




THE SUNDAY MESSAGE

THE OBSTACLE OF FAILURE


sunday 27 june

Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These notes are for people wanting to overcome the obstacle of failure and regrets.

What do you think when you hear this statement: failure isn't final?


Probably something like this. If you are still in the midst of the pain from a failure you are thinking it certainly feels like it is final. If the failure was sometime in the past but the memory and consequences are still fresh it may not feel like it was final but it certainly doesn't feel great.  **James 4:13-16** is actually more positive than it first appears.

The facts are that if we've followed Jesus, repented and confessed Him as Lord then these few years in our bodies will pass and we will live forever free from failure – it is not final. Failure is magnified in our minds when we shrink the place eternity spent in Heaven with God and all the saints occupies in our minds.

 Look at **John 19:17-20**. Jesus knew something no one else knew, not his friends, family, bystanders, enemies, demons or Satan. He knew where he was going and how he was going to get there and he knew the true nature of his Father in heaven. As [Leeland](#) sing in [Via Dolorosa](#) *Jesus fixed His eyes upon the new horizon, Soon He would arise, And the world would be forgiven.*

Can you look at a new horizon in your life?

We did it once before when we turned from sin and were saved. It can happen again. Plenty of us have seen failures, regrets or things we wished were different and we turned away from them. In doing this we broke the power of the past. Here is a symbolic act you might want to do so that you permanently write this moment in your mind and in doing so overwrite the power of the past memory of failure and regret. Yeah it can seem odd, but you should read acts of the acts God had people do in the Bible! Stand up, think about the past failure and how it grips your memory, self-belief and decisions even now. Now turn 180° (face the other way) and say to yourself that you will look at the new horizon just as Jesus did. Give the Holy Spirit permission to renew your thinking on the matter from this moment onwards.

 **Romans 12:2** and **Ephesians 4:23**.

NEXT STEPS

Use the journal to write to God how you honestly feel about the memories of past failures and regrets. If you are stuck in the past then tell Him this and that you want to break free.

Maybe you are someone who recognises that past mistakes seem to be on automatic replay in your mind. First try some of the advice given during this series such as making a decision not to continue with bad thinking and replacing it with good thinking.

Maybe you are someone who has tried this and you know in your head that you need to move on but every attempt is unsuccessful. Well when you have to do with what DIY homeowners do upon striking a job they can't fix – they call in help from people who know how to fix it. The choice will be yours. The help you need might come from a wise friend, a trained counsellor, a pastoral carer, medical practitioners (especially if suffering from depression or anxiety attacks where you just can't control your thinking) or spiritually gifted people to discern if there is a spiritual root which can be overcome by deliverance from the oppression.

Either way, freedom may not happen in just a few weeks, although sometimes it does, but you will be closer to freedom the day you decide to start and you ask for help.

Some said *God sees our failure is a lapse not a collapse.*

Here are some questions looking at people trapped with a desire to live in the past because they were the good-old-days.

When you think of your life, what was the best time?

Have you ever tried to make anything in your life how it used to be, only to find out that you really couldn't?

Does your life today look anything like you would've imagined it five, ten or twenty years ago? If not, what are some things that you would never have imagined?

Are there things in your life now that makes you long for certain times in your past when things were different?

Do you believe God has provided us with everything we need in our lives today?

If so, why do think so many of us still tend to look to the past for how we would like things to be?

Are there things in your past you haven't thoroughly dealt with in order to move on?

Do you think we can live our lives today to the fullest if we're in some way still stuck in the past?

What kind of consequences do you think it could have?

If you're in any way stuck in the past, are there people around you who might suffer from you not being fully present?

What part do you think you're supposed to play today?

Is your life in a place where you can full embrace today and play your part? If not, what steps do you need to take?

From the [Nooma DVD #17 TODAY](#) by Rob Bell. This looks at the past from the perspective of always yearning for the good old days and failing to live in the present. The principles apply whether they were good or bad days in the past.