

ASSESSING YOUR FAILURE – 2 CORINTHIANS 4:7-18

SERIES: *RESILIENCE IN THE LIFE OF THE BELIEVER*

¹⁶ So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, **2 Corinthians 4:16-17 (ESV)**

1. FACING THE STRONGHOLD OF FAILURE

A. Facing the Reality of Failure

⁷ But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. **2 Corinthians 4:7 (ESV)**

⁸ We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰ always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. **2 Corinthians 4:8-10 (ESV)**

² For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. **James 3:2 (ESV)**

¹³ As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him. ¹⁴ For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust. **Psalm 103:13-14 (ESV)**

B. Facing the Reason for Our Failure

¹⁷ For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸ as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal. **2 Corinthians 4:17-18 (ESV)**

- 1) We fail now to succeed later
- 2) We fail in the incidental to succeed in the important
- 3) We fail in the temporary to succeed in the eternal
- 4) We fail outwardly to succeed inwardly

C. Facing the Result of Failure

¹⁶ So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. **2 Corinthians 4:16 (ESV)**

2. FIGHTING THE STRONGHOLD OF FAILURE

A. Admit and Confess Your Failure

⁸ If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **1 John 1:8-9 (ESV)**

²² In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong. **Job 1:22 (ESV)**

B. Accept God's Forgiveness

¹⁰ He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. **Psalm 103:10 (ESV)**

C. Apply the Lessons Learned From Failure

➤ **A. W. Tozer:** "It is highly doubtful that God can use a man until he has hurt deeply."

D. Accept Failure as an Event Not a Person

➤ Failure is not final, it is a fact of life, *not a way of life*. Remember, Peter denied Christ three times, Christ forgave him, then Peter preached powerfully at Pentecost.

E. Arise From Failure and Start Over

¹ Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, ² "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you." **Jonah 3:1-2 (ESV)**

F. Avoid Judging Failure in Others

¹⁴ "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." **Luke 18:14 (NIV)**

³⁵ The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One." ³⁶ The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar **Luke 23:35-36 (NIV)**