

Failure Is OK

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Preface

When you hear the word failure, most people cringe. We've been taught to avoid it, deny it, and be ashamed of it. But I want to start this book by telling you something that might shock you: failure is OK. I didn't learn this truth from a classroom, a leadership seminar, or a YouTube video. I learned it from living. I learned it from losing money on deals, from trusting people who betrayed me, from building things that fell apart, and from moments when I questioned if I was even called to do what I was doing. But I also learned it through God's Word and through His faithfulness to pick me up every time I fell. In my journey as a pastor, entrepreneur, husband, father, and servant, I've come to understand that failure is not a death sentence. It's a teacher. It's a builder. It's a mirror that forces us to look at ourselves and grow. I've failed in business, I've failed in relationships, I've failed in ministry but each failure

carried a seed of wisdom that prepared me for the next chapter of my life.

This book is not a highlight reel. It's not written to impress you with my wins. It's written to connect with you through my losses, my stumbles, and my scars. Because I know you've had them too. If you've ever tried and come up short, if you've ever prayed and didn't get the answer you wanted, if you've ever stepped out in faith and landed flat on your face this book is for you. Here's what I want you to hold onto: God never wastes a failure. He uses it to refine us, to humble us, to redirect us, and to remind us that His strength is made perfect in weakness. Your failure is not the end of your story it's the soil God uses to grow your next victory. So read this book with an open heart. Let go of the shame. Let go of the fear. And lean into the truth that failure is OK. Because with God, failure is never final. It's just another chapter in your testimony of faith, resilience, and grace.

About the Author

Pastor Scott Gordon is a pastor, entrepreneur, and community leader passionate about helping people discover purpose, walk in faith, and build a lasting legacy. Known for his practical teaching style and his heart for empowering others, Pastor Scott has dedicated his life to equipping individuals with both spiritual and practical tools for success. This book, *Failure Is OK*, was birthed out of a powerful presentation delivered at the SEC Business Class Workshop. It was during this time that I witnessed the hunger of entrepreneurs, dreamers, and leaders who were eager to grow, and I felt led to put these principles into writing so they could continue to impact lives long after the workshop ended. I would like to acknowledge and honor Apostle Milford Carter for extending the invitation and creating the platform for me to share. Your vision for equipping God's people with kingdom strategies in both ministry and the marketplace

has been a catalyst for many, and I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to that mission. To everyone who was present that day this book was birthed as a reminder I believe You Can. May it encourage you to see that even failure is part of the process, and that every setback is really a setup for your destiny.

Chapter 1: The Lie of Perfection

Perfection. That's the lie we've been sold since we were children. Get it right the first time. Don't make mistakes. Don't fail. And if you do fail, you'd better hide it, cover it, or pretend like it never happened. But I want to start this chapter with truth: Perfection is a myth. It's an illusion created by culture, pressured by society, and fueled by our own insecurities. And when you chase it, you'll always feel like you're not enough. I grew up believing that if I didn't do it right the first time, it meant I wasn't cut out for it. I thought mistakes disqualified me. I thought missteps meant God had taken His hand off me. But here's what I discovered: God doesn't call the perfect, He calls the willing. And sometimes the most willing people are the ones who failed the most, because they learned to depend on Him instead of themselves. The Pressure to Perform In ministry, the pressure to be perfect is heavy. Every sermon, every counseling session,

every decision is under a microscope. And in business, the same pressure exists every deal, every contract, every dollar on the line. I remember early in my real estate journey, when I was still cutting my teeth on deals, I thought one wrong move would ruin my whole career. I'd look at seasoned investors and think, 'Man, they must never fail.' But what I didn't see were their bankruptcies, their foreclosures, their losses. They had just learned the art of failing forward. Here's what perfection does: it keeps you stuck. It paralyzes you in fear because you're so worried about failing that you never move. But faith demands movement. The God-Kind of Faith says, 'Step out even if you don't see the whole staircase.' Perfection says, 'Don't move until you have it all figured out.' And that's why perfection is a liar. It whispers in your ear, 'Wait until you're ready,' but the truth is you'll never feel ready. You just have to go. When I Failed Publicly Let me be real with you. There were times I failed so publicly it made me want to crawl in a hole. I've preached sermons that fell flat, business ideas that went nowhere, partnerships that ended in embarrassment. And the hardest part wasn't the failure itself it was worrying

about what people thought. That shame can eat you alive if you let it. But I had to remind myself of this truth: people's opinions don't define God's plan. And people's criticism doesn't cancel God's calling. One Sunday, I remember pouring my heart into a message. I had prayed, studied, prepared, and thought it was going to hit hard. But when I preached it, the room was cold. No amens, no nods, just blank stares. I went home defeated, wondering if I was even called to preach. But then God whispered to me, 'Your obedience is what I require, not your perfection.' That set me free. Because I realized my job was never to be perfect it was to be faithful. Scripture Truth: God Uses Imperfect People Open your Bible and you'll see the same theme over and over: God never used perfect people. Moses stuttered. David messed up big time. Peter denied Jesus three times. Paul was once a persecutor of Christians. Yet God used them to change the world. That means He can use you too even with your flaws, even with your failures. Perfection isn't God's requirement. Faith is. Second Corinthians 12:9 says, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my strength is made perfect in weakness.' Think about that. God's

