

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your correspondence to the Al Denson Show and for tuning in every week to our program. My prayer for you is to be encouraged in your daily walk with Christ through the words of this booklet. Our hope is that in turn you will tell others of what God is doing through our ministry to youth and parents on TV. I am convinced you will not find another program on any network anywhere that deals with issues today's youth and their parents are facing, and provides answers from a Godly perspective.

In addition, we would love for you to help us by going to our web site at www.aldenson.com. Here you can write to us, order additional material like this booklet, check out all my music, have a daily bible study, and stay up to date on the ministry. You can also send us a prayer request and questions for the TV show. But more importantly, please continue to be in prayer with us as we work together to help those that are in need.

Thanks for watching and God Bless!

Sincerely,



An Outreach of Celebration Ministries

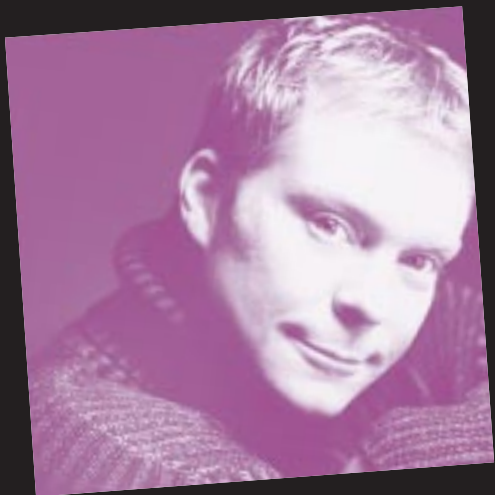
The Al Denson Show
Box 220 Grapevine, TX 76099
Email: aldenson@aol.com
Web Site: www.aldenson.com

Down But Not Doomed:



STOP

Failure Can Be Your Friend



Most artists create for only a brief moment in time. That phenomenon was once known as “15 minutes of fame”. Yet even in a fickle world, there still emerge a talented few that transcends time and trends. With nearly 15 years as a major label recording artist and seven hit

albums to his credit, Al Denson is that kind of artist.

But the attention and acclaim his artistry has brought him over the years are anything but the routine rewards of worldly success. Rather, they are the fruits of a life of purpose and passion, and a mission that has always reached far beyond merely making music.

The millions of young people Al has performed for, befriended, counseled, consoled and clowned around with in his career already know that. And thousands more are finding out every day.

This past year has seen Al expand his efforts to a global audience through the reach of his daily syndicated television production, “The Al Denson Show.” “You’ve got to reach out to people where they are with the most powerful means and this form of media allows you to build trust and a rapport,” says Al. “This has all been so amazing. I can’t imagine what lies in store when the Lord finally calls me home, but I don’t have to wait for heaven to receive rewards. I get them every time a kid comes up to me and says, ‘I heard what you said, and I accepted Christ.’ You can’t ask for anything more or better than that.”

Write Al at: Box 220 Grapevine, TX 76099
Email: aldenson@aol.com Web Site: www.aldenson.com

DOWN But Not Doomed Failure Can Be Your Friend

Are you down today because you have failed at something? Do you feel doomed to live a life that will never be any different than it is at this moment? Do you see failure as an enemy standing between you and success? If so, you have a lot of company because most people feel the same way you do about failure. But there is good news: Failure can be your friend. However, before that can happen there are two things you must acquire.

~ A Right Attitude About Failure ~

Your attitude toward failure determines your altitude after failure. If you stay down when you fail, it is an indicator that your attitude toward failure is wrong. Life is a series of problems, challenges, trials, disappointments, and failures. Successful people know that their attitude is what makes or breaks them. An unknown author expressed that idea this way: “Whether you can or can’t, whether you do or don’t, whether you overcome life’s problems, challenges, trials, and disappointments or whether they overcome you, is determined by your attitude.”

