

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16).

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Failure

"Every failure teaches a man something, if he will but learn." – Charles Dickens

"Failure is simply the opportunity to begin again only more intelligently." – Henry Ford

"Only those who dare to fail greatly can ever achieve greatly." – Robert F. Kennedy

"The great question is not whether you have failed, but whether you are content with failure." – Chinese Proverb

"Every failure is a step to success; every detection of what is false directs us toward what is true; every trial exhausts some tempting form of error." – Whewell

Webster, in his definitions, tells us that *failure* is imply the lack of success, falling short. Certainly this is not new to any human being, for all of us have experienced failure. This bodes especially tough for those who are perfectionists. For some, failure is simply not acceptable. Instead of learning from past failure and mistakes, they either cannot admit failure, or delude themselves into believing they have not failed.

Many folks do not realize that Thomas Edison held more than a thousand patents for his inventions, many of which were failures. In the June 2011 edition of *Forbes*, Nathan Furr brought up the many failures that Edison experienced in his life. Edison himself said, "I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work." And again, "Negative results are just what I want. They're just as valuable to me as positive results. I can never find the thing that does the job best until I find the ones that don't." And perhaps the funniest and most pointed remark he made, "Failure is really a matter of conceit. People don't work hard because, in their conceit, they imagine they'll succeed without ever making an effort. Most people believe that they'll wake up some day and find themselves rich. Actually, they've got it half right, because eventually they do wake up."

Isn't it ironic that the church has had lectures and workshops on evangelism? Brethren have studied and spoken so strongly on what needs to be done, but after the seminars or workshops or lectureships are over, they go home and fail to implement what they have so boldly proclaimed. Could it be because they are afraid of failure?

When the Lord sent the disciples on the Limited Commission in Matthew 10, He knew that many would not listen to what the disciples said. Did He not reveal that the vast majority of people will not inherit eternal life (Matt. 7:13-14, 21-23)?

The church cannot afford to let failure hold us back from trying to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10).