Abraham had to leave his family to a land he has never been to possess what he has never had that has been promised him by God.

Gen 12:1-3

12:1 The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. 2 "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

NIV

If you allow fear and negative thoughts to dominate you, you will never break new grounds.

Everything is difficult at first. Don't be afraid of the initial difficulty.

Thousands will fail in life because they are unwilling to make changes. They refuse to change jobs, towns, or friendships. They stay in comfort zones. Yet thousands of others move up the ladder of happiness, because they are willing to go through a little discomfort to experience a new level in life. If you want to fly, break away from people who are weights and weighing you down. Change what needs to be changed in your life and attempt new things; they don't kill but give you an opportunity to explore and experience the world around you and profit from it.

2. Listen To God For Direction

Gen 12:1-3

12:1 The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. 2 "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

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Gen 30:34-31:12

34 "Agreed," said Laban. "Let it be as you have said." 35 That same day he removed all the male goats that were streaked or spotted, and all the speckled or spotted female goats (all that had white on them) and all the dark-colored lambs, and he placed them in the care of his sons. 36 Then he put a three-day journey between himself and Jacob, while Jacob continued to tend the rest of Laban's flocks. 37 Jacob, however, took fresh-cut branches from poplar, almond and plane trees and made white stripes on them by peeling the bark and exposing the white inner wood of the branches. 38 Then he placed the peeled branches in all the watering troughs, so that they would be directly in front of the flocks when they came to drink. When the flocks were in heat and came to drink, 39 they mated in front of the branches. And they bore young that were streaked or speckled or spotted. 40 Jacob set apart the young of the flock by themselves, but made the rest face the streaked and dark-colored animals that belonged to Laban. Thus he made separate flocks for himself and did not put them with Laban's animals. 41 Whenever the stronger females were in heat, Jacob would place the branches in the troughs in front of the animals so they would mate near the branches, 42 but if the animals were weak, he would not place them there. So the weak animals went to Laban and the strong ones to Jacob. 43 In this way the man grew exceedingly prosperous and came to own large flocks, and maidservants and menservants, and camels and donkeys.

God will only back what he has commanded. God will always lend his power to an idea that is from him.

Crisis time is a time to seek direction it is not a time to despair, but a time to break new grounds. Find out which direction you are to go.

It is God's desire to lead you to your green pasture where you will enjoy prosperity in peace.

Ps 23:1-3

23:1 The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, 3 he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

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Rom 8:14

14 because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

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Ps 32:8-9

8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you. 9 Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you.

NIV

Get direction now.