

# OVERCOMING FAILURE (Part 2)

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In our last edition we began studying about failure and how to overcome it, in this edition we are going to concentrate on fear as a major reason why men fail. I pray that the good Lord will give you victory in this area of your life.

## 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 who 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, limit 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.*

*NIV*

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 thoughts. Such thoughts 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.*

*NIV*

*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.*

*NIV*

There is no need for fear.

### **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.

***(To be continued)***

## **SUCCESS TIT-BITS**

1. **As long as you see with the eyes of God you will be what He wants you to be.**
2. **Quit complaining that everyone in your family is poor, but believe you will make it to the top anyhow.**
3. **Stop pointing your fingers at the economy. In Christ Jesus, you can succeed in any economy.**
4. **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.**
5. **Greatness is a seed in each and every one of us that needs to be nurtured and developed to maturity and manifestation for the world to**

- celebrate us to the glory of God. Draw near to God and let the word of God make you and help you manifest greatness.
6. Knowledge enlightens, and enlightenment leads to self-discovery, which brings about the release and maximization of one's potential. Give time to studying and learning from those whom God has enlightened.
  7. You cannot do everything. You can only do what you were designed and created to do through your gifts, skills and intelligence. Goats don't fly. Trees don't walk. Your design determines your capability. Know your limitation.
  8. A man without vision has no focus in life. He has nothing driving him on in life.
  9. Strong desire produces strong determination which triggers the brain to come up with ideas or plan on how to achieve a set goal or dream.
  10. Desire is the driving force for accomplishment.
  11. Breakthrough is a function of grace on the part of God, faithfulness, commitment, seed sowing and sacrifice on the part of the seeker. Learn what to do to get a breakthrough and do it with all your heart and diligence and you will have what you seek.

## **WISDOM FOR ASSOCIATION**

1. Your friends contribute to the direction of your life.
2. Identifying a worthwhile relationship and an unproductive and unnecessary relationship takes skill and the help of the Holy Spirit of God.
3. Getting rid of a friend that is having a negative influence on one is a task many people are not willing to undertake, but necessary if one must be who he or she is supposed to be.
4. Time wasters kill your dream and your life.
5. Those who are always asking from you but not giving to you have no contribution to make in your life.
6. It takes a humble heart to relate well and maintain relationships.
7. Never see yourself more highly than you ought to.
8. Storing bitter feelings in the heart is building a stronghold against your offender.
9. Every acquaintance always leaves a part of him or her in your life.
10. How much of you are from you, and how much of you are from those around you?

## **RENEWING THE MIND**

1. Wisdom teaches that a biased mind will not allow you to see the good in a thing.

2. **Never learn about a thing with a pre-conceived notion or belief about that thing. Always empty out the former for you to see well.**
3. **Mental preparation for any venture is more important than financial and material preparation.**
4. **The mind is where the battles of life take place.**
5. **He who controls your mind, controls your life, whatever dominates your mind, directs the course of your words and actions.**
6. **A man's life is the product of his thoughts.**
7. **There is a strong connection between the state of your mind per time and your health. Your thought can give you health and it can destroy it.**
8. **Success in life is tied to the use of the mind.**
9. **When you fail to recognize your personal limitations, you become blind to the gifts hidden in those around you.**
10. **Your perspective to life is a function of your mind.**