

James Crawford "How to Fail Forward" 9-10-23

[www.fatherheartchurch.com](http://www.fatherheartchurch.com)

## "How To Fail Forward"

All of us fail sometimes. Because we are an imperfect people living in an imperfect world with other imperfect people we are surrounded with failures. Failure is not optional, it is certain.

So! In this sermon I'm going to give you 12 keys to ensure that you utilize the gift of your failures to your advantage.

When Jesus was arrested and about to be sentenced to death, 2 of His best friends had massive failures when they denied and renounced Christ. Judas & Peter both utterly failed.

The difference in their response to failure was this:

Judas did not seek God & find mercy with Him but Peter did. Judas committed suicide & Peter became the key leader of the church! How we respond to our inevitable failures determines the quality of our life here on earth and in eternity!

We can fail forward if we follow these 12 Biblical keys!

Proverbs 24:16

For the righteous falls seven times and rises again...

Common Areas of Human Failure

~ Moral failures (Sexual sin, lying, swindling, divorce, abuse, bitterness, deception, divisiveness, gossip, slander) ~ Business Failures ~ Financial

*James Crawford "How to Fail Forward" 9-10-23  
www.fatherheartchurch.com*

Failures ~ Ministry Failures ~ Marriage Failures ~ Parental Failures ~  
Vocational Failures ~ Relational Failures ~ Health Failures

## **1. Run To God After You Fail**

Our natural tendency is to shy away from God after we fail. This is exactly what Satan desires. If we seek God after we fail, we will be met with gentleness and forgiveness and thus propelled into greatness!

Psalm 18:35

Your gentleness [Your gracious response when I pray] makes me great.

## **2. Confess Your Sin**

1 John 1:9

**If** we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

## **3. Forgive Yourself**

Many people never move past their failures because they never forgive themselves.

James Crawford "How to Fail Forward" 9-10-23

[www.fatherheartchurch.com](http://www.fatherheartchurch.com)

#### **4. Examine Yourself & Your Bloodline**

Pursue personal healing and deliverance therapy with skilled supervision.

Psalm 51:5-6

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me. 6 Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, and in the hidden *part* You will make me to know wisdom.

#### **5. Do What God Has Called You to Do**

After we fail, there comes a time that we must get up & go! We look at Jesus and He dusts us off and commissions us forth!

John 21:6

15 So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Feed My lambs."

#### **6. Resist The Reminders & Naysayers**

Some people will remind you of your failures and try to stop you from doing God's will and becoming a success.

Nehemiah 4:1-8

*James Crawford "How to Fail Forward" 9-10-23*

*www.fatherheartchurch.com*

1 Now it came about that when Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became furious and very angry, and he mocked the Jews.

2 And he spoke in the presence of his brothers and the wealthy people of Samaria and said, "What are these feeble Jews doing? Are they going to restore the temple for themselves? Can they offer sacrifices? Can they finish it in a day? Can they revive the stones from the heaps of rubble, even the burned ones?"

3 Now Tobiah the Ammonite was near him, and he said, "Even what they are building—if a fox were to jump on it, it would break their stone wall down!"

4 Hear, O our God, how we are an object of contempt! Return their taunting on their own heads, and turn them into plunder in a land of captivity. 5 Do not forgive their guilt and do not let their sin be wiped out before You, for they have demoralized the builders.

6 So we built the wall, and the entire wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to work.

7 Now when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites heard that the repair of the walls of Jerusalem went on, and that the breaches began to be closed, they were very angry. 8 So all of them conspired together to come to fight against Jerusalem and to cause confusion in it.

## **7. Learn Your Lesson**

There is always a lesson to be learned in our failures.

James Crawford "How to Fail Forward" 9-10-23  
[www.fatherheartchurch.com](http://www.fatherheartchurch.com)

Hebrews 12:11

11 Now no **chastening** seems to be joyful for the present, but **painful**; nevertheless, afterward **it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness** to those who have been **trained by it**.

## 8. Join a Spiritually Mature Church Who Will Support You

2 Corinthians 13:11

Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for **restoration, comfort** one another, **agree** with one another, live in **peace**; and the God of love and peace will be with you.

## 9. Agree With Your Bright Future on Earth

Psalms 23:6

Surely your goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life...

That settles it!

## 10. Agree With Your Bright Future in Eternity

Revelation 22:12

James Crawford "How to Fail Forward" 9-10-23  
[www.fatherheartchurch.com](http://www.fatherheartchurch.com)

"Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done.

Revelation 21:4

He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

## 11. Keep Your Eyes on Jesus

Matthew 14:29-31

29 He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. 30 But **when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid**; and **beginning to sink he cried** out, saying, "Lord, save me!" 31 And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of **little faith**, why did you **doubt**?"

## 12. Never Stop!

Luke 9:62

Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."