

OVERCOMING FAILURE

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Failure is a thing that we humans have to deal with in life. It is a term that almost everybody is familiar with. Many have crumbled under its power. And many are scared of failure. The fear of failure is more dangerous than any other reason for failure, because it incapacitates a man causing him not to lurch out into something that will yield positive results, and hinders him from thinking clearly, thereby causing him to make terrible mistakes that eventually produce failure.

What is Failure?

- Failure is the act of not succeeding.
- To fail is to be unsuccessful in doing something.
- Failure has to do with something which did not work out satisfactorily.
- Something less than that required: something that falls short of what is required or expected.
- Failure is non-performance of what is normal, expected or required.
- Unable to achieve a set goal.

Failure and the fear of failure is one major problem that man has to deal with in life. All, one way or the other experience one form of failure or the other at different times of our lives. Failure is so powerful that it can bring discouragement, which if not checked will lead to outright defeat.

Failure should not be seen as defeat. It is a temporary setback which can be overcome. That is why we should not fear failure. It is a quitter who has been defeated.

A quitter is one who has surrendered himself to failure by throwing in the towel. The one, who hangs on, is a winning material, and a winner. We should not fear failure. All we need to do is to learn about failure and how to overcome it when it comes our way.

Failure begins in your thoughts when you hold the idea that you are actually incapable, that you are born to lose. So to counter failure, develop the ability to believe. Apart from believing in God, you have to believe in yourself as a wonderful creature of God with great potentials. As a child of God, you are born in Christ a winner – it is your covenant-right to always win. So don't submit to the forces of failure. Claim your covenant-right. The seed of success – Jesus Christ – is in you. Be conscious of it. The consciousness of it will eliminate failure and programme you for success.

John 1:12

12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

KJV

1 Cor 6:17

17 But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit.

NIV

1 John 4:17

17 In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him.

NIV

When there is failure, rise above it and win, and don't submit to it. Always remember that, "Winners don't quit, and quitters don't win".

Why People Fail

I am going to give you thirty-one reasons why people fail, and give advice alongside on how to avoid and overcome such reasons for failure.

1. UNFAVOURABLE HEREDITARY BACKGROUND - People born with deficiency in brain power. The solution to this kind of problem is to have a "Master Mind Group" – a group of intelligent, educated minds in your area of business to be your "Think Thank" – a kind of planning committee or board.

2. LACK OF WELL-DEFINED PURPOSE IN LIFE

A purposeless life always breeds failure. You need to have a dream, a definite goal which will give you a focus. Your energies will always be channeled towards your focus. And this will bring success and fulfillment to your life.

3. LACK OF AMBITION TO AIM HIGH ABOVE MEDIOCRITY

Mediocrity is the quality of being not very good; or simply put, second-rate or second-class.

Aim for the best, and expect the best, and you will be the best. Aim for the highest height. Aim for the first position. If you aim for a pass mark, if you miss it, you will fail. But if you aim for a distinction and miss, you will pass with an over-average grade. So aim for the best position that there is in whatever you are into.

God dwells within you and you are sitting on the highest throne. There is therefore no reason why you should aim for the second position in life.

1 John 4:4

4 You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

NIV

Eph 2:6

6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,

NIV

Eph 1:17-23

17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. 18 I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, 19 and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, 20 which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. 22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

NIV

The authority of the Almighty God has been given to you in Christ that you may reign in this life. Therefore aim for the highest height. Aim for the best.

Rom 5:17

17 For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

NIV

Rev 5:10

10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

KJV

4. INSUFFICIENT EDUCATION

The best educated people are the ones who are known as “self made” or “self educated”. Education takes more than a University degree. According to Napoleon Hill, “An educated man is one who has learnt to get whatever without violating the rights of others or breaking the law”.

An educated man is an achiever. Education does not just consist of knowledge, but knowledge effectively and persistently applied to get results. So if you have a degree and certificates, and you are not producing results with them, then you should regard yourself as an uneducated man.

Get sufficient education. Always update your knowledge. Be abreast with latest findings, techniques, methods, technology and information about your field of endeavour. Attend seminars, workshops and courses to update your knowledge. Be willing to make adjustments, corrections and implement new ideas, methods and techniques that have been proven.

