

Breaking Mentalities of Failure (Part 2)

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Broadcast Date: 2/9/21

Message Date: 9/2/20 • 7:00 P.M.

Scripture References

Proverbs 23:7

Genesis 12:1, 2

John 15:5-8

1 Corinthians 3:9, 13-15

Romans 3:23

John 1:29

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

1 Corinthians 10:13

1 Corinthians 10:13, AMPC

Psalms 91:1-16

Summary

Our mindset is critical in determining whether we succeed or fail. Our thought processes can either produce positive or negative results in our lives; therefore, dealing with any mentality of failure we may have learned requires examining the way we think. The “consumer,” “hitchhiker,” “inferiority,” and “fear of risk” mindsets are examples of ways of thinking. As Christians, we must be producers who add value, not needy consumers constantly taking from others. We also need to avoid thinking like hitchhikers who take the advantage instead of giving it. Living by faith and having confidence in God’s promises eliminates any fear of the risks associated with fulfilling His mission for us. Developing and maintaining our relationship with Jesus Christ is the key to changing our thinking for the better.

A. Our thoughts are powerful. Falling into a consumer mentality causes us to fail in life.

1. To tackle a mentality of failure, we must deal with the way we think; specifically, we must change our thinking.
 - a. For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he... (Proverbs 23:7).
2. Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing (Genesis 12:1, 2).
 - a. God told Abraham to leave his kindred because Abraham needed to get away from the mentality of his father’s house.
 - b. To see success, we may have to move ourselves away from the people around us who have wrong-thinking.
3. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples (John 15:5-8).
 - a. A producer mentality, instead of a consumer mentality, leads to success. Allowing God to be our source allows us to bring forth fruit; when He is our source, we are producers, not consumers.

- b. A consumer mentality is a mindset focused on using, and taking from others; a producer mentality is one of adding value.
- c. God's will is for us to be producers and to bear much fruit, *not* to be consumers that take from others.

B. An inferiority mindset runs contrary to God's Word. Jesus has already dealt with this.

1. For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building... Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire (1 Corinthians 3:9, 13-15).
 - a. Christians should be people who build things that cannot be consumed in the fire of God's judgment. In this way, we can produce things that will bless others.
 - b. We can only be producers when we are connected to Jesus Christ; this is impossible when we are operating in self-effort.
 - c. As Christians, we must be known not for what we consume, but for the good fruit we produce.
 - d. Instead of being the one with the empty cup waiting to be filled, we should be the one with the pitcher, ready to fill *others'* cups.
2. For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).
 - a. We must also eliminate any inferiority mentality. Inferiority is defined as a persistent sense of inadequacy, and a feeling of being small, unimportant, and of falling short.
 - b. In this context, "glory" means to become all that God intended us to become. To fall short is to be inferior; this is the result of sin.
3. The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world (John 1:29).
 - a. To get rid of the inferiority mindset, sin must be dealt with; Jesus has already taken care of it.

C. A successful life requires changing ways of thinking that contradict God's Word.

1. Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him (2 Corinthians 5:17-21).
 - a. When we are in Christ, the old things—including the inferiority mindset—have passed away.
 - b. Jesus took away sin, which was responsible for feelings of inferiority, and put it upon Himself.
 - c. We are made righteous in Christ; He takes away the inferiority mentality and replaces it with a righteous mentality.
2. To be successful, there are several other ways of thinking we must change.

- a. The first is the “resources are limited” mentality; God will *always* have enough resources to bless us.
 - b. The second is the “wilderness” mentality that tells us we must remain in the wilderness to succeed. We may have to go through the wilderness, but we do not have to stay there. For every hard time in our lives, God provides a way out.
 - c. There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it (1 Corinthians 10:13).
 - d. For no temptation (no trial regarded as enticing to sin), [no matter how it comes or where it leads] has overtaken you *and* laid hold on you that is not common to man [that is, no temptation or trial has come to you that is beyond human resistance and that is not adjusted and adapted and belonging to human experience, and such as man can bear]. But God is faithful [to His Word and to His compassionate nature], and He [can be trusted] not to let you be tempted *and* tried *and* assayed beyond your ability *and* strength of resistance *and* power to endure, but with the temptation He will [always] also provide the way out (the means of escape to a landing place), that you may be capable *and* strong *and* powerful to bear up under it patiently (1 Corinthians 10:13, *AMPC*).
 - e. The third is the “glass chin” mentality, which is the fear of criticism, pain, and adversity. We do not have to be afraid of these things because God has us. We must look past people’s negativity toward us, and see them as precious. The fear vanishes when we have confidence in God’s love and approval, and when we know our purpose.
3. We must also get rid of the “fear of risk” mentality.
 - a. When we live by the Word of God, we do not worry about or fear what the world defines as risk. We have faith in His promises.
 - b. God cannot lie, and He remains faithful to what He says. Therefore, living by faith is not a risk.
 - c. Risk is a situation involving exposure to danger. Being equipped with faith in the protection and deliverance God provides (Psalm 91:1-16) takes away the “risk factor” feeling.

Category: faith

Keywords: failure, mindset, succeed, fail, mentality, faith, confidence