

Fear of Failure

Life's challenges

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Bible Text: Proverbs 24:15,16
Preached on: Sunday, September 20, 2015

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Proverbs 24:15. The Bible says in verse 15,

15 Lay not wait, O wicked man, against the dwelling of the righteous;
spoil not his resting place: 16 For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth
up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief.

That word "falleth" also means "to fall," it means "to be cast down," watch this, it also means "to fail." I want to talk tonight on that thought as we talk about life's challenges, "The Fear of Failure." The fear of failure.

Father, I pray in the name of Jesus that your Holy Spirit would arrest all of our hearts and our minds tonight. I pray, God, that you would captivate us by your precious word. I pray, God, that in that captivity of mind and heart, I pray, God, that you would reveal to us some things that you would have us to not only see but also to implement into our everyday life. I pray, God, you would give us wisdom for the journey. I pray, God, that you would give us the strength that we need to have to fight a good fight of faith. I pray and ask, God, as a matter of fact, that you would increase our faith and our confidence not in our abilities nor in our know-how but, Father, in your abilities and in your power. I pray, God, that you would strip us of that, Father, that would hinder us from going forward. I pray, God, that those backpacks that might have those heavy rocks on the inside to slow us down, I pray, God, we would throw those things off and then move forward for the Lord Jesus. I pray, God, that if there is one among us or one who is watching right now that is not saved, blood bought and born again, I pray, God, like our Brother Patrick received Christ, I do pray and ask God that that person or persons would trust Jesus as their Savior, Lord, this evening. And with that, God, we'll thank you.

Now, I'll pray on a personal note that you take my vessel and use it for your honor, yes sir, and your own glory. I pray, God, that you would use me, Lord, all of my fiber, all of my being, all that I have which isn't much but I pray, God, that you would use it, Father, for you. And for that, Father, I personally shout hallelujah. And I pray, God, when leaving tonight that we will all be in one agreement, we'll all be in one accord and we'll all be able to say together, "My, how good it has been to be in the house of God, to hear and to read the word of God, to sing the songs of Zion and to be helped by the Master."

And with that, God, we'll thank you. That's it for now, Father. I love you so, we love you so much. We thank you for first loving us. That's it for now. If we left anything out, please, please meet that need as well for it is in your Son's name we pray, Jesus. Amen.

You may be seated.

Fear of failure. Fear of failure. There are all types of fears that you and I face and I believe that one of those things is fear of failure. In some cases, in some individual's lives even more so than others, but nonetheless the Bible does talk to us about failure and it talks to us about fears. Now, this is interesting when you study all of this stuff out. It's really, really interesting. The word "fear" or "failure" is also a term that's used in the medical field, well, not so much the medical field but in the psychologist area and it's a word and I'm probably not going to pronounce it right, I'm going to spell it for you though, it's a-t-y-c-h-i-phobia, which I pronounce atychiphobia. What is that? Well, it's when we allow the fear to stop us from doing the things that can move us forward to achieve our goals. We allow the fear to stop us from moving forward to obtain our goals. In other words, a fear has so overwhelmed us that we're almost paralyzed and we do not make another move or another step. And a lot of people face this fear of failure and some of us have a touch of it from here and there but nonetheless, it's a real thing that we deal with and they believe, there is so much involved in this, but they believe it's in the subconscious part of our being. But nonetheless, my dear friends, if you are facing fear of failure, God has a word for you and I tonight. Now, it's a challenge. It's a life challenge that we are facing and we can be victorious over.

What does fear of failure or phobia mean, amen? Or what does it do? One thing it does is it ruins our productivity. It ruins our productivity. We're not going to produce. It can hinder that, crush that. But not only that, destroy our dreams. We might have dreams of doing certain things but because of a fear of failure, we don't attain those dreams because we don't want to fail as we try to reach those dreams and therefore we don't do anything. It can hinder that. But not only that, my dear friends, but also it keeps us from building. You may want to build something, erect something, but the fear of failure will stop us from building anything. But also, my dear friends, it also does this amongst many other things, it robs life of joy; robs life of joy because the fear of failure just overwhelms us. It's amazing how that can affect us in such a way. We want to, but we're afraid to fail. We have a desire to, but "I'm probably not going to be able to make it." And then, my dear friends, it hinders us from having that fullness of joy. As a matter fact, the Bible says that Jesus said, "I came that you might have life and have it more abundantly." An abundant life, not just being saved and going to heaven, but an abundant life.