Most people totally misunderstand failure so they are unprepared for it when it happens. John Maxwell says that one of the greatest problems people have with failure is that they are

too quick to judge isolated situations in their lives and label them as failures. Instead, they need to keep the bigger picture in mind. Never label yourself a failure because you have failed at something. There is a big difference between

being a failure and failing at something. Failure is not a person, it is an event. Failure is also the price tag of success. Michael Jordan understands this because he has said: “I’ve missed more than nine thousand shots in my career. I’ve lost almost three hundred games. Twenty-six times I’ve been trusted to take the game-winning shot and missed. I’ve failed over and over again in

life, and that is why I succeed.”

On August 6, 1999, major-league baseball player, Tony Gwynn of the San Diego Padres, made another out—number 5,113 of his professional career. Had Tony failed? Yes. Did Tony consider himself a failure? No. You see, earlier in the same game Tony Gwynn reached a record that only twenty-one other people in the history of baseball have ever achieved. He made hit number 3,000. An average game for Tony is getting only one hit every three times at bat. Tony realizes that to get his hits he has to make a lot of outs.

Failure
is also
the price
tag of
success.

One of the most important life lessons you can learn is this: I must own my attitude. That simply means you are responsible for your own attitude and you cannot blame anyone or anything else for having a bad or negative attitude. If you are depending on people to make you successful and they don't live up to your expectations, you will believe your success is being threatened by their failure. The natural reaction is to blame them. You think somehow through blaming others you won't look so bad, and you can protect your fragile sense of self-worth. Until you come to the place of understanding that you cannot blame other people, your circumstances, or even God for your attitudes, you will never succeed at anything in life.

Chuck Swindoll said, "I believe the single most significant decision I can make on a day-to-day basis is my choice of attitude. It is more important than my past, my education, my

bankroll, my successes or failures, fame or pain, what other people think of me or say about me, my circumstances, or my position. Attitude is that "single string" that keeps me going or cripples my progress. It alone fuels my fire or assaults my hope. When my attitudes are right, there's no barrier too high, no valley too deep, no dream too extreme, no challenge too great for me.

Words can never adequately convey the incredible impact of our attitude toward life. The longer I live the more convinced I become that life is 10 percent what happens to us and 90 percent how we respond to it."

The most important question you can answer is this: What is your attitude of choice? You can decide what you are going to focus on, whether it be positive or negative thoughts. When negative thoughts come your way, you can choose to replace them with positive thoughts. Every person has approximately 50,000 thoughts each day. Marcus Aurelius said, "Our life is what our thoughts make it." Remember, your feelings are always going to follow your thoughts, so the choice is yours. Your attitudes are your most important assets and your attitude about failure must be right.

A little boy was overheard talking to himself one day as he strutted through the backyard, wearing his baseball cap and toting a ball and bat. "I'm the greatest hitter in the world," he announced. Then he tossed the ball into the air, swung at it, and missed. "Strike One!" he yelled. Undaunted, he picked up the ball and said again, "I'm the greatest hitter in the world!" He tossed the ball into the air and when it came down, he swung again and missed. "Strike Two!" he cried.

The boy then paused a moment to examine his bat and ball carefully. He spit on his hands and rubbed them together. He straightened his cap and said once more, "I'm the greatest hitter in the world!" Again he tossed the ball up in the air and swung at it. He missed. "Strike Three!" "Wow!" the boy exclaimed. "I'm the greatest pitcher in the world!"

He understood the importance of having the right attitude toward failure!

**...life is 10 percent
what happens to us
and 90 percent how
we respond to it."**



~ A Right Response To Failure ~

If you are like the majority of people, you overlook the fact that most failures are simply mistakes. John Maxwell has a great way of keeping mistakes in perspective. He says that mistakes are...

- Messages that give us feedback about life.
- Interruptions that should cause us to reflect and think.
- Signposts that direct us to the right path.
- Tests that push us toward greater maturity.
- Awakenings that keep us in the game mentally.
- Keys that we can use to unlock the next door of opportunity.
- Explorations that let us journey where we've never been before.
- Statements about our development and progress.

