



GOD'S VIEW OF FAILURE

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(2 Chronicles 36)

The marriage that was supposed to be forever turns into a short-lived disaster. The presentation at work that should have earned a promotion completely bombs. Everyone has setbacks; everyone fails. From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible talks about the failure of people and the faithfulness of God. A careful study of Scripture reveals key principles for understanding the role of failure in spiritual growth.

THE VALUE OF FAILURE

God "is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy" (Jude 24). Jude makes it clear that God is able to keep His people from slipping, tripping, and stumbling. However, He also knows that every failure has seeds of growth. He knows that apart from failure, people would have no need for His forgiveness, His communion, or His help. In His hands, failure can be one of life's greatest teachers.

Since most people tend to avoid pain, it takes the Holy Spirit working through their circumstances to lead them into a deeper identification with the Lord. God knows that the kinds of growth experiences that are the most painful are the ones people are most likely to avoid—failure and defeat.

In God's hands, failure can refine and teach in ways that success cannot. God can use failure to draw people closer to Him. Failure reaches down into the depths of people's souls and exposes deep-seated pockets of selfishness and pride. It makes them aware of their limitations. It increases their sensitivity to others. It humbles them. It helps them understand the high calling of being a servant. It reminds people how important it is to set their minds on things above (Col. 3:2). It increases their confi-

dence that God will complete the work He began in their lives (Phil. 1:6).

FORGIVENESS OF FAILURE

Since He understands the effects of sin, God is not surprised by failure. He knows that people are frail. He also understands that we are in a battle. "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places" (Eph. 6:12).

When life is going well, it is easy for people to proclaim belief in a merciful, gracious, forgiving, and loving God. But when mistakes and failures dump them in the trenches of spiritual warfare, they find a new perspective of God as powerful, almighty, and in control. "The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, and He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; for the LORD upholds him with His hand. I have been young, and now am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his descendants begging bread" (Ps. 37:23-25).

Consider some of the better known biblical people who were broken by failure. God did not abandon them, however. They faced the consequences of their sin (sometimes severe consequences), but God forgave and continued to use them in His service:

> Adam and Eve sinned and were cast out of the Garden of Eden.

> Moses murdered an Egyptian and it cost him forty years in the wilderness.

> Moses struck the rock and it cost him entrance into the Promised Land.

> Abraham started strong, but got caught in a series of lies.

> David's sin of adultery and murder cost him his integrity and the life of his son.

> Elijah allowed his depression to get so far out of control that he begged God to take his life.

> Jonah initially rejected God's plan for him.

> Peter proclaimed loyalty to Jesus and then denied ever knowing Him.

Sin and failure are a part of being human. First John 2:1 says, "My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin." God's will for people is that they don't sin. We should do all that we can to avoid sin. If the text stopped there, however, it would be rather discouraging. However, John continues, "And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world" (1 John 2:1, 2). God abhors sin, but He can use what He hates to drive us to the Cross where we find forgiveness, renewed perspective, and grace to move forward.

IN GOD'S HANDS, FAILURE ISN'T FINAL

Our first response to failure is often to focus on the failure and to panic. "My ministry is over." "God will never be able to use me again." "My kids will be damaged for life." Although we must be concerned with the present, it is dangerous to develop myopic blinders for the here and now. We need to think and pray about how to cope for today, but we must also ask God to help us

put the failure in the proper perspective and to help us learn what we need to from it.

Our failures can be used as stepping-stones to a deeper relationship with God. Having failed, we can still be successful in God's sight because of the incredible generosity of God's forgiveness and acceptance—for His grace not only covers our failures, it is actually able to transform them.

FURTHER MEDITATION:

Other passages to study about the issue of failure include:

> Deuteronomy 31:6

> Psalms 56; 69:5; 73:26

> Isaiah 43:16-19

> Luke 22:32

> 2 Corinthians 12:9

> Hebrews 12:1, 2

> 1 Peter 1:6-9

To Learn More: Turn to the key passage note on failure at Proverbs 24:16 on page 834. See also the personality profile of Peter on page 1359.

hoiakim. And Necho took Jehoahaz^b his brother and carried him off to Egypt.

THE REIGN AND CAPTIVITY OF JEHOIAKIM

⁵Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. And he did evil in the sight of the LORD his God. ⁶Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up against him, and bound him in bronze fetters to carry him off to Babylon. ⁷Nebuchadnezzar also carried off some of the articles from the house of the LORD to Babylon, and put them in his temple at Babylon. ⁸Now the rest of the acts of Jehoiakim, the abominations which he did, and what was found against him, indeed they are written in the book of the kings of Israel and Judah. Then Jehoiachin his son reigned in his place.

