

## Growth in Failure - Lesson

**Lesson summary:** One problem is the attitude that when we fail, we think it proves to us something we already believe, that we can't do it. This comes from constantly losing to our addictions. Instead, use failure to identify areas we need to grow in and improve because of it.

**PSALM 51: 9-10 (NIV)**

<sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

<sup>10</sup>Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

David got right back up after a major failure with Bathsheba. He grew through it.

### What are some examples of failing or failure other than relapse?

Not spending time in prayer for a whole day, losing your temper, laughing at a dirty joke, etc.

**Growth Process:**

**Failure** should lead to **reflection**, which should lead to **recognition** of a problem in you, which should lead to **search for resolution**, which leads to **conversations**, which leads to **revelation**, which leads to **taking action** to improve.

### Tips for turning failure into growth

#### 1. Believe you can improve

- a. After a failure, resolve yourself to improve
- b. Believe this even if you don't know what you could do better.

#### 2. Set your standards high

- a. The higher your standards are, the less damage failure does.
- b. Total failure is going back to the world and using drugs again, too costly.

**Illustration:** The military, when they set up a base, have several perimeters, a 100 yard perimeter, a 300 yard perimeter, and a 500 yard perimeter. Set your perimeters out a ways and watch your perimeters.

Be aware of when you get in a danger zone in a certain area of your life.

- c. Tell someone these are your standards so they can hold you to them.

#### 3. Evaluate the build up

- a. Look at what happened right before you failed, and a day or two before you failed

#### 4. Resolve to improve

- a. After you have identified some areas of weakness in your life, resolve yourself to **search out how** to become stronger in these areas

#### 5. Act on counsel

- a. When you receive counsel, have the willingness to act on it
- b. Resolve in your heart that you will give up anything, do anything to be free and whole.
- c. The things God asks of us sometimes seem unreasonable, but in the end, if we keep growing in Him, we don't miss them and find we are better off without them.

Failure has the opportunity to give us some of the most valuable lessons we can learn.