As I studied a little bit more, reading different things about this fear of failure, I discovered some things that fear of failure can make us do. It will make you worry about what others think about you. It will make you worry about what others think about you. If I fail, what are they going to think? What are they going to say? How are they going to perceive me if I fail? I'll never forget when DJ would play basketball; he played football and he played baseball. Baseball, he had an area of fear. What do you mean? Well, in the outfield, he can catch the ball and throw it in, on the bases, he was good at stealing bases,

but his fear was failing to hit the ball and striking out. What do you mean? DJ would get up to the plate, you remember this Jolene, he would get up to the plate and they would pitch the ball and DJ would not swing because one time he struck out and he would not swing. The coach, as a matter of fact, the coach was from the Bears, he was from Chicago, this was when we were living down in Georgia, and he told DJ, I remember yelling from the dugout, "Swing! Just swing!" He didn't care. He just wanted him to swing the bat but DJ would not swing the bat. He would stand there and they would throw a ball and around eight or nine years old, you know, those guys aren't the greatest pitchers in the world and so a lot of times he would get a walk, but now, once he got on base, he had no problem stealing a base, he had no problem catching the balls out there but when it came time to swing, he was afraid.

Some of us, we have those family picnics and stuff and you say, "Let's play softball everybody." You think, "Oh, Lord. I'm just going to go home." You'll get up there and sweat. All of a sudden your hand is all sweaty and you're afraid to swing that bat because it's a big old softball. We're not talking about little..."Man, if I strike out," especially if you're a guy, "Man, if I strike out, they might think, man, what is wrong with him," and laugh and all that and you'll be afraid because you don't want to fail. My dear friends, fear of failure is real.

But not only does fear of failure cause us to worry about what others think about us, but also we worry about disappointing people whose opinion we value. Disappointing people whose opinion that we value. We don't want to let that person down. I don't want that person to feel like, you know, that I was not able to succeed and now they're hurt and now they are crushed and so that fear of failure...it's like in school, listen, listen, I'm all for education, I'm all for college, but listen, folks, everybody is not meant for college, okay? ??? No they are not. There are some people who are hands-on. I mean, if you show them, you teach them, I mean, they've got it down pat, but you throw a piece of paper in front of them and a book and it's like, "Oh my goodness." But now you show them and they'll do that thing and they'll knock that thing out with no problems whatsoever. What you saying, preacher? A lot of times there will be so much pressure on us that we are afraid to fail that it will cause us to have all types, even health issues which we'll talk about in a few moments, but it will affect you in those areas as well.

But also sometimes the fear of failure can also make you tend to tell people, watch this, beforehand, watch this, that we don't expect to succeed in order to lower their expectations. Let me say that again: we will tend to tell people beforehand, before we even do it, we'll say to them this, that we don't expect to succeed in order to lower their expectations. "Well, I'm not going to do that great. It's not going to be really, you know" so therefore if it is successful, it's like you exceeded that, but if it's not you say, "I told you I wasn't going to do good at that. I told you." All of these things are wrapped around fear of failure.

But here's one more and there are many others, here's one more: we may get, watch this, this is the health part, we may get last-minute headaches, stomachaches or other physical symptoms that prevent us from completing our assignment. All of a sudden we're sick to

our stomach. All of a sudden we have headaches. And I'm not talking about made up stuff, it actually is taking place because of that fear of failure. What are you saying, preacher? Fear of failure is real and people are facing it every single day but we've got a God that wants us to be able to not only stand up to the challenge of that fear of failure but also to be victorious.