THE REIGN AND CAPTIVITY OF JEHOIACHIN

⁹Jehoiachin was eight^a years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem three months and ten days. And he did evil in the sight of the LORD. ¹⁰At the turn of the year King Nebuchadnezzar summoned him and took him to Babylon, with the costly articles from the house of the LORD, and made Zedekiah, *Jehoiakim's*^a brother, king over Judah and Jerusalem.

ZEDEKIAH REIGNS IN JUDAH

¹¹Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. ¹²He did evil in the sight of the LORD his God, and did not humble himself before Jeremiah the prophet, who spoke from the mouth of the LORD. ¹³And he also rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him swear an oath by God; but he stiffened his neck and hardened his heart against turning to the LORD God of Israel. ¹⁴Moreover all the leaders of the priests and the people transgressed more and more, according to all the abomina-

tions of the nations, and defiled the house of the LORD which He had consecrated in Jerusalem.

THE FALL OF JERUSALEM

¹⁵And the LORD God of their fathers sent warnings to them by His messengers, rising up early and sending them, because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place. ¹⁶But they mocked the messengers of God, despised His words, and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against His people, till there was no remedy.

¹⁷Therefore He brought against them the king of the Chaldeans, who killed their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion on young man or virgin, on the aged or the weak; He gave them all into his hand. ¹⁸And all the articles from the house of God, great and small, the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king and of his leaders, all these he took to Babylon. ¹⁹Then they burned the house of God, broke down the wall of Jerusalem, burned all its palaces with fire, and destroyed all its precious possessions. ²⁰And those who escaped from the sword he carried away to Babylon, where they became servants to him and his sons until the rule of the kingdom of Persia, ²¹to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her Sabbaths. As long as she lay desolate she kept Sabbath, to fulfill seventy years.

THE PROCLAMATION OF CYRUS

²²Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred

36:4 ^bMasoretic Text reads *Joahaz*. **36:9** ^aSome Hebrew manuscripts, Septuagint, Syriac, and 2 Kings 24:8 read *eighteen*. **36:10** ^aLiterally *his* (compare 2 Kings 24:17)

SOUL NOTE



No Remedy (36:5-8) Jehoiakim got the dubious honor of being the king when Nebuchadnezzar overcame the nation and took them into captivity. He had failed his nation, but the final collapse of Judah was the result of the kings' and people's long series of wrong choices. Despite temporary reprieves during the reigns of a few good kings, Judah was at a final point of spiritual and moral decay. Judah had set a course of disobedience against God until "there was no remedy" (36:16). The nation's failure came as a result of its disobedience to God. **Topic: Failure**

Or like one who lies at the top of the mast, *saying*:
³⁵ "They have struck me, *but* I was not hurt;
 They have beaten me, *but* I did not feel it.
 When shall I awake, that I may seek another *drink*?"

24 Do not be envious of evil men,
 Nor desire to be with them;
² For their heart devises violence,
 And their lips talk of troublemaking.

³ Through wisdom a house is built,
 And by understanding it is established;
⁴ By knowledge the rooms are filled
 With all precious and pleasant riches.

⁵ A wise man *is* strong,
 Yes, a man of knowledge increases strength;
⁶ For by wise counsel you will wage your own war,
 And in a multitude of counselors *there is* safety.

⁷ Wisdom *is* too lofty for a fool;
 He does not open his mouth in the gate.

He who plots to do evil
 Will be called a schemer.

⁹ The devising of foolishness *is* sin,

And the scoffer *is* an abomination to men.

¹⁰ If you faint in the day of adversity,
 Your strength *is* small.

¹¹ Deliver *those who* are drawn toward death,
 And hold back *those* stumbling to the slaughter.

¹² If you say, "Surely we did not know this,"
 Does not He who weighs the hearts consider *it*?
 He who keeps your soul, does He *not* know *it*?
 And will He *not* render to *each* man according to his deeds?

¹³ My son, eat honey because *it is* good,
 And the honeycomb *which is* sweet to your taste;

¹⁴ So *shall* the knowledge of wisdom *be* to your soul;
 If you have found *it*, there is a prospect,
 And your hope will not be cut off.

¹⁵ Do not lie in wait, O wicked *man*,
 against the dwelling of the righteous;
 Do not plunder his resting place;

¹⁶ For a righteous *man* may fall seven times
 and rise again,
 But the wicked shall fall by calamity.

