

**Handling Failure**  
**Psalm 37:23-24**  
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show some ways to handle failure as we find example in the Bible.

- Intro: 1. Do we always fail just because we think we have?  
2. What are we to do when we do actually fail?

I. Perceived failures are not always failures.

A. Feeling like you failed does not mean you failed.

**1. Sometimes we feel we have failed because we worry and our overly critical of ourselves.**

**2. We are to work hard and trust in the Lord.**

a. Work hard – **Ecc 9:10**

b. Trust in the Lord – **Ps 37:3**

B. Learn along the way.

**1. We learn and grow from experiences in life.**

a. This is not a “sow your wild oats” idea but we grow from actual worthwhile experiences.

b. Moses learned He needed help (**Num 11:10-14;16-17**)

**2. Psalm 119:71** – we can learn from difficulties

II. What to do when we fail.

A. Realize failing is a part of life.

**1. There are too many examples of individuals who failed at numerous points in their life before they were successful.**

**2. Failing does not mean you cannot try again. (Ps 37:23-24)**

3. Failure does not mean God is displeased with you.

B. If your failure is spiritual - repent.

**1. All sin but mankind has opportunities to repent.**

**2. Repentance is the only way this type of failure is handled.**

III. Lessons for us today.

A. Get back up

1. **Pro 24:16** – Man may stumble in life, but we can always get up again.

**2. You can only respond to failures when you get back up.**

B. Do not dwell on the past.

**1. You may fail more if you only dwell on past problems.**

a. **Pro 4:25** – do not look back. We cannot look back to a world of sin and we cannot look back and dwell on our failures of the past.

**2. We should learn from past mistakes but not dwell on them and allow them to cause us to doubt or worry in the future.**

Application & Conclusion:

1. Mankind may fail in the spiritual life, personal life or professional life.
  - a. But if we repent where sin is involved, if we learn from past mistakes we can learn from those times and grow from them.
2. Someone once said “A failure is not a loss. It’s a gain. You learn. Your change. You grow.”
3. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent: Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Lk 13:3

Pray: James 5:16, 1 Jn 1:9