Understanding this can make all the difference in your response to failure. When you fail you can respond the wrong way or the right way. If you respond the wrong way by giving up, then failure will be a deadly enemy in your life. But if you respond the right way by getting up, failure will be your friend. Let's look at both.

Giving Up (The Fear Factor)

Failure becomes very painful when you think of yourself as a failure. That pain can lead to the fear of failure and the fear of failure carries with it some very negative consequences:

1. **Paralysis.** To avoid the pain of failing, you will stop trying to do anything that might lead to failure. This will cause you to give up all hope of ever succeeding.
2. **Procrastination.** You remain hopeful that you will succeed but you never get around to doing anything. As a result, you end up losing any opportunities you might have had for success.
3. **Purposelessness.** When you fear failure, you lose your sense of purpose in life. Then it becomes easy to give in to self-pity and excuse-making.

There isn't a "magic bullet" for the fear of failure. To conquer this fear, you must allow yourself to feel the fear and take action anyway. Jerome Bruner says, "You're more likely to act yourself into feeling than feel yourself into action." So do it! Whatever you know you should do, do it, and do it now. The only way

to get over the fear of failure is to be willing to accept the fact that you will spend much of your life making mistakes. President Theodore Roosevelt once said, "He who makes no mistakes makes no progress." Everything worthwhile we learn about life, we learn from failing, not from succeeding.

Here are some wrong ways of responding to failure:

- **Blaming others.** The person who is not willing to accept complete responsibility for

his actions will never change or succeed. Michael Korda said, "...In the final analysis, the one quality that all successful people have is the ability to take responsibility." You need to be very careful that you don't fall into the trap of holding others or your circumstances responsible for what is wrong in your life. As soon as you do that, you render yourself powerless to change.

Everything worthwhile
we learn about life,
we learn from failing,
not from succeeding.

“It may not be your fault for being down, ...

- **Unresolved anger.** You may be angry because you believe that things will never be any different in your life because of your background, your parents, your financial status, or what you see as your limitations. When you don't assume full responsibility for your own life, you are labeling yourself as a victim. Once you wear that label you also become a victim of hopelessness and helplessness. You cannot make the rest of the world responsible for your happiness or success.

The day you take the full responsibility for yourself is the day you can begin to focus your time and energy on fulfilling your dreams. If you will focus on what you can control, then your success will always be in your own hands. When you focus on things out of your control, then you begin to feel frustrated, helpless, hopeless and angry.

- **Covering up failure.** H. Stanley Judd said, “Don't waste energy trying to cover up failure. Learn from your failures and go on to the next challenge. It's okay to fail. If you're not failing, you're not growing.”

- **Not changing direction.** William Dean Singleton has said, “Too many people, when they make a mistake, just keep stubbornly

plowing ahead and end up repeating the same mistakes. I believe in the motto, ‘Try and try again.’ But the way I read it, it says, ‘Try, then stop and think. Then try again.’”

- **Lie.** General Peyton C. March said, “Any man worth his salt will stick up for what he believes right, but it takes a slightly bigger man to acknowledge instantly and without reservation that he is in error.”

- **Give up.** Paul J Meyer has said, “Ninety percent of all those who fail are not actually defeated. They simply quit.” Kyle Rote, Jr. says, “There is no doubt in my mind that there are many ways to be a winner, but there is only one way to be a loser and that is to fail and not look beyond the failure.”

John R. Miller says, “If you can call your troubles experiences, and remember that every experience develops some latent force within you, you will grow vigorous and happy, however your circumstances seem to be.”

The Bible says it this way in II Corinthians 4:8-9, “We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed...”

Someone has said, “It may not be your fault for being down, but it's got to be your fault for not getting up.” People who “keep on, keeping on” after they fail, do so because they don't base their self-worth on their performance. Failure is not a personal thing. If you want to succeed, you cannot let any single incident define who you are. No matter how many times you fail, it doesn't have to make you a failure.

