

OVERCOMING FAILURE (Part 3)

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In our last two editions we defined failure and discussed several causes of failure and how to overcome them, in this concluding part, more causes of failure is discussed. Enjoy it and walk in victory afterwards.

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

Over caution 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. Over caution 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. Over caution 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. **Problems are men makers, women makers, life makers.**
2. **An overcomer is one who is able to challenge every challenge of life successfully.**
3. **Never build a case against yourself.**
4. **Love the Lord and love people. Don't forget yourself.**
5. **Think big, pray big, believe big, act big, love big, be big - big all the way.**
6. **Be a believer - a believer in God. Be a believer in people, in the future and in yourself.**
7. **Adversity makes a man out of us, and Jesus Christ is our Saviour and guide out of it.**
8. **Do not say it cannot work until you have done your best about that idea.**
9. **Go after a success after every failure.**
10. **Believers are never defeated. They may fail, but never defeated. Be a believer.**
11. **Don't wait for your problem to solve itself. Understand that you alone are personally responsible for managing your problem.**
12. **Crisis time is a school of perfection.**
13. **Prosperity is by choice.**
14. **Success is a not by chance but by choice.**
15. **Service is a means to greatness.**
16. **It's impossible to fail totally if you dare try.**
17. **Nobody is a total failure if he dares to try to do something worthwhile.**

WISDOM FOR ASSOCIATION

1. **You must know yourself, to know who to relate with.**
2. **Keep away from the Jezebels who seek to overshadow you and run your life.**
3. **Samson's undoing was his unholy alliance with Delilah. Do not throw away your inheritance and life in the name of relationship.**
4. **Go where you will be honoured and not where you will be tolerated.**
5. **Where do people place your friends and associates? Where they place them is where they place you. What they call them is what they will call you.**
6. **Do not hesitate to break a relationship that is not supposed to be in the first place, or the negative impact is more than the benefits.**
7. **"I like being alone because I don't want to be hurt" is a statement that reveals immaturity.**
8. **Your associates impart you for good or for bad**
9. **In every relationship, give room for offence. It is human to offend and be offended.**
10. **Your vision in life determines who your associates will be. Keep that in mind.**
11. **Your associates to a large extent determine the flow of your life.**

RENEWING THE MIND

- 1. What you say is what you see. What you think is what you are - it's what you become. What you think is what you say, and what you say is what you see - it's what you will have.**
- 2. You will always harvest your thoughts. The same way, you will always harvest your words.**
- 3. "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he" (Prov. 23:7).**
- 4. "As in water face answer to face, so the mind of a man reflects the man" (Prov. 27:19).**
- 5. Defeat is in the mind.**
- 6. Failure is normal in human experience. To accept failure as a dead-end is to accept defeat. Don't accept defeat.**
- 7. Knowledge is the key to success.**
- 8. Wisdom is the commander of success, the generator of wealth and the stimulator of peace.**
- 9. Wisdom is the principal thing. Get knowledge, get understanding and apply what you have learnt.**
- 10. Thoughts are living forces within the mind of man and they usually become reality.**