

OVERCOMING FAILURE (Part 2)

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In the last edition, we defined failure and began to look at the causes of failure and solutions. In this edition, we look at other types of fear and other causes of failure and how to overcome them. Please read the previous edition before reading this edition. If you don't have a copy of the last edition, please visit our site and read it to fully comprehend this edition. Go to this link – <http://www.jfoureach.org/archives.htm>
Enjoy it.

THE FEAR OF LOSS OF LOVE

The original source of this inherent fear obviously grew out of man's adulterous and polygamous habit of stealing his fellow man's mate, and his habit of taking liberties with her whenever he could.

Jealousy and other similar forms of neurosis (a mild psychiatric disorder characterized by anxiety, depression, and hypochondria; functional derangement caused by disorders of the nervous system or by something in the subconscious mind) grow out of man's inherited fear of loss of love. This fear is the most painful of all the basic fears. It probably causes more havoc in the mind and body than any of the other basic fears.

Careful analysis has shown that women are more susceptible to this fear than men.

Symptoms of the fear of love are:

1. Jealousy
2. Fault finding
3. Gambling - the habit of gambling, stealing, cheating, and otherwise taking hazardous chances to provide money for loved ones with belief that love can be bought. The habit of spending beyond ones means or incurring debt provides gifts for loved ones.

FEAR OF OLD AGE

This fear grows out of thought that old age may bring with it poverty. Fear growing out of man's distrust of his fellow men, which may seize whatever worldly goods he may possess; and other arising from the terrible pictures in his mind about the world beyond if he does not have Christ. The possibility of ill health which is more common as people grow older is also a contributing cause of this common fear.

The thought of diminishing sex attraction, and inability to do what he would have loved to do, or go where he would have loved to go are some of the causes of fear of old age.

The symptoms of fear of old age are:

1. **Premature slowdown:** The tendency to slow down around the age of forty which is the age of mental maturity instead of life beginning at forty. The person begins to develop inferiority complex as he begins to see and talk of himself as an old person.

2. **Apology of one's age:** The habit of speaking apologetically of ones self as being old merely because one has reached the age of forty or fifty. Instead one should express gratitude to God for having reached the age of wisdom and understanding.
3. **Killing initiative:** Imagination and self-reliance are lost when one falsely believes one's self too old to exercise these qualities.
4. **Masquerading as a younger person:** The habit of effecting the dress and mannerism of younger people, which only inspires ridicule from both friends and strangers is all too common.

FEAR OF DEATH

This fear grows out of the ignorance of the uncertainty of the life beyond, and lack of preparation to meet the maker and life giver and give account of the life lived on earth.

Symptoms of the fear of death are:

1. **Thinking about dying:** This habit is more prevalent among the aged, even the more youthful often think of dying instead of making the most of life. Often this is due to a lack of purpose or inability to find a suitable occupation. The greatest remedy for fear of death is burning desire for achievement, backed by useful service to others. A busy person does not think about dying.
2. **Association with fear of poverty:** One may fear the onset of poverty in one's life, or one may fear that one's death will inflict poverty upon one's loved ones.
3. **Association with illness and imbalance:** Physical illness may lead to mental depression. Disappointments in love, religious fanaticism, and high state of neurosis or actual insanity are other causes of the death fear.

THE FEAR OF FAILURE

The fear of failure paralyzes faith, as its victim gives in to doubt. Doubt and fear are twin brothers. Wherever one is found the other will be also.

Fear of failure keeps one from lurching out into what would have otherwise brought fortune, success and fame. It is a policeman that specializes in handcuffing his victims and keeping them locked up in the prison of their negative thoughts thereby making them to remain on the same spot, without moving forward.

Fear of failure destroys imagination, kills ideas, shuts reason out, discourages initiative, destroys ambitions, frustrates progress, hinders productivity, limits and kills creativity, brings discouragement, destroys the possibility of accurate thinking, beclouds the mind and eventually produces failure.

The symptoms of the fear of failure are:

1. Indifference to a frustrating and deplorable condition, and good ideas – a lack of ambition and passivity to suffering.

