
The Failure Plan (Failing Forward)

The Physical Connection

Pastor Wil Nichols

October 16, 2022

Victorious Praise Fellowship Church of God in Christ

2116 Page Rd. Durham NC 27703

WEBSITE: www.VictoriousPraise.org

EMAIL: PastorWil@VictoriousPraise.org, Info@VictoriousPraise.org

PHONE: (919) 957-7500

Sermon: The Physical Connection: The Failure Plan (Failing Forward)

Lesson Text

Micah 7:8-10 (KJV)⁸Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the LORD *shall be* a light unto me. ⁹I will bear the indignation of the LORD, because I have sinned against him, until he plead my cause, and execute judgment for me: he will bring me forth to the light, *and* I shall behold his righteousness. ¹⁰Then *she that is* mine enemy shall see *it*, and shame shall cover her which said unto me, Where is the LORD thy God? mine eyes shall behold her: now shall she be trodden down as the mire of the streets.

Proverbs 24:15-16 (KJV)¹⁵Lay not wait, O wicked *man*, against the dwelling of the righteous; spoil not his resting place: ¹⁶For a just *man* falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief.

Introduction

This new series, “The Physical Connection,” is about challenges and struggles we have in living and dealing with each other physically. The conflict from two trying to become one.

“He that fails to plan, plans to fail!”

Jeremiah 29:11 (BSB – Berean Study Bible) For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, to give you a future and a hope.

Last week, we looked at developing a Battle Plan:

- A Plan for Expectations that includes our Faith, Hope, and Works
- A Plan for Prosperity that includes our Word and our Prosperity
- A Plan for Victory that include the Praise and Power

Today we will look at our failures.

Many people have plans for their success, but very few have plans for their failures. But success in life is built on the back of past failures.

We learn to walk by first falling, to pass tests by first failing them; we succeed in business by learning from our mistakes in business.

Most famous and successful people can write a book about how many “no’s,” closed doors, denials, and failures they have experienced. But what separates them from losers and failures who never achieve success is how many times they get back up again.

Proverbs 24: ¹⁶For a just *man* falleth seven times, and riseth up again:

Many of our biblical heroes had past failures: Abraham was a liar, Moses was a murderer, Gideon was a coward, David was an adulterer, Peter denied Jesus, and Paul persecuted the saints of God.

But these failures didn’t stop them, they actually became a stepping stone to moving forward!

Losing doesn't make us a loser and failing doesn't make us a failure. However not having a plan for our losses and failures will guarantee failure.

Since failures are inevitable in battle, we must have a plan for our failures, a plan that allows us to move forward in spite of them.

Series and Sermon: The Physical Connection: The Failure Plan (Failing Forward)

“Letting Go of Past Failures, Learning from Past Failures, Advancing Beyond Past Failures”

I. Letting Go of Past Failures

Micah 7: ***8Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall***, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the LORD *shall be* a light unto me.

Proverbs 24: ¹⁵Lay not wait, O wicked *man*, against the dwelling of the righteous; spoil not his resting place:

One of the first parts to our Failure Plan that allows us to Fail Forward is a “Let Go Plan!”

This plan consists of three parts: Let Go of Enemy Failures, Let Go of Friendship Failures, Let God of Self Failures.

“Let Go of Enemy Failures”

- The failures of our enemies are when they rejoice over our failures.
- These are the people who can't wait to pounce on our failures. Either it's because of jealousy, envy, spite, or a grudge; they look for opportunities to pounce.
- Proverbs 24: (The Message)¹⁵Don't interfere with good people's lives; don't try to get the best of them.
- And when you experience this, it's hard to let it go!

“Let Go of Friendship Failures”

- These are the failures of those who are close to us who have in some way failed us. These are the ones we love, our spouses, our best friends, or our brothers and sisters in the Lord.
- We become victims of their failures to meet our needs to protect us.
- Luke 17: ¹Then said he unto the disciples, ***It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come!***

“Let Go of Self Failures”

- The self-inflicted failures of self can be perhaps the hardest to let go of. Not only did we do it, but we have to wake up every day looking at our failures.
- Micah 7:⁹I will bear the indignation of the LORD, because I have sinned against him,
- Psalm 51: ⁴Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done *this* evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, *and* be clear when thou judgest.
- Psalm 51: ⁵Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

We just become consumed with failures: the failure of enemies who rejoice at our failures, the failure of our friends who let us down and hurt us, and the failure of ourselves.

Illustration of Failing Forward – Holding on, you can't move forward, but if you let go, you will fall!

Luke 22: ³¹And the Lord said, **Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: ³²But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.**

When your enemies, friends, and even you fail, let go and fail forward into your faith!