Now, before we get to the good part, I want to show us some examples of fear of failure. Look with me over to Matthew 25:18. This really helped me in a lot of different ways as I was studying this out and I'm actually reading a book on failing forward, it's by John Maxwell. It's a very good book and it's really, really been helping me. Anyhow, look at Matthew 25 and look at verse 18. Now, here is a situation where some folks are given some talents. Now watch this, let's back up, verse 14, "For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man," watch this, "according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey." He left. "Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two. But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money." That's what these talents are. It's not like talents or gifts you're thinking of but it's money. He hid it in the ground. Why did he do that? Because of fear. How do you know that? Drop down to verse 24, verse 23, "His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. Then he which had received the one talent came and said," the other ones, they did great and got encouraged and all that. "Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: And I was," what? "Afraid." So what I did was this, "I went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine. His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. Take therefore the talent from him," take it, "and give it unto him which hath ten talents. For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath." Wow. This guy was afraid. "If I take this talent that he gives me and it doesn't work out, I'll let him down so I'm just going to take it and bury it." Then he comes back and says, "Hey, I've got my one," but the other ones took theirs and doubled it.

Well, let's switch it up to now looking at gifts or talents, not in money, but talents that God gives us. The talents that God gives us are to be used for God or are we afraid to use our talent because, my friends, we're afraid of letting God down or letting others down? So therefore this fear of failing you say, "Do you know what? I've got the talent but that's it." God wants it to expound. He wants it to expand but that means overcoming the fear of failure.

Let me read to you what Rick Pitino said, he's a basketball coach and this is what he said. "Failure," watch this, "is good." He said, "Failure is good. It's like fertilizer. Everything I've learned about coaching I've learned from making mistakes." Wow. We're trying to go through a world mistake free. That ain't gonna happen, baby. You're going to make mistakes but learn from those mistakes, my friends, and grow from those mistakes but don't let those mistakes hinder you from pressing forward. Sometimes we let them cause us to go backwards and because we have failed, we are like DJ, we don't want to swing the bat, we just want to stand there and we are hoping that they walk us and I'll get on base and then I'll be all right then. Listen, my dear friends, God wants us to swing the bat.

But now, watch this, go with me now to Numbers 23. Fear of failure. Look at Numbers 23:19. Here are some folks that missed out on a huge blessing because of fear of failing. The Bible says in Numbers 23:19, that isn't it. Wait a minute. Chapter 13. Look at Numbers 13 and look down at verse 27. Numbers 13:27. You know this story. The Bible says there is a group of people and they have been sent out to check out an area, check it out and see what's happening there because we are going to take it. The Bible says in verse 27, well, let's back up because they had some good stuff, man, some good food there. The Bible says in verse 23, "And they came unto the brook of Eshcol, and cut down from thence a branch with one cluster of grapes, and they bare it between two upon a staff; and they brought of the pomegranates, and of the figs. The place was called the brook Eshcol, because of the cluster of grapes which the children of Israel cut down from thence. And they returned from searching of the land after forty days. And they went and came to Moses, and to Aaron, and to all the congregation of the children of Israel, unto the wilderness of Paran, to Kadesh," and the Bible says, "and brought back word unto them," and this is what they said in verse 27, "And they told him, and said, We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely," man, man, "it floweth with milk and honey," glory to God, "and this is the fruit of it." Look at these grapes. "Nevertheless the people be," what? "Strong that dwell in the land, and the cities are walled, and very great: and moreover we saw the children of Anak there," them big boys. "The Amalekites dwell in the land of the south: and the Hittites, and the Jebusites, and the Amorites, dwell in the mountains: and the Canaanites dwell by the sea, and by the coast of Jordan. And Caleb stilled the people," hush, "before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it." Hello? Walled cities, big giants, a whole bunch of people that don't like us? He said, "Let's go get it." The Bible, I'm going to have a Holy Ghost spell, the Bible says, he says in verse 30, "for we are well able." We are well able, we've got the power "to overcome it. But," but the Bible says, "the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we. And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof," it swallowed people up, "and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature. And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our," this is very important, "we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so," and so, and so, "we were in their sight." Because of how we saw ourselves, that's how they saw us.

