



## *When Failure Becomes Success*



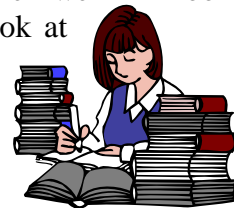
Have you ever felt like a failure? We all have at some time; but did you ever stop to think that the only way you can fail is if you attempt to succeed at something. If you never try to succeed in anything, you will never fail. But, sitting on the sidelines of life because you're afraid you will fail if you get in there and try, is really not succeeding, it is just existing.

There is adventure in trying to succeed at something! Whether it's trying to be the best mother you can be; the best Christian you can be; or the best person you can be. Especially since there is no success or failure in this life in God's eyes, there is only love and obedience. This life on earth is just the training ground for our eternal life with God. He wants us to learn through all of life's experiences to love Him and trust Him.



The reason it is so important that we learn the mercy and compassion of His love, and the wisdom and understanding of His trustfulness is because in the life to come, we as born again believers in Jesus Christ are going to judge the world, and the angels! The Bible tells us so! It says, *"Do you not know that the Christians will one day judge and govern the world . . . Do you not know also that we Christians are to judge the very angels, between right and wrong for them? How much more then should we be able to judge pertaining to this world and of this life only!"* (1 Cor. 6:2-3 AMP)

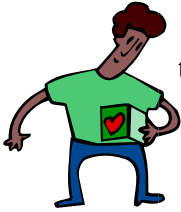
See how important it is to let our experiences, good or bad, be teachers to us, and not stumbling blocks or tombstones where hopes and joy have died? When we look at our successes or failures, it puts them in a different light if we look at them as learning experiences instead of personal achievements or flops. If we look at them as part of the big picture that includes not just this life, but our eternal life, successes and failures are not separate. This life is preparation for the other. This life is only seeking perfection, the other is obtaining perfection.



When we recognize that we are living the first part of our eternal life now, and there is no break from this life to the next, then we won't be so focused on the trials and tribulations that we encounter every day in these human bodies. It is our spirit and soul in this body that learns godliness and the Nature of God; it is our spirit that gets "born again," and our soul that develops the personal knowledge of God and Jesus; it is our spirit and soul, that go to be with God the Father, and Jesus our Lord, for all eternity when this earth suit we call our body wears out.

(Cont'd)

Our soul is part of our spirit; the part that deals with our humanness. So when the Bible speaks of the soul – it is speaking of the part of your spirit that pays attention to everything about your body and being human; - our mind, our will, our emotions, and the physical parts of our body. The other part of the spirit, is the part that pays attention to everything about God and being spiritual. So when Ecclesiastes 12:7 tells us, *“Then shall the dust (man’s body – see Gen. 2:7) return to the earth as it was, and the spirit shall return to God who gave it,”* it speaks of the spirit and the soul which are the immortal, eternal part of us. We are promised a new body that is not made of flesh and so it will never die. *“You have been born again – not from a mortal seed but from one that is immortal (lives forever) by the ever living and everlasting Word of God.”* (I Peter 1:23)



It’s hard to believe these things we are talking about are true, isn’t it? But, that’s what is so wonderful about God, He does it anyway whether we believe it or not. He never changes, He is the same yesterday, today and forever, and everything He says in the Bible is going to happen whether anyone ever believes it or not.

I John 3:2,3 says *“Beloved, now are we the children of God, and it does not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall resemble Him in appearance and character and be like Him; for we shall see Him just as He really is. And everyone who has this hope, cleanses and purifies himself (or herself) morally, just as He is pure – undefiled, guiltless.”*

That is the reason we always try to make things be right and perfect in our lives. It’s that spirit of God in us, urging us to turn away from doing wrong things that are not like the moral character that God has. He wants you to learn righteousness and truth to make this earthly life good for you, and to prepare you for the eternal life He has planned for you. So, the next time a test or trial or difficult situation arises in your life, ask God, “What do you want me to learn from this?” If you get quiet before Him, thoughts will come to your mind that you know are an answer from God – and you will know He put them there by His Spirit to tell you the truth He wants you to learn from your problem or situation, so you can store it up for wisdom and knowledge in this life and the life to come.



*“. . . The person who is joined unto the Lord (born again) becomes one Spirit with Him.”* (1 Corinthians 6:17)



## *When Failure Becomes Success*

1. Can you think of something you feel that you failed at?

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2. Were you trying to do it right to succeed at it?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

3. Can you see anything that you learned from it?

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4. Why is it so important to learn from your failures?

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5. What is the wrong way to think of your failures?

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6. What is the right way to look at them?

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7. What part of us learns godliness and the divine Nature from God?

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8. What part of us goes to be forever with God when we put off our earth suit?

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9. What is your soul?

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10. What happens when we accept Jesus as our Savior? (1 Corinthians 6:17)  
(The answer to this question will be your memory verse)

MEMORY VERSE \_\_\_\_\_

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## *When Failure Becomes Success*

1. Can you think of something you feel that you failed at?

(Your own personal answer)

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2. Were you trying to do it right to succeed at it?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

3. Can you see anything that you learned from it?

I learned \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Why is it so important to learn from your failures?

Because born again believers are going to judge the world, and angels.

5. What is the wrong way to think of your failures?

As stumbling blocks that get in my way and keep me from moving on, or tombstones that I keep re-visiting where hope and joy died.

6. What is the right way to look at them?

As part of the big picture that includes my eternal life with God.

7. What part of us learns godliness and the divine Nature from God?

Our spirit and soul.

8. What part of us goes to be forever with God when we put off our earth suit?

Our spirit and soul.

9. What is your soul?

The part of my spirit that deals with my body and being human – my mind, my will, my emotions, and the physical parts of my body.

10. What happens when we accept Jesus as our savior? (1 Corinthians 6:17)

MEMORY VERSE “The person who is joined unto the Lord becomes one Spirit with Him.”