KEY PASSAGE



Failure

TRY AGAIN

(24:16)

Failure is never final until a person quits trying. As the person continues to try, failure is really no more than a setback, a possibility to learn from mistakes and try again. This verse contrasts the righteous person and the wicked person. The righteous person may fail time and time again, but they continue to "rise again," to get up and keep trying. When the wicked person fails, however, they are led into a downward spiral that causes "calamity." There is no recovery, no learning, no more trying.

Failure is a part of the human experience. It can be painful and embarrassing, but it can also be a great teacher. God's definition of success does not preclude failure, but it includes a willingness to refuse to quit, to learn from one's mistakes, and to try again. Failure can be our greatest teacher.

To Learn More: Turn to the article about failure on pages 586, 587. See also the personality profile of Peter on page 1359.

of the twelve, went before them and drew near to Jesus to kiss Him. ⁴⁸But Jesus said to him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"

⁴⁹When those around Him saw what was going to happen, they said to Him, "Lord, shall we strike with the sword?" ⁵⁰And one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear.

⁵¹But Jesus answered and said, "Permit even this." And He touched his ear and healed him.

⁵²Then Jesus said to the chief priests, captains of the temple, and the elders who had come to Him, "Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs? ⁵³When I was with you daily in the temple, you did not try to seize Me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness."

PETER DENIES JESUS, AND WEEPS BITTERLY

⁵⁴Having arrested Him, they led Him and brought Him into the high priest's house. But Peter followed at a distance. ⁵⁵Now when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. ⁵⁶And a certain servant girl, seeing him as he sat by the fire, looked intently at him and said, "This man was also with Him."

⁵⁷But he denied Him,^a saying, "Woman, I do not know Him."

⁵⁸And after a little while another saw him and said, "You also are of them."

But Peter said, "Man, I am not!"

⁵⁹Then after about an hour had passed, another confidently affirmed, saying, "Surely

22:57 ^aNU-Text reads *denied it*.

PERSONALITY PROFILE



Failure

PETER: FAILURE IS NOT FOREVER

(LUKE 22:54-62)

Peter had a flair for sticking his foot in his mouth. His ability to speak up would eventually be used by God for great purposes; first, however, God would deal with Peter's impulsiveness and streak of temper. Peter's story reveals a man who learned God's lessons well, allowing God to take his failures and use them for His glory.

Peter had boldly told Jesus, "Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble" (Matt. 26:33). Peter insisted that he would never fail, but Jesus stopped Peter's bravado short when He told him that failure would indeed come that very night. Peter surely hoped to instead prove his loyalty to Jesus. In the garden, Peter attempted to defend Jesus in Gethsemane, using his sword and wounding a man. He then followed Jesus to the courtyard of the High Priest's residence, refusing to stay behind. He sat around the fire, trying to stay warm in the chilly dawn air. And the rest of the story reveals the tragic truth of Peter's failure, as he denies having any relationship with or knowledge of Jesus.

In truth, Peter's failure had begun the moment he insisted that he would never fail. His bravado had to be tamed, or he could never be the servant Christ would need in His church. When Peter looked into Jesus' eyes moments after his third denial, the proud servant realized what he had done, and "went out and wept bitterly."

Unlike his fellow disciple, Judas, who killed himself, Peter repented of his sin and was forgiven and restored by Christ (John 21:15-17). Broken by his failure, Peter emerged a stronger, humbler man, able to be used greatly in the growth of the early church.

Failure can destroy us, or it can immobilize us, or it can simply teach us a lesson about what *not* to do. Failure can rub off our rough spots and soften our hard hearts. It can be the first step toward being a great success. God can use our failures to make us the people He wants us to be.

To Learn More: Turn to the article about failure on pages 586, 587. See also the key passage note at Proverbs 24:16 on page 834.

²⁴When the people saw him, they praised their god; for they said:

“Our god has delivered into our hands
our enemy,
The destroyer of our land,
And the one who multiplied our dead.”

²⁵So it happened, when their hearts were merry, that they said, “Call for Samson, that he may perform for us.” So they called for Samson from the prison, and he performed for them. And they stationed him between the pillars. ²⁶Then Samson said to the lad who held him by the hand, “Let me feel the pillars which support the temple, so that I can lean on them.” ²⁷Now the temple was full of men and women. All the lords of the Philistines were there—about three thousand men and women on the roof watching while Samson performed.