2. Doubt
3. Worry
4. Overcaution
5. Procrastination
6. Indecision
7. Giving unnecessary excuses for inaction.

14. WRONG SELECTION OF MATE IN MARRIAGE

An unsettled marriage creates complications and a difficult environment for one to be productive. An unsettled mind cannot function.

Prov 21:9

*9 Better to live on a corner of the roof than share a house with a quarrelsome wife.
NIV*

Prov 21:19

*19 Better to live in a desert than with a quarrelsome and ill-tempered wife.
NIV*

Love stimulates creativity – Love creates the right atmosphere for the mind to function properly. Love eases tension, fills life with happiness, and makes the heart, mind and body to be at peace. And all these are the ingredients for creative thinking. The right mate will make this available to you.

If you are not married, take your time in making your choice. Prayerfully determine who to marry. If your marriage is in problem right now invite Jesus Christ into it. Work on making it a heaven on earth.

15. OVERCAUTION

Overcaution is the habit of looking for the negative side of every circumstance, thinking and talking of possible failure instead of concentrating upon the means of succeeding; knowing all the roads to disaster; waiting for “the right time” to begin putting ideas and plans into action until the waiting becomes a permanent habit. Overcaution is remembering those who have failed, and forgetting those who have succeeded; seeing the hole in the doughnuts, and overlooking the doughnut; pessimism (tendency to believe that the worse things is most likely to happen, that everything is eventually evil), leading to indigestion, poor elimination, autointoxication (poisoning by substances produced in the body), bad breath and bad disposition. Overcaution makes people not to take chances.

16. WRONG SELECTION OF ASSOCIATES

We emulate those with whom we associate most closely. Pick an employer or associate who is worth emulating, intelligent and inspiring – someone smarter than you.

Most times people select an associate less intelligent and inspiring than they for fear of being overrun by him/her taking over their company or business, or becoming too big for them to control. This attitude is counterproductive.

17. SUPERSTITION AND PREJUDICE

Superstition is (idea, practice etc. founded on) unreasoning belief in magic, witchcraft, etc; irrational fear of what is unknown or mysterious.

Prejudice is opinion, like or dislike, formed before one has adequate knowledge or experience.

Superstition and prejudice is a form of fear. It is also a sign of ignorance. Men who succeed keep open minds and are afraid of nothing. So throw away your superstitious beliefs and prejudices. Be open minded – go for knowledge.

18. WRONG SELECTION OF VOCATION

No man succeeds in a line of endeavour he does not like. Don't let anyone choose for you what you must be or do for a living. Make your own choice. Choose what you love to do, and what you believe you can do very well.

Ask yourself these questions before selecting a vocation:

- a. What do I love most?
- b. What gives me the most joy?
- c. What are my fond of?
- d. What talents do I have?
- e. What profession do I admire most and wish that I was in that profession?
- f. Among the things I like doing which of them gives me the most satisfaction, joy and a sense of fulfillment?
- g. What things or subject dominate my thoughts?
- h. What does God want me to be?

Parents and educationists should help children by encouraging them to focus on the talents and special area of interest. Do not impose a profession or vocation on them.

If you are in a vocation that God does not want you to be in, you will experience failure and lack of job satisfaction until you take on the vocation God has planned for you.

19. THE LACK OF CONCENTRATION OF EFFORT

Definiteness of purpose is very important in achieving success. Broken focus is a distraction and causes time waste on nonessentials which breeds failure. Concentrate all your effort at one definite chief aim. Don't be jack of all trade, master of none.

20. THE HABIT OF INDISCRIMINATE SPENDING

Form the habit of systematic saving by putting aside a definite percentage of your income, and re-investing whole or part of your profit. Do not be a waster but a wise manager of your income.

21. LACK OF ENTHUSIASM

Enthusiasm is zeal. It is strong feeling of admiration or interest. Enthusiasm is excitement about what you are doing.

Without enthusiasm one cannot be convincing. Moreover enthusiasm is contagious and the person who has it is generally welcome in any group of people.

If you don't love your work, you cannot be enthusiastic about it. Love of vocation and good remuneration breeds and encourages enthusiasm.