5. LACK OF SELF DISCIPLINE

Discipline comes through self-control. Before you can control conditions, especially adverse conditions, you must first control yourself. A man without self-control will always suffer failure. If you are born again, self-control is in you already. It is part of the life of Jesus Christ given to you at the new birth, and it is waiting for you to stir it up to action. Therefore do not let it be dormant within you. With self-control in operation in your life, you are bound to win because you will be a man of self-discipline.

6. ILL HEALTH

A sick man cannot function well, and is bound to experience failure. Ill health handicaps the most intelligent and most productive, retards productivity and produces failures

SOME CAUSES OF ILL HEALTH

- (a) Overeating.
- (b) Eating, drinking and smoking wrong things into the body.
- (c) Wrong habits of thoughts, giving expression to wrong negatives – evil thoughts like anger, hate, bitterness, anxiety, fear, worry, immoral thoughts etc.
- (d) Wrong use and over-indulgence in sex.
- (e) Lack of proper physical exercise.
- (f) An inadequate supply of fresh air, due to improper breathing or fowled air.
- (g) Fatigue – not resting enough leading to tiredness of the mind and body – over use of the body.
- (h) Living in dirty environment and unhygienic lifestyle.

7. UNFAVOURABLE ENVIRONMENTAL INFLUENCES DURING CHILDHOOD

Memories of conclusions reached and vows made during childhood of unfavourable environmental influences can make someone to become a failure in life. My advice to anyone with this kind of problem is to see your Pastor for counseling and prayers, because you need professional and spiritual help.

8. PROCRASTINATION

Procrastination is the habit of delaying action; keep on putting off to a future time. It is the thief of time.

Procrastination is the most common reason for failure. Always waiting for the “time to be right”, until I have all I need to start”. Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 teaches that there is time for everything. So there is no need for delaying action.

Eccl 3:1-8

3:1 To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: 2 A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; 3 A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; 4 A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; 5 A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; 6 A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; 7 A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; 8 A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

KJV

Ephesians 5:16 teach us to make use of every opportunity we have. Opportunity missed is lost forever.

Eph 5:16

16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.
NIV

Most of the time, the opportunity we need or expect does not come through the way and at the time we expect. It comes through the back door while we are looking in the wrong direction or busy with other things. So if one is not alert, one will miss it.

Procrastination hinders progress, slows down progress, kills ideas, misses opportunities, brings poverty and frustration, and makes laziness to have a stronghold on one.

Destroy procrastination out of your life. Be time and opportunity conscious. Do the right thing at the right time. Always DO IT NOW and don't postpone action.

9. LACK OF PERSISTENCE

Most of the time, we are good starters, but poor finishers, because we quit too soon. Persistence is an essential factor in the procedure of transmitting desire into its physical equivalent.

The basis of persistence is the power of will. In as much as we know that the scripture says that, *"It is not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD Almighty". (Zech. 4:6)*, we cannot deny the fact that willpower otherwise known as persistence is necessary in achieving any goal. Willpower and desire when properly combined make an irresistible pair.

The majority of people are ready to throw their aims and purposes overboard and give up at the first sign of opposition or misfortune. A few carry on despite all opposition until they attain their goal. Lack of persistence is the major cause of failure.

The starting point of all achievement is desire. Weak desire brings weak results, just as a small amount of heat. If you find yourself lacking in persistence, this weakness may be remedied by building a stronger fire under your desires.

10. NEGATIVE PERSONALITY

One who has a negative personality will always fail. We are all born with positive and negative tendencies. We have freewill to choose what mental attitudes we want to cultivate. Positive personality is the direct opposite of negative personality. The negativist is a disbeliever; the positive thinker is a believer. The one is full of self-doubt; the other is endowed with self-confidence. The one gives up when confronted with difficulty; the other rises to the occasion when the going gets tough. The negative thinker by hopelessness shuts off the flow of creative power. The positive thinker drawing from faith in God and self opens wide the channels of inflowing power and creativity that produces amazing results that all can see.

The negativist always expects the worst to happen. He always concentrates his mind on the possibility of failure, oppositions and obstacles. His negative thoughts outweigh his positive thoughts.

Inferiority complex is negative personality. Inferiority complex is self-doubt. It is a belief in the mind that one is inferior to other people, and as a result, unqualified and incapable of doing what

they can do. Those who have inferiority complex try to win recognition by boasting and being aggressive. And some, withdraw from people, and will never express themselves in public or attempt great things.

To overcome, you must see yourself as God sees you. You are a son of God, heir of God and a joint heir with Jesus Christ.