²⁸Then Samson called to the LORD, saying, “O Lord God, remember me, I pray! Strengthen me, I pray, just this once, O God, that I may with one *blow* take vengeance on the Philistines for my two eyes!” ²⁹And Samson took hold of the two middle pillars which supported the temple, and he braced himself against them, one on his right and the other on his left. ³⁰Then Samson said, “Let me die with the Philistines!” And he pushed with *all his* might, and the temple fell on the lords and all the people who were in it. So the dead that he killed at his death were more than he had killed in his life.

³¹And his brothers and all his father’s household came down and took him, and brought him up and buried him between Zorah and Eshiaol in the tomb of his father Manoah. He had judged Israel twenty years.

MICAH’S IDOLATRY

17 Now there was a man from the mountains of Ephraim, whose name was Micah. ²And he said to his mother, “The eleven hundred *shekels* of silver that were taken from you, and on which you put a curse, even saying it in my ears—here is the silver with me; I took it.”

And his mother said, “May you be blessed by the LORD, my son!” ³So when he had returned the eleven hundred *shekels* of silver to his mother, his mother said, “I had wholly dedicated the silver from my hand to the LORD for my son, to make a carved image and a molded image; now therefore, I will return it to you.” ⁴Thus he returned the silver to his mother. Then his mother took two hundred *shekels* of silver and gave them to the silversmith, and he made it into a carved image and a molded image; and they were in the house of Micah.

⁵The man Micah had a shrine, and made an ephod and household idols; and he consecrated one of his sons, who became his priest. ⁶In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did *what was* right in his own eyes.

⁷Now there was a young man from Bethlehem in Judah, of the family of Judah; he was a Levite, and was staying there. ⁸The man departed from the city of Bethlehem in Judah to stay wherever he could find a place. Then he came to the mountains of Ephraim, to the house of Micah, as he journeyed. ⁹And Micah said to him, “Where do you come from?”

So he said to him, “I am a Levite from Bethlehem in Judah, and I am on my way to find a place to stay.”

¹⁰Micah said to him, “Dwell with me, and

17:5 ^aHebrew *teraphim*



SOUL NOTE

Never Too Late (16:28–30) Samson once had great potential. He had been set apart by God to “begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines” (13:5). Yet at the end of his life, he was a blinded prisoner, chained in a Philistine temple. Samson had failed God in many ways, but in the end, God still used him to accomplish His purposes. As the pagan temple crashed down, Samson killed many Philistines and began to free Israel from them. No matter how badly we have failed God, it is never too late to return to Him and let Him work through us. **Topic: Failure**

- Do not fret because of him who prospers
in his way,
Because of the man who brings wicked
schemes to pass.
- 8 Cease from anger, and forsake wrath;
Do not fret—it only *causes* harm.
- 9 For evildoers shall be cut off;
But those who wait on the LORD,
They shall inherit the earth.
- 10 For yet a little while and the wicked
shall be no more;
Indeed, you will look carefully for his
place,
But it *shall be no more*.
- 11 But the meek shall inherit the earth,
And shall delight themselves in the
abundance of peace.
- 12 The wicked plots against the just,
And gnashes at him with his teeth.
- 13 The Lord laughs at him,
For He sees that his day is coming.
- 14 The wicked have drawn the sword
And have bent their bow,
To cast down the poor and needy,
To slay those who are of upright
conduct.
- 15 Their sword shall enter their own heart,
And their bows shall be broken.
- 16 A little that a righteous man has
Is better than the riches of many wicked.
- 17 For the arms of the wicked shall be
broken,
But the LORD upholds the righteous.
- 18 The LORD knows the days of the upright,
And their inheritance shall be
forever.
- 19 They shall not be ashamed in the evil
time,
- And in the days of famine they shall be
satisfied.
- 20 But the wicked shall perish;
And the enemies of the LORD,
Like the splendor of the meadows, shall
vanish.
Into smoke they shall vanish away.
- 21 The wicked borrows and does not repay,
But the righteous shows mercy and
gives.
- 22 For those blessed by Him shall inherit
the earth,
But those cursed by Him shall be cut off.
- 23 The steps of a good man are ordered by
the LORD,
And He delights in his way.
- 24 Though he fall, he shall not be utterly
cast down;
For the LORD upholds him with His
hand.
- I have been young, and *now* am old;
Yet I have not seen the righteous
forsaken,
Nor his descendants begging bread.
He is ever merciful, and lends;
And his descendants *are* blessed.
- 27 Depart from evil, and do good;
And dwell forevermore.
- 28 For the LORD loves justice,
And does not forsake His saints;
They are preserved forever,
But the descendants of the wicked shall
be cut off.
- 29 The righteous shall inherit the land,
And dwell in it forever.
- 30 The mouth of the righteous speaks
wisdom,

SOUL NOTE



Don't Give Up (37:23, 24) Following God, having our steps "ordered by the LORD," does not guarantee success in every endeavor. In fact, some lessons that God wants to teach can only come through failure. When God's people fail, however, He does not allow them to be "utterly cast down." Instead, He helps them back up so that they can learn what He wants to teach them and move on toward success. The only real failures are those who give up on God and refuse to get up and go on.