22. INTOLERANCE

The person with a closed mind on any subject seldom gets ahead. Intolerance means that one has stopped acquiring knowledge, cannot tolerate new ideas or people with new and maybe better ideas.

The most damaging form of intolerance is those connected with religious, radical, and political differences of opinion.

23. INTEMPERANCE

Intemperance is showing lack of self-control. The most damaging forms of intemperance are connected with eating, strong drink and sexual activities. Over indulgence in any of these is fatal to success.

24. INABILITY TO COOPERATE WITH OTHERS

"A tree cannot make a forest." "No one is an Island of himself". Unity breeds productivity. What is lacking in you is housed in others. God created man to function in unity with others. You need other people to succeed. Learn to cooperate with others; don't work alone. Rub minds with others - share ideas. Solicit for help when you need it. Don't be a loner. Deal with the pride in you, for "*pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall*" (Prov. 16:18).

25. POSSESSION OF POWER OR WEALTH THAT WAS NOT ACQUIRED THROUGH SELF – EFFORT

Sons and daughters of wealthy men, and others who inherit money which they did not earn fall into this category. Power in the hands of one who did not acquire it is often deadly to success. Quick riches are more dangerous than poverty. If you are fortunate to have inherited wealth or business, don't let it enter your head. Sit down and manage it well. Work hard to make sure that the business does not die but grows. Invest your wealth wisely and profitably.

26. INTENTIONAL DISHONESTY

There is no substitute for honesty. There is no hope for the person who is dishonest by choice. Sooner or later his deeds will catch up with him, and he will pay by loss of reputation, and perhaps even loss of liberty.

Prov 20:17

17 Food gained by fraud tastes sweet to a man, but he ends up with a mouth full of gravel.

NIV

Prov 21:6

6 A fortune made by a lying tongue is a fleeting vapor and a deadly snare.

NIV

27. Egotism and Vanity

Egotism means practice of talking too often or too much about oneself; self-conceit; selfishness.

Vanity means having too high an opinion of one's looks, abilities etc. Another word for vanity is flamboyance. These qualities serve as red lights which warn others to keep away. They are fatal to success.

28. Guessing instead of Thinking

Guess work takes no man anywhere. Nothing can take the place of constructive and creative thinking and planning. Make research, and work with your research, findings. Don't guess.

29. Lack of Capital

Lack of capital is at the bottom of the list because it really cripples a man to failure when there is no way out - when the mind cannot create a way to cut off the need for funds.

Obtaining a loan to finance your business is the only way out. But you must take into consideration the interest rate and the conditions for repayment. Only take a loan when you are sure the business will be able to generate enough funds to repay the loan at the agreed time of repayment.

30. Refusal to Follow the Principles of God

Proverbs 13:13 says, "He who scorns instruction will pay for it. But he who respects a command is rewarded". Any man who will not walk in the principles and laws of God will have himself to blame. Because he will discover that he is not wiser than God and that God is not a joker – He means everything He says and says only those things which he means.

God's word and laid down principles for life, health, marriage, business, success and prosperity is true, effective and the best. It works perfectly producing maximum expected results. Disobedience to any of these laws will bring severe consequences – the decreed calamity will come; for whatever a man sows, shall he reap. A man who will not bend (resist change that God demands), will be broken. One who refuses to tithe, his life will be tight. He, who refuses to sow in the season for sowing, will reap the wind in harvest time. He who breaks the law will be broken. He who scorns instruction will pay for it.

31. Opposing Demonic Forces

Demons, demonized human enemies, demonic curses, spells, divinations and enchantments against any man not in Christ can cause failure.

Many in Africa will magnify this above all the other causes of failure already discussed. I choose to treat it last because it has blinded the eyes of many from seeing their faults, weaknesses and apparent cause of their failure. Man by reason of his fallen nature is always looking for something or someone to blame for his failure. Having treated the human weaknesses resulting in failure, let us now examine the supernatural opposition to man's success that causes failure.