They were afraid to fail. They did not believe, my dear friends, that they were able to whoop those giants. They did not believe, my friends, they were able to whoop all those

enemies. They said, "No, we can't do this. We're just like little bitty grasshoppers to them. That's how we see ourselves and that's how they saw us." Do you know that the way that you see yourself is also the way the enemy sees you too? If you see yourself as, "I'm just a puny little Christian, we'll never make it. We've just got to, you know let's just move on out." That's how he sees you. Oh yeah. It's like when I was growing up on the west side, where I was growing up, if you see a bunch of guys standing down there, the worst thing you can do is cross the street. If you cross the street you're done. You are done. Do you know what you do? You throw your chest out and you walk right up in front of all of them and look like you're half crazy. You say, "I'm going to cross the street. I'm going to cross the street." Yeah, and they are going to come over there too. But I'm telling you, you have to have that persona of no fear. ?? Why are you always mad? Do you know why I'm looking like that? Because they think I'm crazy. I'm going to hurt somebody. You start beating yourself and they say, "Man, that boy is crazy. Leave him alone. Leave him alone." But now you walk around there like this, that's another term and they call that a mark. "There's a mark there. We're going to get him." The next thing you know they've got your shoes, they've got your coat, nowadays they've got your cell phone and everything else.

Okay, now, I'm not just saying y'all just look for trouble. I'm just trying to tell y'all that there is a certain...well, do you know what? The same thing in the spiritual sense. You walk out there, Satan looks at you and checks you out. ??? "Come on, boys! Let's go after him!" When you walk out there and you actually have confidence and you believe that the Holy Ghost of God is going to help you whoop some demons today, if you believe that in your heart and your soul based upon God's word, "I can do all things through Christ," I'm going to tell you what, my friends, you're going to be having some victories take place in your life. But the enemy wants us to have fear of failure.

So let's move, let's move, let's move, let's move to realizing what we need to do when we face the fear of failure is to put our trust in the Lord and we shall succeed. I don't have my boxing gloves, I think they're out in my car, but what we've got to do is put our boxing gloves on and now do you know what we need now? We need what I want to call some knockout verses because the Bible does say to take the sword of the Spirit which is what? Okay, let's go to Ephesians. I'm trying to get done so I can go home and eat. But listen to what it says, go to Ephesians 6, look what the Bible says, Ephesians 6. We need to know this verse. Ephesians 6, and look down at verse 16. The Bible says, "Above all," before all, "taking the shield," that's Ephesians 6:16, "Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all," all, all, "the fiery darts of the wicked." And here it is, "And take the helmet of salvation, and," connecting, "the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." So we need the word of God which is our sword to fight the enemy.

So let me give us some swords, okay? Let me give us some knockout verses. Run with me over to Numbers 23:19. Fear of failure does not have to be final. Look at Numbers 23 and look at verse 19. The Bible says this, "God," hallelujah, "is not a man," praise God. "God is not a man that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?" I like

that. "Behold, I have received commandment to bless: and he hath blessed; and," by the way, "I cannot reverse it." Can't nobody reverse the blessings that God has bestowed upon you and I. God ain't no man. He is the Son of Man. He says God cannot lie. If he said, he'll back it up. Listen, that should make us sleep well at night. Whatever God has called you to do, whatever he has tapped you to do, just do it. "But I'm scared." I understand that but what we've got to do is do it anyway in spite of your fear but you're trusting God to help you to perform that which he has tapped you or called you to do.

Run with me to Psalm 37:5. The Bible says this in verse 5, "Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he," might? "And he shall bring it to pass." Let's break it down, baby. The Bible says, "Commit thy way," that means roll, roll your way, roll your road, roll your journey, roll your course of life, "unto the LORD." Give it over to him and the Bible says, "trust also in him," in other words, if you give it to him, trust him with it. Now that's easier said, says the body, than done. Here we go, here we go, here we go, Josh walks into the house and he says to Miss Heather, "Can I drive the van? My car doesn't have any gas in it. You want me to go and run an errand for you. May I have the keys to the car to drive to get it?" She says, "I know Josh has got his license, I've seen it, but now you want me to trust him with the van." She gives him the keys and as she gives him the keys she's still hanging onto the tip of it. She hasn't let go yet. He says, "Mom, I'll be all right." "I know, Josh, but I want you to listen, look into my eyes and notice the fire that's on the inside. You don't want it to be anymore fiery than what it is right now, but I'm going to trust you with it and give you the keys." Now, you'll be able to know whether she trusts him or not or whether or not she stops him before he pulls out of the driveway but if he gets in there and drives down the street, what she has done then is this: she has not only committed her car unto Josh but she's also trusting in Josh to do what Josh said he was going to do.