“You're not finished when you're defeated... you're finished when you quit.” - Van Crouch

Getting Up (The Plus Of Persistence)

Learning to let failure be a positive thing in life is a process, and too many people think the process is supposed to be easy. Thomas Edison, the inventor of the light bulb, made over nine hundred light bulbs that didn't work before he finally made one that did. People thought he was crazy, but he kept on trying. According to Edison, every time he made a light bulb that didn't work, he merely found “one more way not to make a light bulb.” As a result of his persistence, he finally made a bulb that worked.

...but it's got to be your fault for not getting up.”



In the book, *Chicken Soup For The Soul*, we learn that Beethoven's teacher said that he was hopeless as a composer, that the Great Caruso's teacher said he really didn't have a voice at all, that Thomas Edison's teacher said he wasn't smart enough to learn anything, that the editor of the *Kansas City Star* fired a young cartoonist named Walt Disney because he said Disney couldn't draw and wasn't creative, that Albert Einstein couldn't speak until he was four years old and couldn't read until he was seven, and that his teacher described him as "mentally slow." Louis Pasteur was fifteenth out of twenty-two students in his chemistry class, that the author of *War and Peace*, Leo Tolstoy flunked out of college because he was told he couldn't learn, and Winston Churchill failed the sixth grade and had a lifetime of other failures before he became Prime Minister of England at age sixty-two. But all these people shared the character quality of persistence.

In the early part of the eighteenth century, there lived a young boy who wanted more than anything else to be a writer. This boy was from a poor family and had only been able to attend school for four years. His family moved a lot and his father ended up in debtors' prison. To earn a living he got a job putting labels on bottles of blackening in a dirty, dilapidated warehouse. He found a horrible attic in which to sleep and had to share it with others who

couldn't afford anything better, either.

This boy was determined to write, and he wrote day after day. Finally, he got the courage to send a manuscript to a publisher, but the manuscript was refused. Time after time, again and again he submitted his writings, but the answers were always the same. No one was interested in his work. But, so great was his desire to write, that he refused to quit. Finally, one of his stories was accepted. He received no money for the story, but the editor did praise his work. It was the best moment of his life and he cried for joy because someone had believed in him. This bit of encouragement gave the boy the courage he needed to go on to greater things. And in a few years, people all over England were reading his writings. His name was Charles Dickens. He too, had the character quality of persistence.

There is another great individual in American history who illustrates as much as anyone who has ever lived the value of persistence. Life was difficult for him and he tasted defeat many times along the way until he finally succeeded. This man...

- failed in business at age 22;
- ran for the Legislature and lost at age 23;
- failed again in business at age 24;
- was finally elected to the Legislature at age 25;
- lost his sweetheart at age 26;

- suffered a nervous breakdown at age 27;
- was defeated in the race for Speaker at age 29;
- was defeated in the race for Elector at age 31;
- was defeated in the race for Congress at age 34;
- was finally elected to Congress at age 37;
- lost his Congressional seat at age 39;
- was defeated in the Senatorial race for the Vice-Presidency at age 47;
- was defeated again in the Senatorial race at age 49;
- but was elected President of the United States at age 51.

This man was Abraham Lincoln. He also had the character quality of persistence. Like Abraham Lincoln, one of the secrets all great

men and women know is the value of determination—persisting over the long haul, staying at the task. They refuse to allow failure to cause them to quit.

In developing persistence, it is easy to become discouraged and frustrated, especially when you are trying to make changes in your life. Your first response will be to quit because you won't like the feelings of insecurity that discouragement and frustration cause. But don't fear these feelings, rather see them as signs of progress in your quest to develop determination in your life. Frustration and discouragement are much like the uncomfortable and unpleasant feelings of a sore muscle after a workout. Those feelings aren't fun, but they are a sign that you are growing stronger and improving as you are moving ahead toward your goals.

