

## How To Fail Successfully In 2026

*"I have observed something else under the sun. The fastest runner doesn't always win the race, and the strongest warrior doesn't always win the battle. The wise sometimes go hungry, and the skillful are not necessarily wealthy. And those who are educated don't always lead successful lives. It is all decided by chance, by being in the right place at the right time. People can never predict when hard times might come. Like fish in a net or birds in a trap, people are sometimes caught by sudden tragedy."* **Ecclesiastes 9:11-12 (NLT)**

### I. Introduction

***"The increase of suicides, alcoholism, and even some forms of nervous breakdowns and gripping anxieties is evidence that many people are solely training for success when they should really be training for failure. The inescapable fact is that failure is far more common than success; poverty and struggle is far more common than wealth; and disappointment more normal than arrival!"***

---Leadership Magazine

- o **Fact:** Everybody is going to \_\_\_\_\_
- o **NOT a fact:** Everybody is going to \_\_\_\_\_
- o **WHY is that?** Answer: Not everyone handles their \_\_\_\_\_

### II. How to Deal with Failure Successfully in 2026

#### **1. Change your \_\_\_\_\_**

*"We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed."* **II Corinthians 4:8-9 (NLT)**

*"For a righteous man may fall seven times and rise again, but the wicked shall fall by calamity."*

**Proverbs 24:16 (NKJV)**

***"The difference between greatness and mediocrity is often found in how an individual views a mistake or a failure."*** ---anonymous

**The two saddest words: "If only!"** Winners decide to change that confession to: **"Next time I'll!"**

#### **2. Change your \_\_\_\_\_**

*"Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit."*

**Proverbs 18:21 (NKJV)**

*"Be careful what you say and protect your life. A careless talker destroys himself."* **Proverbs 13:3**

#### **3. Learn to appreciate the \_\_\_\_\_**

*"No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us."* **Philippians 3:13-14 (NLT)**

"If you fail under pressure, your strength is too small." **Proverbs 24:10 (NLT)**

**"Many people dream of success. To me, success can be achieved only through repeated failure and introspection. In fact, success in life represents only the 1% of your work that really has stemmed from 90% of that which is called failure. Very few people unacquainted with failure will ever come to know the joys of success in life."**---Soichiro Honda, founder of Honda Motors

**"Mother Theresa called failure the "Kiss of Jesus." When asked why, she replied, "Because failure is what usually drives me closer to Him, and then He kisses me!"**

**4. Many times God will allow what appears to be a failure, to actually \_\_\_\_\_**

**"We can make our plans, but the LORD determines our steps." **Proverbs 16:9 (NLT)****

**"No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would never have crucified the Lord of glory." **I Corinthians 2:7-8****

**5. Determine to treat every failure as a Divine \_\_\_\_\_**

**"When the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid." And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." So He said, "Come." When Peter had gone out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."**

**Matthew 14:26-33 (NKJV)**

**"At Jesus' challenge, those who heard it began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "But go now and leave your life of sin." **John 8:9-11****

*Diagnostic questions to consider in a time of failure...*

- ✓ What lessons have I learned from this?
- ✓ Am I grateful for this experience?
- ✓ How can I turn this into a long-term success?
- ✓ Practically speaking, where do I go from here?
- ✓ Who else can I speak to who has "failed" in a similar manner, to gain a fresh perspective?
- ✓ Did I really "fail" or did I simply fall short of my own perceived standards of success?
- ✓ How can I now better be used by God to help others in the future?
- ✓ Did I really fail, or did God simply choose to change my "season"?
- ✓ If I have helped people along the way, have I truly "failed?"

**ANSWER KEY:**

**I. Introduction**

FAIL-----PROFIT FROM THEIR FAILURE--- FAILURES BIBLICALLY

**II. How to Deal with Failure Successfully in 2026**

1. attitude
2. vocabulary
3. value of failure
4. re-direct us
5. learning experience