Well, you take your journey, watch this, guys, you take your journey, your road, your life, and give it over to God and now you trust him to take care of your life and guide your life and to direct your life and the Bible says if you and I do that, the Bible says, "and he shall bring it to pass." Those words "bring it to pass" means "to accomplish it." But what happens sometimes is we'll start by giving him our life, "Here you go, Lord." Okay, Josh has got the keys. He's walking out the door. "Whoa, whoa, whoa, let me get them back. I'm not ready yet. Okay, here you go. Wait a minute, give me..." And that's how we do with our life sometimes. "Here it is, Lord. Wait a minute, whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa." The Lord says, "Just give it over to me. I'm going to accomplish it. I'm going to do some good things with your life if you give it over to me." "But are you going to call me to Africa?" Listen, we always think God is going to call us somewhere that's going to be somewhere in Siberia or whatever, come on. God knows what you are capable of doing and what you are not. By the way, he gives us the power to do it. That will help us when we have to face fear of failure.

Listen, they asked me to preach down there Wednesday night, I was going to preach and Joe Arthur was preaching after me. Now, and I know some of y'all know Joe Arthur but, I mean, Joe Arthur is like, he's talking about Joe Arthur, you know, it's Dr. Joe Arthur. You've got Dr. Joe Arthur, you've got Dr. Talbot Moore, my pastor, you've got Dr. Gary

Moore sitting over there. There are whole other bunch of doctors over there and y'all know I ain't been to school, right? I ain't doctor nobody, okay? And what happens is you'll be sitting there and you start thinking, you're like, "What am I going to say? They're all doctors. What are you doing sitting up here on the doctor row? You ain't no doctor. Get off that pew and get on back somewhere else. What's wrong with you?" And then I can have fear in failure. What if I get up there and I say something that's crazy but I don't mean to say it but I say it and they think I'm crazy? These are real fears. I mean, you could be sitting up there, I mean, I've seen it happen, guys will get up there and they look at all them guys down there and they'll be sitting there and preachers are some of the funniest creatures. We all want everybody to be going, "Yeah! Preacher, yeah! Preach! Preach!" Or when somebody else is preaching, most time all the preachers they be just sitting there. They'll just be sitting there. I'm like, "What if you were up there? What would you want somebody to do?" They're sitting there and, "I'm just listening. I'm just listening." But then sometimes your mind will be like, "They are probably saying he's an idiot. He's crazy. What is he talking about?" But you know what you have to do? I like what my pastor says, my pastor says you'll get up and he'll say there will be a whole bunch of preachers out there and whoever is coming up to preach, he says, "Listen, I know there are a lot of good preachers out there and all that kind of stuff and you may say what is that guy doing coming up here?" He said, "Do you know what? He is God's man for this hour. He's got the message that we need to hear." And you have to get up and say, "Do you know what? God gave me this message to deliver. He wants me to give this message out."

By the way, when it comes time for you to sing that song, you look out there and say, "I'll be in the Spirit." Listen, the first time I actually sung, no played a guitar, you all do know I can play? The first time I played a guitar in church, I don't know if you remember this or not, Pam, it was your guitar. I had just been messing around with it and my dad's in the church, "Oh, he can play. He can sing. Let him play." I'm like, "I can't play." "Come on up here." I was about 10 years old. I came up there and I got the guitar, I grabbed the guitar and I still play it the same way I played it. I grabbed that guitar and I started singing, "Down by the river. Down by the river. Down by the riverside." And that's just how I played it and, man, I started crying and they were saying, "Bless him Lord." "Down by the river, down by the river, down by the river." I mean, man, I was like, "Man, I can't play this thing." ???

