

Big Idea

Everyone fears failure and everyone fails. The righteous man, however, gets back up! He rises again! Fear of failure tells us that we are not good enough. We aren't smart enough. We aren't enough. God tells us we are chosen. He has given us a spirit of power, love and of a sound mind. Galatians 6:9 says this: "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Like Peter, God will first do something *in* us before He does something *through* us.

- You will fail: Failure is an inevitable part of learning. It's a critical step in the journey to success. It's through this period that God does something on the inside of us. He makes us stronger, able to endure. (Romans 5:3-4: "...but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.")
- You can overcome: "Failure is an event, never a person." – Zig Ziglar; While the lesson of failing is not the most pleasurable part of our journey, we can trust that on the other side awaits the work that God plans to do through us. When our focus is on His purpose, we find the Godly motivation to keep going. The spirit of power!
- You must take faith risks: Sometimes, after we stumble, it seems safe to avoid the possibility of failing, again. It can often seem crazy or ridiculous to try again... but without faith, it is impossible to please God. We cannot bury our talents out of fear and please God. (Matthew Ch. 25:24-25, 28)

So often our fear of failing leads to our greatest pain. The pain of regret. Regret of losing a dream, regret of letting loved ones down, regret of letting God down... Fear can lead us to a place of despair and wants to keep us hostage. Faith gives us peace and hope and sets us apart as Believers.

Discussion Questions

- Talk about a time in the past when you failed. How did you deal with?
- Share an area of life that you're currently afraid you will fail in?
- Do you tend to give up because of the fear of failure?
- Talk about a time you took a faith risk. Was it successful? How long did it take to see success?
- What area of your life do you need to invite God to give you a spirit of power?
- How can we practice exercising faith over fear in our daily lives?

Next Steps

- How can we pray for you this week? Write down each person's prayer requests and make it a point to pray for them and text them with an encouraging word at some point this week.
- Practice choosing faith over fear this week.
- Take note of what areas you feel uneasy about and pray for the Lord's spirit of power, love and sound mind.

Pray

- Pray that each person choose faith over fear of failing.
- Ask God to give you peace and wisdom in your thoughts and decision making.
- Pray for protection against the spirit of fear in our uncertainty.
- Pray for our first responders, doctors, and those providing aid to the sick.