

## Sermon Discussion Questions

Resolution: Facing Failure

Feb 8, 2020

*“For the righteous falls seven times and rises again...” Proverbs 24:16*

### Getting Started:

It's NOT “if” you will fall, it's “when” you fall. But it's how quick you get up that counts.

Looking back over your life, what was one of your big falls or fails? Why do you think it happened? What did you learn from it? How did you grow and rebound?

### Going Deeper:

**Our Value before Failure:** *“For the righteous falls seven times and rises again...”*

**Your Standing:** For you are declared righteous!

**Your Significance:** For you are defended as righteous!

**Your Status:** For you are destined as righteous!

If we find our identity in what we accomplish, then failure always leads us to question our value and worth. But if we know that our identity is that we are ‘in Christ,’ saved, and belonging to His family, then our failures become opportunities to grow. How have your past failures caused you to question your identity?

**Our View towards Failure:** *“For the righteous falls seven times and rises again...”*

**The Fact of Failure:** Failure is **NOT** avoidable!

**The Fear of Failure:** Failure is **NOT** final!

**The Filter of Failure:** Failure is **NOT** a percentage, it's a process!

As broken and imperfect people, we will fall and fail often. Knowing that it is going to happen allows us to free up our mindset from a tendency to withdraw from anything that we may not be successful in, and instead move toward new opportunities ready to engage. What is something you moved into boldly, knowing that God was going to grow you through the process? What did you learn from this experience?

**Our Vision through Failure:** *“For the righteous falls seven times and rises again...”*

- Mistakes lead to **Maturity**.
- Incapability is not your **Identity**.
- Resistance produces **Rationality**
- Rejection inspires **Resiliency**
- Obstacles give **Opportunity**
- Ruin is not your **Reality**

What if you could wholeheartedly embrace the idea of learning from your falls and failures? You certainly don't want to rush into every experience foolishly, but if you knew that God was guiding you into something and that you would come out on the other side of it as a more mature and wise Christian, wouldn't that be so encouraging? What is something you're facing right now that you aren't ready to follow God into? How can we pray for you to help you take a step of faith?

**Our Victory over Failure:** *“For the righteous falls seven times and **rises again...**”*

**Gain a New Perspective:** *“I have not failed. I just found 10,000 ways that don’t work” - Thomas A. Edison*

**Accept Responsibility:** Own it!

**Examine the Reason:** Learn from it!

**Discover a Result:** Build on it!

**Grip your Known Purpose:** *“Failure doesn’t come from falling down. Failure comes from not getting back up.” - Unknown*

The Apostle Paul reminds us in Philippians 3:12-14, “Not that I have already attained perfection/maturity, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of my Christ Jesus. Christians, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

When you read Paul’s writings, you see a man who knew that who he used to be was nothing compared to what God was making him into! You and I need that same hunger to follow Christ wherever He leads knowing that everything He takes us through will make us more like Him. Keep rising and looking forward to what lies ahead!

**Take Away:** I would rather be wet in failure outside of the boat, than be dry and called a success in the boat! (Matthew 14:28-33)

**Prayer:**