

Don't Let Failure Define You

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How can *we* learn from life's inevitable setbacks instead of giving up? "Failure is an event, not a person," said Zig Ziglar. We can choose to refocus on what is true!

- See failure as an invitation to grow, asking for God's will to be done in and through you.
- Allow God to be original with His plan for your life (see Lam. 3:21-26).
- Stop focusing on yourself. Instead, focus on and find purpose in God—aware that He alone is perfect. Trust Him to transform your life and build your character (see Colossians 3:1-3).
- Discover God's power and strength for overcoming your weaknesses (see 2 Corinthians 12:9-10).
- Walk in God's compassion—both for yourself and others.

Failures by the Dozen	Possible Causes	Moving Forward
Business	Poor investments; collapse of economy; laid off or changing jobs	Hebrews 13:5
Relationship challenges	Individual choices (good or bad)	Ephesians 4:32
Dereliction of duty	Not seeing (omission) or not choosing to do (commission) what needs to be done	1 John 1:9
Missed opportunity	Fear	Psalm 34:4
Trapped in addictions	Pride (refusing help); a worship disorder; focus on fleeting pleasures	Matthew 11:28
Self-condemnation	Perfectionism; discounting Truth	Romans 8:1-3; Ephesians 2:10
Bitterness	Rejecting God's peace	Eph. 4:26-27; Philippians 4:4-7
Driven by anger or rage	Impatience, ingratitude, or choosing not to forgive	Colossians 3:12-15
Lack of motivation	Depression*; anxiety*; no purpose	Hebrews 12:1-2
Identity crisis	Ignoring God magnificent design	Psalm 139:14
Living for self	Disobedience to God	Romans 12:1-2
Hopelessness	Believing lies (about God, self, or others)	John 8:32-36

*If you're experiencing debilitating depression, anxiety, etc., professional counseling can provide help. Christian counselors in our area are listed at the South Florida Association of Christian Counselors, sfacconline.org, or at the American Association of Christian Counselors, aacc.net