Inherited curses and curses placed on one directly can, and do work against someone's success until one is set free completely by the Lord Jesus Christ. One who has made all the necessary changes advocated in this study, and still finds himself or herself failing and not succeeding, should go for counseling and deliverance prayers. If you are convinced you are facing spiritual opposition, go for counseling and prayers.

WHY LEADERS FAIL

A leader here is an owner of a business, management staff, church leader, and leader in government.

1. Inability to organize details.
2. Unwillingness to render humble service.
3. Expectation of pay for what they know instead of what they do with that which they know.
4. Fear of competition from followers.
 - It is an eternal truth that men receive more pay for their ability to get others to perform, than they could possibly earn by their own efforts. So don't fear to give others opportunity to perform.
5. Lack of imagination.
6. Selfishness.
7. Intemperance.
8. Disloyalty.
9. Emphasis of the "authority" of leadership.
10. Emphasis of title.

CONCLUSION

To succeed and make failure nonexistent in your life, check yourself thoroughly and eliminate all the causes of failure considered in this study, and apply all the advice given. I assure you; you will become a success in all your life endeavours. The choice is yours. Overcome failure and become successful!

SUCCESS TIT-BITS

1. **All the breaks you need in life wait within your imagination.**
2. **Faith is the only antidote to failure.**
3. **Faith is the basis of all miracles.**
4. **Faith is the head chemist of the mind.**
5. **Faith will bring you to lime light.**
6. **Wishing will not bring success. But desiring success with a state of mind that becomes an obsession, then planning definite ways and means to achieving success, and backing those plans with persistence which does not recognize failure, will bring success.**
7. **One can succeed if he chooses a definite goal and placed all his energy, all his will power, all his effort and everything on that goal.**

8. Every person who wants to win in any undertaken must be willing to burn his ships and cut all sources of retreat.
9. Success can be yours if you are willing to pay the price.
10. Diligence brings success and wealth, while laziness brings poverty.
11. The longer you work in the right direction, the closer you are to success. Too many men give up when success is within their grasp. They leave it for someone else to capture.
12. Ideas are the beginning points of all fortunes. Ideas are products of imagination.

WISDOM FOR ASSOCIATION

1. Go where you are needed and you will be highly honored.
2. Do not expect everybody to believe in you and in your dream for not all will. Believe in yourself and prove to the world you are worth something.
3. When love is in the heart, obedience is possible and enjoyable. Without love in the heart, obedience is a big struggle and burden.
4. Obedience is the proof of love. When love is in the heart, obedience is possible and enjoyable. Without love in the heart, obedience is a big struggle and burden.
5. Forgiveness is the evidence of love in the heart.
6. Forgiveness is the healing balm of every relationship. Forgiveness is the closing of a case. It is the end of a matter. Without forgiveness no relationship can survive.
7. Love is not love until it is tested through offences.
8. A man without vision has no focus in life. He has nothing driving him on in life. It is important that you marry a man with vision, because a man with vision has direction in his life – he knows where he is going. To marry a man who does not know where he is going or is going nowhere, is suicide.

RENEWING THE MIND

1. The positive thinker is not dismayed or discouraged by any adversity, setback, or seemingly impossible condition, knowing that he or she is able with the help of our loving Heavenly Father to see through and overcome any difficulty.
2. A positive thinker is a person who is strong, tough, and rugged mentally.
3. Positive thinking is the management of ideas.
4. Positive thinking is for strong people: strong in faith, strong in thought, strong in character, and if they are not so, when they embrace positive thinking, the struggle to become positive will make them strong.
5. Positive thinking is the disciplined separation of negative thoughts from positive thoughts.
6. You must not allow events to determine your mood. You must learn to be joyful always - maintain a high spirit.

- 7. Discouragement in a sense is a kind of retreat where we can escape reality and soothe ourselves in self-pity. It is deadly and can take away the desire to live and fill one with suicidal thoughts and desires.**
- 8. Positive thinking is vital to keeping your spirit always high, so high indeed that discouragement cannot break it.**
- 9. Your thoughts form your future.**
- 10. Thoughts materialize in the physical. You cannot see a thought, but you can trace its effect. And all your thoughts add up to result. In due course you become precisely what you habitually think.**