

FAILURE

A young member of the congregation came up to me and said, "Pastor, what do you do when you make mistakes?" I answered, "I try to learn from my mistakes, knowing that yesterday's failure can become the catalyst for tomorrow's successes." We must all accept our humanity and not let mistakes hold us back. We should realise that mistakes are part of our everyday lives. Mistakes happen; they happen in the choices we make, in our financial decisions, and in many other affairs of life. Even though some mistakes can be devastating, they can all be turned around for good. With God on our side, our tragedies can become triumphs!

Failure is not terminal! Proverbs 24:16 states, "*A just man may fall seven times, yet he rises up again...*" Psalm 37:23-24 says, "*The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; for the Lord upholds him with His hand.*" Every one of us can step out of failure and into a victorious and successful life. Our heavenly Father has anticipated every problem area and He has laid out a plan for turning our mistakes into miracles! Remember, you can change your direction by changing the attitude you have concerning your mistakes. Unfortunately, mistakes DO happen! So manage the pain of your mistake and move on!

Moving on means taking responsibility, and taking responsibility means making things right with the people who have been affected by your mistakes. There must be restitution - a mending of broken fences. If you don't do this it becomes very difficult to release your faith in future circumstances. Restoration is a faith-releasing principle that purifies your conscience and allows God to freely work on your behalf. Many times all it takes is for you to admit your mistake.

We all experience setbacks due to failure and disappointment. However, **every setback paves the way for a comeback**. We are the "comeback kids" - God's children. We are destined to win! So don't quit just because you have failed at something. Keep going, don't ever give up. You have what it takes to be a winner. You CAN make it! Let this be your confession... "*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me*" (Philippians 4:13). And remember, "*The Lord upholds all that fall, and raises up all that have bowed down*" (Psalm 135:14).