FRUSTRATION AND DISCOURAGEMENT

are much like the uncomfortable and unpleasant feelings of a sore muscle after a workout.

Mark Twain put it like this, “Make it a point to do something every day that you don’t want to do. This is the golden rule for acquiring the habit of doing your duty without pain.” He was saying that if you will practice every day not giving into the negative feelings that make you want to quit, persistence will become less and less painful the more you continue to push on and do what you ought.

The truth is that it will always be easier to quit than to persist. It’s easier to watch television at night than to do your homework. It’s easier to run away from a problem you have with another person, than to stay and work it out. It’s easier to stay in bed in the morning than it is to get up and work-out. If you always take the easy way, you will never develop persistence and as a result you will not have what it takes to face the challenges of life. But if you determine that you are not going to quit, you will find that every time you choose to hang in there, you will be a little stronger than you were the last time. So, when the next challenge comes, even if it is greater, you will be more persistent than you were before.

Finally, you need to understand that persistence is about making choices. Persistence is simply choosing what is the best in the long run, and ignoring what, in comparison, is not as important. You can make those choices—never let anyone or anything tell you that you can’t. John

Maxwell says, “Not realizing what you want is a problem of knowledge. Not pursuing what you want is a problem of motivation. Not achieving what you want is simply a problem of persistence.”

~ Meet Your New Friend, Failure... ~

With the right attitude about failure and the right response toward failure, failure will become your friend. Failure will then provide you with some wonderful opportunities that you didn’t have before, such as:

1. The Opportunity to Re-evaluate

The experience of failing gives you the opportunity to say, “No matter how much I think I know, I can learn from this situation.” Dr. John Maxwell, in his book, *Failing Forward*, has eight important questions you can ask yourself to help you profit from failing:

- A. **What caused the failure: The situation, someone else, or self?** You won’t know what to do next until you find out what went wrong. This is where you start. Always begin the learning process by trying to identify the cause of the problem.
- B. **Was what happened truly a failure, or did I just fall short?** What you think may have been your fault may have been an attempt to fulfill unrealistic expectations. If a goal is unrealistic and you miss it, that is not a failure.

C. **What successes are contained in the failure?** No matter what kind of failure you experience, there is always a success contained in it. Allow the experience to make you a better person for having gone through it.

D. **What can I learn from what happened?** There is always a way to learn from failure, as long as you keep a teachable attitude and try to learn anything you can about how to do things differently next time. Remember, the more you do, the more you fail. The more you fail, the more you learn. But if you are repeating the same mistake two or three times, you are not learning from it.

E. **Am I grateful for the experience?** In the face of even huge disappointments, one of the most important things you can do is to have an attitude of gratitude. Christians should understand that God allows

nothing to happen in our lives that can’t be used for good.

F. **How can I turn this into a success?**

Figure out how to use what has happened to your benefit. William Marston writes, “If there is any single factor that makes for success in living, it is the ability to draw dividends from defeat.”

G. **Who can help me with this issue?** There are two ways to learn: By experience from your own mistakes, or by wisdom from the mistakes of others. Learn as much

as you can from the mistakes of others—it is a lot less painful.

H. **Where do I go from here?**

Don Shila and Ken Blanchard write in their book, *Everyone’s A Coach*, “Learning is defined as a change in behavior. You haven’t learned a thing until you can take action and use it.” Jim Rohn says that your learning shouldn’t lead to knowledge, it should lead to action.

No matter what kind of failure you experience, there is always a success contained in it.

2. The Opportunity to Change

J. Wallace Hamilton says, "People are training for success when they should be training for failure. Failure is far more common than success..." The question in life is not if you will have problems, but how are you going to deal with those problems. No matter how difficult your problems, the key to overcoming them is not to change your circumstances. The key is to change yourself, and you do this by being teachable.