But sometimes and I failed but I survived. I survived. And we learn from things like that. The first time I played the keyboards was on Tuesday out of necessity. I played on Tuesday, I played chords, that means there are three, okay, so if I'm playing here, if I hit over here and that's wrong I can just zip back over here, you know. But if I tried to play like Brother Jesse... I can play some of those songs. I can do all that kind of stuff. Backup, backup, I can't play like Jesse, I'm saying some songs I can play with the different keys and stuff but if I got ready to play in front of everybody and have to look at y'all, I'd be like, "What's next?" I don't know. ??? But in spite of my fear, I'm trusting God to help me.

Let me give you this and we'll be done. Where did we leave off here? Psalm 37:5, but look at Luke 18:27. This is a familiar verse. We're going to go to one more verse and then we're done. Look at Luke 18:27, the Bible says this in Luke 18:27, the Bible says, I can't wait to get back to where we are going, the Bible says this, "And he said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God." My dear friends, with God all things are possible.

Now, let's flip back over to Proverbs 24 and we'll be done, Proverbs 24:15-16. I didn't pick that verse for no reason. The Bible says this in verse 16, this is the part of the verse we normally know of, "For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief." That word "just" means "righteous." That word "falleth" means "to fail or to fall or to be cast out or to fail." He says, "For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again," that means to stand. Somebody says, okay, here's our question: why is he even saying that? Because of verse 15. The Bible says in verse 15, "Lay not wait, O wicked man, against the dwelling of the righteous; spoil not his resting place: For," because, "a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again." The three words "lay not wait" means this: ambush. I was like, "Wow, lay up wait, ambush." He says, "Lay not wait," or don't ambush, "O wicked man, against the dwelling of the righteous." That word "dwelling" means "his home." He says, "Lay not," don't ambush, "O wicked man, the dwelling," or the home, "of a righteous man." Don't spoil his resting place. That means to ruin or to destroy his resting place. And I'm going to tell you why, "For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again." Hey, you might ambush him, you might destroy his place, he might be down but I want you to understand, he will get back up. No matter how much you knock him down, he's getting back up. He's getting back up so therefore don't even ambush him. In other words, you're wasting your time because he's going to get right back up.

Who is the righteous man? The person who is trusting God Almighty as his God because the Bible says we don't have any righteousness except for the righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ. So in other words this: you are saved, blood bought and born again. You may fall seven times. By the way, look at the word "seven times" there, it also means "an infinite number." You may fall down many times but you can get back up again and you can learn from your failings, you can learn from your fallings but you will never learn if you don't get back up and stand again. You may fail but stand again. Don't raise your hands but I know there are folks in here today that went and took a driver's test and the first time you took it you didn't pass. You failed but did it stop you? Listen to that, though. Some people just stopped. Some people went again because you can go again. "Wow, I failed again." Go on back again because you can go again. And what are you doing? You are trying to remember and in some cases they'll let you know what you messed up on and so do you know what? Now I know why I failed it, I know where I stumbled at so I'm going to learn from that and I'm going to pass this test and you pass that test and now you're driving down the road smiling. Glory, hallelujah! What are you saying? The fear of failure can stop us from going forward but we can use failure to help us to go forward but that choice is up to us.

Father, thank you for your many blessings and, of course, Father, the time, the time could no way, Lord, be given to expound on such a vast subject. I do pray, God, that in these few moments, in these few minutes, that we were helped to realize that, yes, we are going to be challenged by the fear of failure but we can use failure to go forward and we will go forward when we get back up and get back in the battle. Father, I pray there are some folks who want to talk to you about these matters of the heart tonight and they will come or perhaps, God, they want to talk to you about other matters of the heart, other concerns that have nothing to do with the message. I pray, God, they will come tonight. I pray, God, that you would help each of us in that particular spot, that particular place that we might be in that we need your help. And with that, Father, we'll thank you. And, of course, if there is one here tonight that is not sure if they died today that they would go to heaven but they want to be sure, I pray, God, they come to me or someone else in this building that they have confidence in and we will show them in the word of God how to know. But, God, whatever the case is, whoever you are talking to to come, just come on and get the strength and the help that we need. Have your way, Father. You've heard the song and the sermon now it's time to respond. For it is in your Son's name we pray, Jesus. Amen. Amen.

Hallelujah, let's all stand.