

**Reading:** I Samuel 15:16-23

**Topic:** Dealing With Failure  
And Success

**INTRODUCTION:** Many people who are or who \_\_\_\_\_ involved in ministry and leadership will experience both times of great success and also some times of failure and \_\_\_\_\_.

## I. THE TIME OF FAILURE:

### A. The Down Time:

1. Most all people who achieve \_\_\_\_\_ have gone through failure first, and not just one time, but several times, before things turned around and became \_\_\_\_\_ for them.
2. Some well-known names from history walked the road of \_\_\_\_\_ before things began to work out for them:
  - a. Thomas Edison – known as the inventor of the \_\_\_\_\_ bulb, failed over 2,000 times before he finally achieved success.
  - b. Abraham Lincoln – known as one of the most famous of U.S.A. presidents experienced \_\_\_\_\_ and setbacks – two failures in business, a nervous breakdown, and \_\_\_\_\_ electoral defeats before he was elected president.
  - c. Henry Ford – the famous inventor of the assembly line and the affordable \_\_\_\_\_ made a huge mistake on his first built automobile – he forgot to put the reverse \_\_\_\_\_ in the transmission.
3. Some of the great people of the Word of God went through \_\_\_\_\_ of failure and setbacks before attaining \_\_\_\_\_ and success:
  - a. King David – he was anointed by the \_\_\_\_\_ Samuel to be the King of Israel in the place of Saul, but he spent four years of his young life running from death threats by Saul and another four years living in exile in Ziklag, where he had one dreadful \_\_\_\_\_. I Sam. 30:1-4
  - b. Job – This man was a very successful and blessed man but he experienced a huge \_\_\_\_\_ very suddenly and unexpectedly where he \_\_\_\_\_ everything. Job 1:20-22
  - c. The Apostle Paul – he had a supernatural encounter with \_\_\_\_\_ and was miraculously converted, but before he became the Apostle, he experienced rejection and opposition from all sides. Acts 9:22-26

### B. A Learning Time:

1. When one passes through the time of setbacks and \_\_\_\_\_, it results in some people giving up and quitting the journey to achievement and \_\_\_\_\_. I Cor. 10:1-5
2. Some people fail to understand that failure does something to \_\_\_\_\_ a maturity and dependence upon God that we cannot learn any other way. 2 Cor. 12:7-10
3. The people who accept a failure and choose to \_\_\_\_\_ upon it are the ones who become successful and victorious in the future. Pr. 24:16

## II. THE TIME OF SUCCESS:

### A. The Up Time:

1. When one arrives at a place of success and overcoming \_\_\_\_\_, there is cause for rejoicing and celebration, for that which \_\_\_\_\_ has been striving for has finally been achieved. I Sam. 10:21-24
2. The children of Israel had \_\_\_\_\_ four hundred years to be delivered from bondage in Egypt and when deliverance was finally achieved by God's power, they \_\_\_\_\_ exceedingly! Ex. 15:19-21

3. When Solomon, the son of David was crowned to be the third \_\_\_\_\_ of Israel, it was a great time of rejoicing and celebration as Israel was maturing as a \_\_\_\_\_ nation. I Kings 1:38-40
4. Achievement and success are to be celebrated when one has strived through the \_\_\_\_\_ and times of opposition but now has overcome to \_\_\_\_\_ in victory! Micah 7:8

### ***B. The Danger Time:***

1. It is very essential to learn that dealing with success wisely will save one from great \_\_\_\_\_ and danger that has destroyed many who have achieved the \_\_\_\_\_ of the top.
2. It is noteworthy to observe the following:
  - a. King Saul did not suffer or struggle before he was crowned \_\_\_\_\_ of Israel, but he was chosen for humble spirit, yet in the end his \_\_\_\_\_ lifted him up with pride and ruined him. I Sam. 15:17
  - b. King Solomon had the throne handed to him by his father David, so he did not have to \_\_\_\_\_ or fight to receive the honor of being \_\_\_\_\_, but in the end success destroyed him.
  - c. King David was the one who struggled and suffered and nearly lost his \_\_\_\_\_ but when he became the \_\_\_\_\_, he remained humble and dependent upon God until the end of his life.
  - d. When the Children of Israel were about to \_\_\_\_\_ the Promised Land, they were admonished by the Lord through Moses that when they achieved success to never \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord God who made it all possible, but sadly, their prosperity and success \_\_\_\_\_ to their downfall. Deut. 6:10-12

## **III. WISE OBSERVATIONS:**

### ***A. Reaction To Failure:***

1. Some people do not accomplish much in life or for God because they have a \_\_\_\_\_ of failure, but it is a true saying, "The only people who have never failed are the people who have done \_\_\_\_\_."
2. Failure can \_\_\_\_\_ you or \_\_\_\_\_ you depending on your reaction to it – for some people allow failure to keep them from ever trying to do anything for God again, while others use the experience to gain insight and then \_\_\_\_\_ from their mistakes.

### ***B. Reaction To Success:***

1. Some people have achieved great things but then have been destroyed by \_\_\_\_\_ because they allow pride to creep into their hearts and they become full of themselves.
2. There are many others who have achieved greatness and \_\_\_\_\_, yet they have remained humble and grateful to God for what He has accomplished through them.

**CONCLUSION:** Failure and success can either \_\_\_\_\_ you or \_\_\_\_\_ you, depending upon your reaction to it. Do not let failure defeat you, nor let success ruin you.