

Huddle “Fail Forward” handouts

Ever been in the middle of something tough, prayed for rescue, and heard . . . nothing? Ever questioned God, in frustration, “Why won’t you answer?”

Could it be that God doesn’t always answer because, sometimes, he wants us to stay right where we are and learn, there, how to fight? Could it be that God sometimes allows trouble and pain to train us, to build our maturity, to make us more reliable conduits of his love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control?

We often consider trouble and pain as **unnecessary**, to be avoided, hindrances to ease and happiness. Might it make more sense to consider trouble and pain as opposition, as a mountaineer views the pitch and the altitude, or as a linebacker views the block and the fake? Or as the surfer views the waves.

We aren’t meant to be people who avoid opposition, numb it or deny it. We aren’t meant to run from battles, to hide and to let others fight. **We’re built for opposition**. Truthfully, we’d probably **wither** without it. **We must see it, though, for what it is:** “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 6:12).

Our struggle is against being lured into selfishness, indifference, impatience, rage, resignation, ...These are *epic struggles*—battles worthy of any disciple.

So How do I/We Live/Lead “As We Were Made”?

1. **Begin to Feel our Feelings, 8** -thereby **awakening** our **emotional** and **spiritual** needs, desires, longings for God which brings hope. (Check In)
2. **Tell the truth** about what is happening inside us (*because of step 1*)
3. Living our rediscovered freedom and **Let go of Control**...
Let go and let God...God for a change
4. **Call your new ideas “Experiments”**
5. **Create a Culture that Allows Failure**

Explain often that Failure is a Part of Success. ***Talk openly about your failures and what you’ve learned***

6. **Don’t Internalize Failures**.

Remember that failure is an Event, NOT a Person

7. **Debrief after Failures and Successes**

Try **AGAIN** - Most Big Successes Follow Multiple Failures.

Failure is often the Price you pay for success.

“Beware of seeing yourself through other peoples eyes. There are several dangers to this practice. First of all, it is nearly impossible to discern what others actually think of you. Moreover, their views of you are variable: subject to each viewer’s spiritual, emotional, and physical condition.

The major problem with letting others define you is that it borders on Idolatry. Your concern to please others dampens your desire to please your Creator.

It is much more real to see yourself through GOD’S Eyes. ***GOD’S gaze upon you is steady and sure, untainted by sin.*** Through HIS eyes you can see yourself as one who is deeply, Eternally Loved. Rest in HIS Loving gaze, and you will receive deep Peace. **Respond to GOD’S loving presence by worshiping HIM in Spirit and in Truth.**

To Sum: To “Fail Forward” one must understand that:

- **Failure is not an Option. It is a Necessity**
- **If you’re Not Failing, you’ve Stopped Dreaming. → You’ll eventually Stop Learning. **And you will Stop Growing.** -Successful Leaders Fail often.**
- **Failure is often the tuition for success**
- **GOD knows us, He made us, and made us On Purpose with Purpose**

The Psychology of Failure

By Sarah Cruddas 24 March 2016

If at first you don’t succeed, try, try again. Words of wisdom heralded throughout our upbringing, to be sure. But is there any scientific proof that successive failure is positive and propels innovation forwards? Tom Pohlmann, head of strategy and value at Mu Sigma, a decision science and data analytics firm, says there is, having studied in depth the idea of successive failure. “The rapid change of pace in business puts companies under pressure to innovate constantly, new technologies are making it possible to meet this challenge through on-going experimentation,” he said. **Mu Sigma’s report** shows failing fast and often is the best approach and the key to success in many areas of business.

Falling flat on your face has its upside.

The Mu Sigma researchers define this in their analysis as **“the power of extreme experimentation”,** claiming that science can demonstrate that failure drives forward innovation. This approach is echoed by engineers working in the pharmaceuticals, material sciences and automotive industries. “Those at the forefront of technology have to fly into mountains,” explained Ray Gibbs, CEO of Haydale, a material-science company based in the UK, US and South Korea that works with graphene to improve the properties of everyday materials such as inks and coatings. Gibbs believes that in order to develop any successful product you must try lots of different ideas to get to that end result, learning from the failures. Failing isn’t bad for business. It just leads to something else happening, which, if carried out correctly builds upon that failure, adds Pohlmann. Even the mighty Apple had its share of failures, such as its early hand-held computer, The Newton, which Steve Jobs swiftly killed off.

