

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:

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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.

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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.

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Eph 2:6

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

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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.

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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.

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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 everything 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.

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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.
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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-

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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.

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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.

Indecision and Procrastination are twin brothers. Where one is found, the other may usually be found also. Kill off this pair before they completely hog-tie you to the treadmill of failure.

13. THE PRESENCE OF ONE OR MORE OF THE BASIC FEARS

- (a) Fear of poverty.
- (b) Fear of criticism.
- (c) Fear of disappointment.
- (d) Fear of ill health.
- (e) Fear of loss of love.
- (f) Fear of old age.

- (g) Fear of death.
- (h) Fear of failure.

FEAR OF POVERTY

The fear of poverty paralyzes the faculty of reason, destroys the faculty of imagination, kills self-reliance, undermines enthusiasm, discourages initiative, leads to uncertainty of purpose, encourages procrastination, wipes out enthusiasm, and makes self-control an impossibility. It takes the charm from one's personality, destroys the possibility of accurate thinking, diverts concentration of effort; it masters persistence, turns the will power into nothingness, destroys ambition, beclouds the memory and invites failure in every conceivable form; it kills love and destroys friendship and invites disasters in many forms, leads to sleeplessness, misery and unhappiness. And all these are experienced despite the obvious truth that we live in a world of abundance of everything the heart could desire, with nothing standing between us and our desires, excepting lack of definite purpose.

The fear of poverty is without doubt the most destructive of all fears.

The symptoms of the fear of poverty are:

1. Indifference of the fear of poverty (lack of ambition)
2. Indecision
3. Doubt
4. Worry
5. Over caution
6. Procrastination

Fear of criticism

The basic fear of criticism comes from the part of man's inherited nature which prompts him not only to take away his fellow man's goods and wares, but to justify his action by criticism of his fellow man's character. It is a well known fact that a thief will criticize the man from whom he steals; that politicians seek office, not displaying their own virtues and qualifications, but by attempting to damage the reputation of their opponents.

The fear of criticism robs man of his initiative, destroys his power of imagination, limits his individuality, takes away his self-reliance, and does him damage in a hundred other ways. Parents often do their children irreparable damage by criticizing them too much. The mother of one boy used to punish him with a cane almost daily, always completing the job with the statement, "You'll land in the Psychiatric Hospital before you are twenty". He was sent to the reformatory at the age of seventeen.

Employers who understand human nature get the best there is in men, not by criticism, but by constructive suggestion. Parents may accomplish the same results with their children.

Criticism will plant fear in the human heart, or resentment, but it will not build love or affection.

The symptoms of the fear of criticism are:

1. Self-consciousness-expressed through nervousness, timidity in conversation and in meeting strangers, awkward movement of the hands and limbs, shifting of the eyes.
2. Lack of poise
3. Weak personality
4. Inferiority complex
5. Extravagant
6. Lack of initiative
7. Lack of ambition

Fear of disappointment

Sometimes what we know about a person can hinder us from relating at a close range or asking a favour. It will constitute the basis or foundation upon which our fear is built. We fear, if we try we will be disappointed or turned down. We will say, "Oh, I know him, he will not agree". The truth is that as we walk in faith, anything can happen; people we think will not help always helps. So don't let what you know hinder you. Walk by faith. Some of our so called accurate information are incorrect. Eliminate fear, and hope for the best and not the worst. God changes people. May be God has changed that person and you didn't know. So try him out.

Prov 21:1

The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD; he directs it like a watercourse wherever he pleases.

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Fear of disappointment hinders one from meeting the right persons that can help us. It hinders financial support. It can hinder one from getting employment etc.

The symptoms of the fear of disappointment are:

1. Lack of ambition.
2. Lack of initiative.
3. Faithlessness.
4. Resentment.

FEAR OF ILL HEALTH

This fear may be traced to both physical and social heredity. It is closely associated, as to its origin, with the causes of old age and the fear of death because it leads one closely to the border of the world beyond.

Man fears ill health because of terrible pictures which have been planted in his mind of what may happen if death should overtake him. He also fears because of the economic toll which it may claim, and the fact that it will hinder him from doing the things he loves doing.

A reputable physician in the U.S.A estimated that 75% of all people who visit physicians for professional service are suffering with hypochondria (imaginary illness). It has been shown most convincingly that the fear of disease, even where there is not the slightest cause of fear, often produces the physical symptoms of the disease feared.

Powerful and mighty is the human mind! It builds or it destroys. Through a series of experiments conducted some years ago in the U.S.A., it was proven that people may be made ill by suggestion - by asking questions like this three times one can begin to feel ill: "What ails you? You look terribly ill".

There is overwhelming evidence that disease sometimes begin in the form of negative thought impulse. Such an impulse may be passed from one mind to another by suggestion, or created by an individual in his own mind.