John 1:12

*12 Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God-
NIV*

Rom 8:15-17

*15 For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." 16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. 17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs-heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.
NIV*

Stop looking down of God says you are. Believe you have what it says you have, and you can do what it says you can do.

11. UNCONTROLLED DESIRE FOR SOMETHING FOR NOTHING

Gambling, pools betting and lottery are examples - trying to get what you didn't labour for. This habit breeds laziness, and makes one unproductive.

Wanting people to work for you without paying for their services is another example, and it brings failure because the work force will be weakened, discouraged and probably quit your services.

12. LACK OF WELL DEFINED POWER OF DECISION

Men who succeed reach decisions promptly and change them, if at all, very slowly. Men who fail reach decisions if at all, very slowly and change them frequently and quickly.

(To be continued)

SUCCESS TIT-BITS

- 1. The secret of success lies in your attitude to your assignment.**
- 2. Challenges only scare the weak, but bring out the best in the strong who dares to challenge the challenge.**
- 3. Faith in the heart while the mind is focused on God and his word guarantees victory over every challenge of life.**
- 4. You can't be against leadership and expect to reap the blessings promised leadership.**

5. The life of every man is in phases and in seasons. Understand this and peace will fill your heart.
6. Opportunities are tied to the seasons of a man's life.
7. The only time you have is now. Use it. Get busy and use it wisely.
8. The only problem with seasons is that they come and pass. The evil season you are going through now will come and pass.
9. Since no one can bind nor alter seasons, no one can stop you when your time to rise to the top comes.
10. As long as you see with the eyes of God you will be what He wants you to be.
11. Quit complaining that everyone in your family is poor, but believe you will make it to the top anyhow.
12. Stop pointing your fingers at the economy. In Christ Jesus, you can succeed in any economy.
13. 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.

WISDOM FOR ASSOCIATION

1. You will always relate to your spouse as you think.
2. Your type of dressing determines the type of people that are attracted to you. And those that are attracted to you make input into your life – they influence you one way or the other. Those attracted to you strengthen a weakness in you or strength.
3. To harbor a rebellious fellow is detrimental to you. You will share in his punishment.
4. To accommodate one you cannot speak into his or her life is stupidity.
5. Anyone who cannot listen to you is not worthy to be under your roof.
6. Draw a line between love and encouraging one who refused to be disciplined and grow up.
7. The way you dress is the way you will be addressed.
8. People read you by the things you wear. Before they hear you, they read you. Before they know what is on the inside of you, they see and interpret what they see on the outside.
9. Ability to manage crisis is a sign that one has become a man.
10. Your desires determine who your friends will be.
11. People read you by the things you wear. Before they hear you, they read you. Before they know what is on the inside of you, they see and interpret what they see on the outside.
12. Lovers don't live in hate and are never afraid of hurts. Love and be loved.
13. Those that have respect for God, gets God's respect. When God respects you, all things work well for you. Please God and he will please you.

RENEWING THE MIND

- 1. A man with negative mentality is a prisoner of his own thoughts and will always be limited by them except he decides to change his mental disposition and become positive minded.**
- 2. As long as you see with the eyes of God you will be what he wants you to be. Fill your mind with positive words from the word of God. Accept what the Bible says of you. Believe you are who God says you are. Believe you have what he says you have. Believe you can do what he says you can do.**
- 3. Be an optimist. Expect the best all the time. When you meet with an obstacle, never believe you have come to a dead end. Always believe you will get out of every tight corner with God's help.**
- 4. Do not allow inferiority complex or low self esteem to have a hold on you. Have a proper understanding of who you are from the Bible. Carry yourself the way God has described you and you will reign in life and not be limited any more.**
- 5. The truth is that every man is limited by his thoughts and beliefs.**
- 6. Your thoughts limit the resources that will be made available to you. Your thoughts limit the grace of God in your life. Your thoughts limit what the anointing of God can do in your life no matter who ministers to you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Your thoughts limit what can do for you or with you. God wants to remove every limitation in your life, do not build mental barriers that will limit you. Remove the negatives and don't focus on them, rather, give your mind to positive thoughts that will position you for miracles.**
- 7. If you believe you cannot be limited, you shall not be limited. No man can stop you when you refuse to be stopped. Strong faith and positive mindset is what you need to breakthrough barriers and keep progressing.**
- 8. Winning does not start around you – it begins inside you. Change your thinking.**