

Overcoming Failure
Luke 15:11-20 (NIV)
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You ever have one of those days where you encountered setback after setback, disappointment after disappointment, letdown after letdown.....things just don't seem to go right? People even begin to look at you like a failure and label you like one. Then you start to look back on life and you can only see a mountain of failures and you think the day you're having is just typical of your entire life? You must remember that we all fail but we get up and conquer the next mountain. You are not a failure, but a conqueror. Look at your victories and count your blessings.

If we are going to be successful, we must try. Trying isn't a bad thing.

1. If we are going to overcome failure, we must first fail? Luke 15:13-14 (NIV, NCV)
 - a. Don't be afraid to fail
 - b. Don't be wasteful – “squandered his wealth”
 - c. Don't forget uncontrollable circumstances will come

2. If we are going to overcome failure, we must do something different – Luke 15:15-16 (NIV, NCV)
 - a. Don't be afraid to do something even if it is beneath you
 - b. Don't let your belly talk to you before you think

NCV - 16 The son was so hungry that he wanted to eat the pods the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

3. If we are going to overcome failure, we must know that failure is not final – Proverbs 24:16 (NIV), Luke 15:17-20 (NIV)
 - a. The righteous fall, but they get up - Proverbs 24:16 (NIV)
 - b. God is joined to those who have failed - Jeremiah 3:14 (KJV, CEV)

(CEV) 14 You are unfaithful children, but you belong to me. Come home! I'll take one or two of you from each town and clan and bring you to Zion.

4. If we are going to recover from failure, you must ignore those who aren't happy when you are restored – Luke 15:25-32 (NIV)
 - a. Learn to be happy for those who return
 - b. Learn to celebrate those who return
 - c. Stop focusing on yourself when others are restored and celebrated – Luke 15:28-30 (NIV)

5. Remember being blind with selfishness will cause you to be blind to what you have – Luke 15:31-32 (NIV)