You don't have to love change to be successful, but you do need to be willing to accept it. Change will get you out of a rut and give you a fresh start. It also gives you the opportunity to re-evaluate your direction. Dr. Maxwell says that you need to either learn flexibility or learn to like living with your failures. Rudolf Dreikurs said, "We can change our whole life and the attitude of people around us simply by changing ourselves."

John Maxwell says, "People change when they...hurt enough to want to, learn enough that they want to, and receive enough that they are able to. Remember, you cannot change without unless you change within. Change yourself, and your whole world changes."

3. The Opportunity to Give

Dr. Maxwell points out that many people who struggle with chronic failure do so because they think of no one but themselves. A major cause of negative thinking and poor mental health is self-absorption. Most people who focus all their attention on themselves feel that they're missing something in their lives, so take from others in an effort to fill the void they have inside. But selfishness will always produce failure. Zig Ziglar says, "You can get everything in life you want if you help enough other people get what they want."

A successful life is one which is focused on adding value to the lives of others. Can anyone say of you, "My life is better because of that person" or "That person has made a difference in my life?" To add value to others you have to put them first. For example, when you meet a person, instead of worrying about what they think of you, focus on their needs and how you can make them feel more comfortable. Another way that you add value to people's lives is to become a good listener. Find out what matters most to them and do your best to help meet their needs with no thought about what you might receive in return.

4. The Opportunity to Grow

John Maxwell says, "To achieve your dreams, you must embrace adversity and make failure a regular part of your life. If you're not failing, you're probably not moving forward." Failure and adversity in life can give you opportunities for personal growth like nothing else in life can. Even though painful, a right response to failure can help you become wise and mature. The truth is that very little, if anything is learned from success.

Our world is changing at a faster and faster rate. The only way you are going to survive all these changes is to be a wise, mature, and flexible human being. The problems you are able to face and overcome will prepare you

for future difficulties. Once you know you can fail successfully, you'll have a new confidence and will actually fail less.

Adversity in life will also help you develop the ability to find new ways to solve problems, make adjustments, do things better, and try again. Adversity can also give you the opportunity to become a stronger, more resilient person, who is able to take on new challenges that you never would have accepted before you had the problem. Zig Ziglar says, "What you get by reaching your destination isn't as important as what you become by reaching that destination." What you will become is a stronger, better, person if you allow failure to be your friend and not your enemy.

**Change yourself,
and your
whole world
changes.**

Failure is only a temporary setback, ...

It is true that nothing else seems to have the potential to discourage you like failing. You have high hopes and expectations for yourself and when those expectations are not met, it is easy to give in and give up. The good news is that there is a future for those who fail. Remember, there is a big difference between failing and being a failure. Failure is not a person. So, you must make a choice as to how you are going to deal with failure. If you let yourself believe that you are a failure simply because you failed at something, hopelessness will take over in your life. Failure is only a temporary setback, something from which to learn. God wants to use those times when you fail to reveal Himself and His power in your life.

There is a great story in Luke 5:1-11 which illustrates this point. Peter and his friends had been out fishing all night but they had caught nothing. This was probably very unusual because these guys were professional fishermen. They had the best nets, a good boat, and they knew exactly when and where to fish to be successful. These men had worked hard all night long and their incomes and their families were dependent on a good catch, but they failed. The next day, they were washing their nets, feeling very tired and discouraged and at that very moment, Jesus came along. Jesus asked Peter if He could use his boat as a platform from which to speak to the crowd of people who were following Him.

After He finished His message, Jesus said to Peter, "Okay, now let's go fishing! Launch out

into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." Peter said, "But Master, we've worked so hard all night and we haven't accomplished a thing."

It's easy to sound like Peter when you have failed. "Master, I've worked so hard but all I've done is failed. I've worked hard at that relationship, in that class, at my job, with my finances, but I don't see any progress." "I've worked hard to love that enemy, or straighten out that relationship, to break that bad habit, or change my attitude, control my temper or my tongue, and I'm getting nowhere." These are all hard battles to fight and failure makes you want to give up, to quit. "What's the use," failure whispers, "You failed once, you'll just fail again."