The seed of fear of ill health lies in every human mind. But you may refuse to yield to it. Worry, fear, discouragement, disappointment in love and business affairs causes this seed to germinate and grow. Disappointment in business, in love and education stand at the head of the list of causes of ill health.

The symptoms of fear of ill health are:

1. **Autosuggestion:** The habit of negative use of self-suggestion by looking for, and expecting to find, the symptoms of all kinds of disease, "enjoying" imaginary illness and speaking it as being real.
2. **Hypochondria:** The habit of talking of illness, concentrating the mind upon disease, and expecting its appearance until a nervous break occurs. Nothing that comes in bottles can cure this condition. It is brought on by negative thinking, and nothing but positive thinking can effect a cure.

Hypochondria (a medical term for imaginary disease) is said to do as much damage on occasion as the disease one fears might do. Most so-called cases of "nerves" – anxiety, worry, tension, stress, mental strain, and nervous tension, come from imaginary illness.

3. **Indolence:** Laziness or inactivity.
4. **Susceptibility:** Sensitivity, easily influenced by feelings. Fear of ill health breaks down nature's body resistance and creates a favourable condition for any form of disease one may contact.
5. **Self-coddling:** The habit of making a bid for sympathy, using imaginary illness as the cure (people often resort to this trick to avoid work). It is the habit of feigning illness to cover plain laziness, or to serve as an alibi or excuse for lack of ambition.
6. **Intemperance:** The habit of using alcohol, or narcotics to destroy pains such as headaches, neuralgia (nerve pain: intermittent and often severe pain in a part of the body that a particular nerve runs through, especially when there is no physical change in the nerve itself) etc, instead of eliminating the cause.
7. **Worry:** The habit of reading about illness and worrying over the possibility of being stricken by it, also the habit of reading patent medicine advertisements.

Don't be illness conscious. Take your mind completely off illness. Believe that Jesus has taken your illness and diseases away and nailed them on Calvary Cross, and you need not be sick or have any disease.

Isa 53:4-5

4 Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

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1 Peter 2:24

24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

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There is no need for fear.

(To be continued in the next edition.)

SUCCESS TIT-BITS

- 1. Never stop what you are doing because things are not working out well, success is around the corner.**
- 2. Never take no for an answer. Keep on keeping on, no matter how hard the going may be.**
- 3. Remember that all who succeed in life get off to a bad start, and pass through heart-breaking struggles before they "arrive". Don't let difficulties stop you.**
- 4. Tell yourself every morning before you go out "I will make it today". And have no doubt about it. You will make it.**
- 5. Whatever God starts, He finishes. As his son, whatever you start you will successfully finish. You are destined to win!**
- 6. No sowing no reaping. No labour, no wages. No input, no output. Laziness will only make your vision wishful thinking.**
- 7. Hard work transforms vision to mission.**
- 8. Purpose can only be achieved through hard work.**
- 9. Lazy people don't make things happen. Hard workers are proof producers. Become one today.**
- 10. Pursue your purpose in life with everything you have been given by God.**

WISDOM FOR ASSOCIATION

1. The one who speaks into your life directs the course of your life.
2. Self-discovery enhances relationship for you cannot relate well except you have a working knowledge of your person.
3. Pointing the accusing finger is not a way to solving relationship problems, but critically evaluating the issues at stake and accepting responsibility for the wrong done and going a step further to dealing with personal weaknesses will solve the problems.
4. It takes sincerity to make a good friend and partner.
5. Recognition of the truth that what is lacking in you is in another will help you value people and relate well with them.
6. Character problems are major reasons why friendships don't last. Take a good look at yourself now and clean out what needs to.
7. Your integrity will always be remembered more than your sweet words and gorgeous dressing.
8. When God wants to bless a man, He sends him a person with what he needs. It takes those who value relationships and are sensitive in the spirit to recognize them and take advantage of the opening and connection.
9. Go where you are needed and you will be highly honored.
10. 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.

RENEWING THE MIND

1. If you continue to feed your mind with stories and thoughts about what the devil can do, is doing, or has done, it will be stored in your sub-conscious mind from where it will generate fear of the devil, doubting of God's power and all kinds of bondage. But if you continually and systematically feed your mind with the word of God, and you meditate on it day and night, your sub-conscious thoughts will generate or stimulate faith in God, confidence in God and in yourself to confront every confrontation and destroy every mountain. It will make the devil to always be small in your eyes and God very big.
2. God sees your thoughts and watches you all the time. Everything about you counts before God. Never think or say it doesn't matter. What you say and do can hinder your breakthrough and prosperity that you so desire.
3. The mind is the engine room of man.
4. You need a working mind to have a working life.
5. Praise and worship relaxes the mind.
6. Music stimulates the mind for good or for evil depending on the type of music.
7. The atmosphere around you determines internal peace or war.
8. A loving and peaceful atmosphere is necessary for creativity.