Rethinking your approach

“A lot of people still think of failure as a sign of personal incompetence and try to avoid it at all cost,” said Andrew Filev, CEO and founder of Wrike, a software firm in Mountain View, California. *“But when you view building a business as a series of experiments, you start to see failure as an inevitable step in the process.”*

“Head in your hands” over the latest failure at work? It may end up being a positive thing for the company longterm. Filev’s firm had to learn from its early failure. *“We started off providing project management services to other companies. However, as we were managing projects for our customers, it became clear that we ourselves needed a tool to work together better. We built Wrike to do just that, and soon realized that this was a problem for many other businesses, too.”* The result: Filev launched an entirely new company.

“I don’t know anyone who has built a business that hasn’t gone through a lot of challenges and had to make changes accordingly, It would be boring if it was easy.”

Of course, constantly refining an innovation is nothing new. Every design from the steam train to the domestic cooker has gone through several iterations. *“Any innovation has involved risk. There’s always a danger in trying something out that it won’t work”* explained Stitian Westlake, executive director of research at NESTA, an independent organisation that works to increase business innovation in the UK.

Changing tides

For many firms the financial crash in 2007 meant this creative process came screeching to a halt. It made companies more hesitant to take risks, more afraid of competition and time and cost pressures. But almost a decade later technology companies and digital start-ups are putting experimentation back on the map. A strategy helped by advances in technology — from Big Data, to cloud computing, reducing the cost of experimentation dramatically. The growth of the digital economy means *“knowledge is becoming faster than ever, forcing companies to think on their feet,”* Pohlmann said. *Any innovation has involved risk. There’s always a danger in trying something out that it won’t work.* One of the most important areas this applies to is in software development. Unlike, for example, building a cooker or a freezer, software is an industry where it is easy to try something out and then send updates to customers to *“iron out any creases”*. At OpenStack, a firm that creates open-source software for data centers, ***the “fail fast and often”*** philosophy has shaped innovation from the outset. The company defines itself by experimentation with new technologies, with the underlying view that real breakthroughs don’t appear on traditional long-term roadmaps but come from taking risks.

FAILING FORWARD

STEP ONE

Realize your perception and response to failure.

STEP TWO

Learn a new definition of failure.

STEP THREE

Remove the “you” from failure.

STEP FOUR

Take action and reduce your fear.

STEP FIVE

Change your response to failure by accepting responsibility.

STEP SIX

Don't let failure from outside get inside you.

STEP SEVEN

Say goodbye to yesterday.

STEP EIGHT

Change yourself and your world changes.

STEP NINE

Get over yourself and start giving yourself.

STEP TEN

Find the benefit in every bad experience.

STEP ELEVEN

If at first you do succeed, try something harder.

STEP TWELVE

Learn from a bad experience and make it a good experience.

STEP THIRTEEN

Work on the weaknesses that weaken you.

STEP FOURTEEN

Understand there's not much difference between success and failure.

STEP FIFTEEN

Get up, get *over it* and get going.

Winners or Losers

Obviously, the discussion between what makes people winners or losers in life has been going on for thousands of years.

But one thing I've noticed is that people who live lives of significance, are people who truly know themselves.

They can accurately tell you what their strengths and weaknesses are. They know where they need help, and where they need to grow. They have very few (if any) illusions when it comes to their expertise or potential. Most of all, they're remarkably humble about it all.

The rest of the population? I find that they're way off base when it comes to their own life. They're convinced they have talent where there is none, expertise that doesn't exist, and potential that no one else can see.

They assert themselves in inappropriate places, and take credit for work they didn't accomplish.

In short, they have no clue about themselves. We call it "self-awareness" and they have very little of it.

They've never taken the time to look deep into their hearts and take a cold, hard, dispassionate look at who they are and what they're made of.

How about you? Have you taken that look lately?

Editor's note: success in life is found in doing what you're best at, not what you want to be the best at, or what others you admire are the best at. Success is found in what you're passionate about and what flows naturally to you. And Christians are not exempt from this.

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