**Failure**

**Failure is defined as the state or condition of not meeting a desirable or intended objective, and may be viewed as the opposite of success. We will all fail at something in our life time. The question for each of us is how we will respond to it. Take a look at Abraham Lincoln’s life:**

* **1831: Failed in business.**
* **1832: Ran for state legislature – lost.**
* **1832: Also lost his job – wanted to go to law school but couldn’t get in.**
* **1833: Borrowed some money from a friend to begin a business and by the end of the year he was bankrupt. He spent the next 17 years of his life paying off this debt.**
* **1838: Sought to become speaker of the state legislature – defeated.**
* **1840: Sought to become elector – defeated.**
* **1843: Ran for Congress – lost.**
* **1846: Ran for Congress again – this time he won – went to Washington and did a good job.**
* **1848: Ran for re-election to Congress – lost.**
* **1849 Sought the job of land officer in his home state – rejected.**
* **1854: Ran for Senate of the United States – lost.**
* **1856: Sought the Vice-Presidential nomination at his party’s national convention – got less than 100 votes.**
* **1858: Ran for U.S. Senate again – again he lost.**
* **1860: Elected president of the United States.**

**Let’s see what the bible says about failure:**

[**2 Corinthians 12:9-10**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Corinthians+12%3A9-10&version=ESV) **- But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.**

[**Romans 5:3-5**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+5%3A3-5&version=ESV) **- More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.**

[**Philippians 4:13**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+4%3A13&version=ESV) **- I can do all things through him who strengthens me.**

[**Psalm 73:26**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+73%3A26&version=ESV) **- My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.**

[**Philippians 4:4-7**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+4%3A4-7&version=ESV) **- Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**

[**1 John 1:9**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+John+1%3A9&version=ESV) **- If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

[**Proverbs 24:16**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs+24%3A16&version=ESV) **- For the righteous falls seven times and rises again, but the wicked stumble in times of calamity.**

[**Galatians 6:7**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians+6%3A7&version=ESV) **- Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.**