



Leaving Behind the Fear of Failure

Listen! I had to win my match for my team to win the match.

Two pivotal truths about failure—one truth is easy to see, the other not so much:

- **Failure is inevitable.** *“People who think they will never fail are either self-deceived or too young to talk.”*
 - “We must accept brokenness and failure as part of this life and an essential aspect of maturity.” Pastor Steve Meeks.
- **Failure is redeemable.** *“People who think that failure cannot be redeemed are either uninformed or addicted to their self pity.”*
 - “There is great mystery in what God is doing in our failures and brokenness.” Pastor Steve Meeks.

Here is an example of a failure being redeemed:

- **Act One:** John Mark fails by turning back from the work. (Acts 13:13)
- **Act Two:** John Mark polarizes the community. (Acts 15:36-41)
- **Act Three:** John Mark becomes useful. (2 Timothy 4:11)

Here is how God redeems our failures:

- God convicts us of sin and we repent of sin.
- God brings mentors into our lives and we learn from them.
- God motivates restitution and we extend it.
- God enables faithfulness and we live it.

IDEA: Failures are inevitable and redeemable, and redemption is a specialty of God’s.

What will you do? Pick out the biggest unresolved failure in your life—the one that is weighing on you and sapping your emotional energy—and submit that failure to the restorative process of God discussed above: _____

“Walking Papers”

Practical helps for walking the Christian walk each day this week.

IDEA: Failures are both inevitable and redeemable...and redemption is a specialty of God's.

- **Today:** Please reflect on the life of John Mark and the process of redemption that he experienced. Can you think of a personal failure that God has redeemed in your own life and what was the process like?
- **Monday:** Why is it so hard to see the redemptive work of God in our own failures and our times of brokenness?
- **Tuesday:** In what ways have you seen the redemptive work of God in the life of another person as you watched them in failure, brokenness, and the consequences of failure?
- **Wednesday:** What is stirred up in your heart when you hear the list of failures from the God-fearing people in the Bible?
- **Thursday:** What might you need to do by way of repentance to God for a willful sin in your life?
- **Friday:** What might you need to do by way of finding a mentor to help you walk through the process of redeeming some failure—willful or accidental?
- **Saturday:** What might you need to do by way of making restitution to someone you have harmed?

God's Confronting Questions:

- *Are you willing to commit to a renewed faithfulness in some key area where you have failed and may have given up?*

Note for Connection Groups: The full study guide for small group and personal study is available at: www.cypressbible.org and then click on “Get Connected” and the link is on that page.