Topic: Failure

15 "You shall sow, but not reap;
You shall tread the olives, but not anoint
yourselves with oil;
And *make* sweet wine, but not drink
wine.

16 For the statutes of Omri are kept;
All the works of Ahab's house *are*
done;

And you walk in their counsels,
That I may make
you a

desolation,
And your
inhabitants a
hissing.

Therefore you shall
bear the
reproach of My people."^a

The day of your watchman and your
punishment comes;
Now shall be their perplexity.

5 Do not trust in a friend;
Do not put your confidence in a
companion;
Guard the doors of your mouth
From her who lies in your bosom.

6 For son dishonors
father,

Daughter rises
against her
mother,

Daughter-in-law
against her
mother-in-law;

Therefore I will look to the LORD;
I will wait for the God of my
salvation; my God will hear me.

MICAH 7:7

A man's enemies *are* the men of his own
household.

7 Therefore I will look to the LORD;
I will wait for the God of my salvation;
My God will hear me.

SORROW FOR ISRAEL'S SINS

7 Woe is me!
For I am like those who gather summer
fruits,
Like those who glean vintage grapes;
There is no cluster to eat
Of the first-ripe fruit *which* my soul
desires.

2 The faithful *man* has perished from the
earth,
And *there is no* one upright among men.
They all lie in wait for blood;
Every man hunts his brother with a net.

3 That they may successfully do evil with
both hands—
The prince asks *for* gifts,
The judge *seeks* a bribe,
And the great *man* utters his evil desire;
So they scheme together.
The best of them *is* like a brier;
The most upright *is sharper* than a thorn
hedge;

ISRAEL'S CONFESSION AND COMFORT

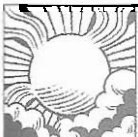
Do not rejoice over me, my enemy;
When I fall, I will arise;
When I sit in darkness,
The LORD *will be* a light to me.
I will bear the indignation of the
LORD,

Because I have sinned against Him,
Until He pleads my case
And executes justice for me.
He will bring me forth to the light;
I will see His righteousness.

10 Then *she who is* my enemy will see,
And shame will cover her who said to
me,

"Where is the LORD your God?"

6:16 ^aFollowing Masoretic Text, Targum, and
Vulgate; Septuagint reads *of nations*.



SOUL NOTE

Redeeming Failure (7:7, 8) Judah had failed miserably. God had punished them for their sins, and Judah's enemies were rejoicing over their fall. Micah outlined what the people were to do when they were at their lowest point. Instead of listening to their enemies' taunts, they were to look to God and wait for Him.

After their fall, they would arise. In the darkness, God would be a light. Judah's God is the Savior of all believers. Even if we have miserably failed. He wants to pick us up and pull us out of the darkness. With God, failure is never final. **Topic: Failure**

GREETING

1 Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ,

To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops^a and deacons:

²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

THANKFULNESS AND PRAYER

³I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, ⁴always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, ⁵for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ; ⁷just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart. inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace. ⁸For God is my witness. how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ.

⁹And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, ¹¹being filled with the fruits of righteousness which *are* by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ.

PHILIPPIANS 1:9, 10

turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, ¹³so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ; ¹⁴and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

¹⁵Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from goodwill: ¹⁶The former^a preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains; ¹⁷but the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel. ¹⁸What then? Only *that* in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice.

TO LIVE IS CHRIST

¹⁹For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, ²⁰according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²²But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my

labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³For^a I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, *which is far better.* ²⁴Nevertheless to remain in

CHRIST IS PREACHED

¹²But I want you to know, brethren, that the things *which happened* to me have actually

1:1 ^aLiterally *overseers* 1:16 ^aNU-Text reverses the contents of verses 16 and 17. 1:23 ^aNU-Text and M-Text read *But*.



SOUL NOTE

His Handiwork (1:6) The process of Christian growth and maturity begins when we accept Jesus as Savior. As believers we still struggle with a sin nature, and we will fail at times. God helps us to grow and mature all through our lives.

We won't be perfect until we are with Christ. In the meantime, when we feel discouraged or distressed by our failures, we just need to remember that God won't give up on us. He began His good work in us and will complete it when we meet Him face to face.

Topic: Failure