



Failing Forward



The Trap

failure [feyl-yer]

a person or thing
that is **unsuccessful**
or **disappointing**

an **insufficiency**
or shortage

a decline or **loss**

the fact of not reaching
the required **standard**



Failure and Disappointment, David Murray

*If we organized a conference on “Failure and Disappointment,” do you think anyone would come? If you wrote a book on that subject, do you think anyone would buy it? **Failure and disappointment are not popular topics.** They don't sell tickets or books. They don't generate clicks, as Internet marketers assure us. We don't want to think about our own failures and disappointments, never mind hear about those of others. We live in a “success culture” that idolizes victory and fulfillment. **But it's all so unreal***



Failure and Disappointment, David Murray

*If our schools really wanted to prepare our children for life, **they would offer classes in failure and disappointment.** Our kids may never need to know algebra or chemistry in their adult lives, but they will definitely need to know **how to handle failure and disappointment.***

***No one escapes failure and disappointment.** So, we might as well plan on it and prepare for it with a view to profiting from it.*



We are failing at failure



*Western Christianity has largely ignored the downside of discipleship. We have books and conferences on success but no one likes to talk about how we **recover** from failure. In this we emulate the values of the culture.*

Western mantra “bigger, better, more”



When we turn to the Bible, we're given a deep dose of **reality**. Failure and disappointment are on just about every page. Whether we like it or not, that's much **truer to life** than the success narratives that we aspire to and are trying to write for ourselves **David Murray**



“less Disney, more Quentin Tarantino”

*Failure can be a **trap**
or an **opportunity***



*Choose your own
adventure vs live in a **hell**
of your own making*

*What if God wasn't as interested in our failures as we are? And what if what God really wanted **to be part of these** moments?*



*As God is interested in using our failures to mature us, the enemy wants to use our failures as a **stumbling** block*



The Enemy's Role in Failure

In failure, Satan plants doubt.

If you are the Son of God..? Matthew 4:3

Did God really say..? Genesis 3:1

Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him. "You have so little faith," Jesus said.

"Why did you doubt me?" Matthew 14:31

"Satan puts question marks in your life where God has put periods." J.D. Greear

In failure we can doubt God and His continued plan for our lives



The Enemy's Role in Failure

In failure, Satan accuses/reminds.

Then the angel showed me Jeshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord. The **Accuser**, Satan, was there at the angel's right hand, making **accusations** against Jeshua
Zechariah 3:3

For the **accuser of our brothers and sisters** has been thrown down to earth—the one who **accuses them before our God day and night.**
Revelation 12:10

Accusation from the enemy is truth in the wrong order



The Enemy's Role in Failure

In failure, Satan plants hopelessness

*Where then is my hope?
Can anyone find it? Job 17:15*

*Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord
of your life. And if someone asks about
your hope as a believer, always be ready
to explain it. 1 Peter 3:15*

*If the enemy convinces us to
abandon hope then we falsely
believe God is done with us*



The Enemy's Role in Failure

In failure, Satan plants fear

*I heard you walking in the garden, so I hid. I was **afraid** Genesis 3:10*

*If we are **afraid**, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love. 1 John 4:18*

*“The sorrow of God lies in our fear of Him, our fear of life, and our fear of ourselves. He anguishes over our self-absorption and self-sufficiency... **God's sorrow lies in our refusal to approach Him when we sinned and failed.**”*

Brennan Manning



APOLLYON: Very soon after leaving the City of Destruction, **you were** quickly discouraged when you almost drowned in the Slough of Despond. **You made** several wrong attempts to be rid of your burden, whereas **you should have** waited until your Prince relieved you of it himself. Through shameful oversleeping, **you lost** a very precious personal possession; also **you were** nearly persuaded to turn back at the sight of those fierce lions; and when you converse, as you travel, of what you have heard and seen, your **inward desire is for personal glory with regard to everything that you say or do.**

excerpt from "Pilgrim's Progress"



CHRISTIAN: *All that you say is true; in fact there is much more that you have left out. But the **Prince** who I serve and honour is very **merciful** and most willing to **forgive**;*



excerpt from “Pilgrim’s Progress”

The **accuser** knows your name,
but calls you by your **sin**.

God knows your sin,
but calls you by your **name**.



*We have made church an **unsafe** place to fail, thus driving behaviours that should be exposed to the light deeper into dark places*



*what separates those who will thrive in
their faith from those who will flounder
is in how we **approach** our failures*



*The Lord is like a father to his children,
tender and compassionate to those who
fear him. **For he knows how weak we are;**
he remembers we are only dust.
Our days on earth are like grass;
like wildflowers, we bloom and die.
The wind blows, and we are gone—
as though we had never been here.
But the love of the Lord remains forever
with those who fear him. **Psalm 103:13-17***



What we are

Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. Each time he said, “My grace is all you need. **My power works best in weakness.**” So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me. That’s why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. **For when I am weak, then I am strong.** 2 Corinthians 12:8–10



What we can become