Well, God wants to use Peter and his experience with failure to show you that being down, isn't being doomed. If you look at those verses again, you will see that there were actually two fishing expeditions in the story. Both involved the same lake, boats, nets, and the same people. So what made the difference? There are three differences between the two fishing trips, and these differences represent principles you can follow to rebound from failure:

1. Appropriate God's presence in your life.

Luke 5:3 says, "He (Jesus) got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon..." It wasn't just the presence of Jesus in Peter's boat, but Peter's awareness of Jesus' presence that

made the difference that day. You, too, must be focused on the fact that Jesus' presence is in you and with you at every moment. This is how you learn to "practice the presence of Christ" in your daily life. Then when you experience times of failure, you won't be tempted to doubt Jesus' presence in the boat with you.

2. Cooperate with God's plan for your life.

Luke 5:4-5 says, "When Jesus had finished speaking, He said to Simon, 'Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.' Simon answered, 'Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because You say so, I will let down the nets.'"

Peter's reaction to Jesus was a perfect example of what to do when you have failed. He made a statement to Jesus but he didn't

argue or protest. He didn't ask questions or hesitate to be obedient. Peter didn't follow his intellect as a professional fisherman which told him that fishing in the heat of the day was ridiculous.

Peter also did not make a decision regarding obedience to Jesus based on his feelings. He was tired and discouraged after working all night. If he had done what he "felt" like doing, he would have probably said, "Sorry Jesus, I'm going to have a pity party and take a nap—no more fishing for me!" But, Peter said "no" to his right to question, argue, or protest. He said "no" to his own intellect and to his feelings, and said "yes" to Jesus. Peter cooperated with God's plan for his life by being obedient to the Word of God.

...something from which to learn.

3. Trust God's promises in your life.

Jesus told Peter in Luke 5:4, "...let down the nets for a catch." Peter responded in verse five by saying, "...because You say so, I will let down the nets." The second fishing trip was made solely on the basis of God's promise to Peter. Jesus didn't specifically say, "Peter if you will do things my way, I will guarantee you a big catch." Jesus just promised that something would happen—that there would be some action, some progress. So, Peter trusted in that promise and expected that God would act and that whatever happened, it would be okay because the Master would be in control of the final outcome.

Because Peter made a decision not to depend on his own abilities or to look at his past performances, he no longer was afraid of failure. He simply had to trust in the Word of God. We must understand that a decision on our part to trust in the promises of God, is a decision to give up our right to dictate to God what we think He should do and when and

how He should do it. It means that we are choosing to believe that God knows what is best for us and for everyone involved and that in His sovereignty He knows the best way to bring that about.

Whenever failure threatens to destroy our lives, we must get into the Word of God and trust God's promises for our lives.

With God's presence in his boat, God's plan in his mind, and God's promise in his heart, his failure became a turning point in Peter's life. In verse 10, when Jesus tells Peter, "Don't be afraid," Jesus was telling Peter that he never had to fear failure again. You would think this miracle taught Peter a lesson he would never forget, but not so.

Just three years later, Peter failed the Lord when he denied Jesus three times. Failure nearly destroyed Peter that time. The Bible says that after his denial Peter went back to fishing. He picked up everything he had laid down to follow Jesus and went back to his old life. But early one morning, at the beach, a resurrected

Christ reached out in love to a guilt-ridden Peter and gave him another chance to get back out in deep water with God.

Maybe your net is empty today and failure is threatening to destroy you, too. It doesn't have to. Failing can put you in position for a miracle. It was no accident, that Jesus came on the scene that day after Peter had failed. Jesus may have

waited behind a tree all night so He could arrive at the right moment. Just think, if Peter had not failed, he would have never been willing to get in deep water with Jesus, would have never experienced a miracle, and would never have had his life changed. Failure became Peter's friend.

**Failing can put
you in position
for a miracle.**