II. Learning from Past Failures

Micah 7: ⁸Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; **when I sit in darkness, the LORD shall be a light unto me.**

When one is in darkness, they are in ignorance of what's going on around them. But when they get into the light, they become enlightened or knowledgeable.

The next part of our Failure Plan that allows us to Fail Forward is a "Learning Plan!"

Failure will either be an occasion to give up, or an opportunity to learn and move forward.

Most people tend to use the former when they fail, and just quit.

- They fail to get the promotion on the job, so they quit.
- They fail to make it in the business, so they give up.
- They fail in the ministry, so they leave.
- They fail in marriage or relationships, so they stop trying.

But failure can also be an opportunity to learn; that is, to gain knowledge and wisdom through the experiences of our failures.

The only purpose for our failures should be to learn from our past. Those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it!

The reason why we have the same fights over and over, the same arguments day after day, the same frustrations over and over is because we are not learning from history, we're repeating it!

I'm a decent preacher and good pastor not because of my successes, but because of my failures. Instead of giving up on my failures, I learned from them. Instead of dwelling on my failures, I grew from them.

Hosea 4: ⁶My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me:

When we quit because of our failure, we are rejecting its knowledge and destroying ourselves.

- John Wooden said, "Failure isn't fatal, but failure to change might be."

The Failure Plan (Failing Forward)

Page 4 of 6 (October 16, 2022)

- Thomas Edison said, “Many of life’s failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up.”
- Winston Churchill said, “Success consists of going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm.”

We must build on our failures by using them as a stepping stone:

Psalm 110: ¹The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.

When you experience failure, don’t quit because of it, fail forward by learning to make it your stepping stone.

III. Advancing Beyond Past Failures

Proverbs 24: **¹⁶For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again:** but the wicked shall fall into mischief.

- Fail Forward by Letting Go of your Past Failure and land on your Faith
- Fail Forward by Learning From your Past Failures and use them as a Stepping Stone
- Fail Forward by Advancing Beyond your Past Failures by becoming Perfected

There is a time in your life where your past failures move from being your problem and into being your praise; from what lets you down to what picks you up; from what was meant for evil to what becomes good; from what holds you back to what advances you forward.

Genesis 50: ²⁰But as for you, ye thought evil against me; *but* God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as *it is* this day, to save much people alive.

Matthew 11: ¹²And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.

Matthew 11:12 (NLT)¹² And from the time John the Baptist began preaching until now, the Kingdom of Heaven has been forcefully advancing, and violent people are attacking it.

Failures are attacks that knock us down, but we have to keep on getting up and forcefully advancing.

So how many times should we get back up again? How many times should we try again? How many times should we forgive again? How many times should we put up with it again?

Proverbs 24: **¹⁶For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again**

Seven is the number for fulfillment, completion, or perfection. In other words, we keep getting back up again until we become complete or perfected.

Psalm 138: ⁸The LORD will perfect *that which* concerneth me: thy mercy, O LORD, *endureth* for ever: forsake not the works of thine own hands.

Failing Forward Perfects Your Work:

The Failure Plan (Failing Forward)

Page 5 of 6 (October 16, 2022)

James 1: ²My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; ³Knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. ⁴But let patience have *her* perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

Failing Forward Perfects Your Battles

Deuteronomy 28: ⁷The LORD shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face: they shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways.

Failing Forward Perfects Your Victory

2 Corinthians 2: ¹⁴Now thanks *be* unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.

Philippians 1: ⁶Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ:

The Failure Plan (Failing Forward)

Page 6 of 6 (October 16, 2022)

Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: The Failure Plan (Failing Forward))

Lesson Text

- Micah 7:8-10, Proverbs 24:15-16

Sermon Outline (Notes)

- I. *Letting Go of Past Failures*
- II. *Learning From Past Failures*
- III. *Advancing Beyond Past Failures*

Questions (What was your main takeaway from Sunday's Sermon?)

I. Getting to Know "Me"

1. When it comes to making decisions, are you more of a THINKER (one who uses a more logical approach) or a FEELER (one who uses an approach based on personal values and feelings)?
2. Are you energized by 1.) being surrounded by lots of people, 2.) spending the day in solitude, or by 3.) a mixture of both?

II. Into the Bible

Read Isaiah 54:1-8 and Luke 12:16-20 to answer the following questions:

- a) What similarities and differences do you see between those instructed to enlarge their tents in Isaiah 54:2 and the rich man in the story in Luke?
- b) What were the rich man's failures?
- c) Do you think the rich man overcame his failures? State why or why not.
- d) What do you think was the failure of the people addressed in Isaiah 54 ?
- e) How did the Isaiah 54 group recover from their failure?

III. Life Application

1. After hearing Sunday's sermon, has your perspective on failing changed? What lessons have you learned from past failures?
2. What methods can be used to overcome or let go of friendship failures?