

## Revival of Failure

### ***Exodus 2:11-15***

***“One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to where his own people were and watched them at their hard labor. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his own people. Looking this way and that and seeing no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. The next day he went out and saw two Hebrews fighting. He asked the one in the wrong, “Why are you hitting your fellow Hebrew?” The man said, “Who made you ruler and judge over us?” Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian?” Then Moses was afraid and thought, “What I did must have become known.” When Pharaoh heard of this, he tried to kill Moses, but Moses fled from Pharaoh and went to live in Midian, where he sat down at a well.”***

The fear of failure is a common fear. People fear: Failing as a parent, failing in their careers, failing as a Christian, Failing in their marriage. Feel free to insert your own blend of fear of failing. I find it interesting that some many people try to shield themselves from failure by simply not taking risks or not making decisions that could possibly make them experience the sting of failure.

A great athlete once said, “I’ve missed 9000 shots in my career. I’ve lost almost 300 games. 26 times I’ve been trusted to take the game winning shot and missed. I’ve failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed.”  
Michael Jordan.

We can no more escape failure in our own lives any more than we can escape death. Once we learn that, then we have a shot at true success!

In order to have a revival of failure we have to learn 4 things.

#### ***1. Remember that everyone fails.***

- We forget that fact when we fail. Let me prove it to you. A recent study showed that ***the failure rate of human beings is 100%***. What does that tell us? ***NO ONE IS PERFECT***. If you are failing, you are in good company.
- ***James 3:2 says, “We all stumble in many ways.” Proverbs 24:16 says, “Though a righteous man falls seven times, he rises again.”*** And by the way, the Bible is not reluctant to tell us about the failures of its heroes. We just read what Moses did. Sampson loves drinking and being in places he shouldn't be. David murdered. Peter said he would never leave Jesus and we all know how that turned out. Paul murdered Christians. And the list goes on and on.
- The Bible makes it abundantly clear, everyone fails!! I think we give up way too soon. It's as if we are shocked that our best laid plans didn't work and we run. Listen, if you're not failing then you're not trying.
- Babe Ruth was once baseball's all-time home run king. But did you know that he was also the all-time strikeout champion. He struck out almost twice as much he hit homeruns. When asked about the secret to his success, Ruth replied, “I just keep on swingin at em!”
- So the first thing we've got to remember is, everyone fails. The second thing we've got to remember is...

## ***2. Realize that failure is NOT FINAL!***

- Denis Waitley said, “Failure should be our teacher not our undertaker. Moses was once a prince; now, after running away, he becomes a shepherd. He was once famous; now he's forgotten. His life was full of promise; now his life seems destined to end in failure. But Moses' failure was not final.

- Let's get back to Moses. We pick up the story 40 years later when Moses is tending his father-in-laws sheep in Exodus 3. God reveals himself to Moses through a burning bush and commissions him to lead the people of Israel out of 400 years of bondage.
- Failure can mean setback, but it's in how we handle that moment that determines whether we have truly failed or succeeded. Thomas Edison said, "Many of life's failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up." Remember failure is not final.

### ***3. Thirdly, we need to realize the benefits of failure.***

- Moses may have never been Israel's deliverer if he had never failed. ***Romans 8:28 says, "We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."*** All things include failures!!! That doesn't mean that our failures are good. But God can take our failures and bring something good out of them.
- Another benefit to failure is, it educates us. Thomas Edison, the inventor of the light bulb said, "I didn't fail 10,000 time to make a light bulb, rather I learned 10,000 ways how to not make a light bulb." There are some lessons that we can only learn through failure!!
- Another benefit of failure is; it makes us less judgmental. We understand how they feel because we've all been there. So when you fail try to gain understanding from it instead of quitting because of it. And by the way, never aspire to be a leader if you are not willing to embrace the inevitability of failing, because there is more to being a leader besides telling people what to do.

### ***4. Lastly, We need to replace fear with faith in the Lord.***

- Moses wasn't happy that God had asked him to lead Israel out of bondage. His first response was, "There has got to be someone better suited to do this or, I can't speak well." All of those comments are empty of faith. But each time Moses gave an excuse God gave him the solution.
- Many of us are like the African impala. The impala can jump to a height of over 10 feet and cover a distance of greater than 30 in one leap. Yet these amazing creatures can be kept in an enclosure in the zoo with 3 foot walls because they will not jump if they can't see where their feet will land. **2 Corinthians 5:7 say. "We live by faith and not by sight."**
- Maybe you can identify with Moses. Maybe you have experienced failure in your past or maybe you are afraid of failure in the future. Remember **Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Him who gives me strength."** I can face failure through Christ who gives me strength.
- Don't let the fear of failure keep you from doing what God has called you to do!