strength shows up best when you're weak. So why do we try so hard to appear perfect? When we pretend to be flawless, we rob God of the opportunity to showcase His power through our imperfections. Practical Lessons Here are three things I learned about overcoming the lie of perfection: Perfection kills progress. Stop waiting until you have it all figured out. Start where you are, with what you have. Perfection is pride in disguise. It's us trying to prove we don't need God. But when we admit we're flawed, we invite His power. Perfection is a moving target. Even when you think you've hit it, the bar moves higher. So stop chasing it and start chasing purpose. Closing Declaration I want you to say this out loud right now: I don't have to be perfect. I just have to be faithful. My failures don't define me, my faith does. Perfection is a lie, but God's grace is the truth. And with His grace, I can rise from every fall, learn from every mistake, and move forward with boldness. Failure is OK. And perfection? That's the biggest failure of all—because it was never real to begin with.

Chapter 2: Lessons Hidden in the Loss

Every loss I've experienced carried with it a lesson that shaped who I am today. The problem is, most of us don't like to sit with loss long enough to learn from it. We want to move past the pain, bury the memory, and pretend it never happened. But I've discovered that some of my greatest wisdom has come from the ashes of my failures. The Classroom of Pain Loss is a teacher that doesn't need a chalkboard or a textbook. It teaches you in real time, in the raw moments where your heart is breaking and your plans are crumbling. When I look back, I see how God used my lowest points to prepare me for my highest assignments. I remember a real estate deal that fell apart right when I thought I had secured financial freedom. I had crunched the numbers, built the team, and thought this was the one that would set me up. But the financing collapsed, my partners backed out, and what I thought

was a sure win became a devastating loss. I sat in my office, head in my hands, wondering if I was cut out for this business. But that loss taught me resilience. It taught me the importance of multiple exit strategies. It taught me that my identity couldn't be tied to one deal it had to be tied to my calling. What I Gained From What I Lost Here's the truth: every loss comes with a hidden gift. It might be wrapped in pain, but if you open it, you'll find wisdom, strength, and clarity. Let me break down a few of the lessons I learned: Loss taught me patience. I wanted everything quick success, money, recognition. But God used loss to slow me down and remind me that true growth takes time. Loss taught me humility. Failure keeps you grounded. It strips away pride and reminds you that you can't do this alone. It keeps you leaning on God instead of leaning on your own understanding. Loss taught me discernment. Not everyone clapping for you is in your corner. Some people celebrated my failure because they were never truly for me. That loss helped me sharpen my circle and surround myself with people who were committed to the vision, not just the victory. Loss taught me gratitude. When you lose something

you thought you needed, you realize how valuable what you still have is. I lost money but still had my family. I lost deals but still had my faith. Loss recalibrated my perspective.

Biblical Examples of Loss Turned Into Lessons

The Bible is full of people who learned through loss. Job lost everything his wealth, his children, his health but he gained a deeper revelation of God. Joseph lost years of his life in slavery and prison, but those losses positioned him to save a nation. Even Jesus experienced the ultimate loss on the cross, but through it came the greatest victory of all salvation. Romans 8:28 reminds us, 'And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.' That means nothing is wasted not even your losses. Every setback is raw material in the hands of a God who knows how to turn it for your good.

Ministry Lessons

I can't talk about loss without talking about ministry. There were seasons where people walked away from the church, and it felt like failure on my part. I poured into people, loved them, prayed with them, and still watched them leave. That kind of loss hurts differently. It's not financial it's relational. But here's what

God showed me: everyone in your life is not meant to stay forever. Some people are assignments for a season, not a lifetime. Losing them doesn't mean you failed it means their chapter in your story came to an end. That lesson freed me from bitterness. It helped me bless people as they left, rather than resenting them. Because I realized that if God allowed them to walk away, it was because He had someone else coming in, or because He was preparing me for something greater.

How To Embrace Loss Without Losing Yourself Here are some practical ways I've learned to handle loss: Acknowledge it. Don't pretend it didn't happen. Be honest about the pain. Ask God what you should learn. Instead of asking, 'Why me?' ask, 'What are You teaching me through this?' Adjust and apply. Take the lesson and use it as wisdom for your next move. Advance anyway. Don't let loss paralyze you. Keep moving forward, even if it's just one small step at a time.

Closing Declaration Repeat this with me: My loss is not wasted. My pain has a purpose. God is using everything I've been through to prepare me for everything He has promised. I refuse to let loss make me bitter it will make me better. And every time I

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lose something, I'm gaining something greater in God.
Failure is OK. And loss? Loss is just a setup for a lesson
that will carry you into your next season.

Chapter 3: From Falling to Flying

Falling is a part of life. Flying is a decision. Every great success story begins with someone who fell flat, but refused to stay down. This chapter is about how to turn your falls into fuel, your crashes into comebacks, and your failures into flight. The First Time I Fell Hard I'll never forget the first time I truly fell hard in business. It wasn't a small misstep it was a crash landing. I had invested time, energy, and money into a project that I was sure would succeed. I told my family, told my church, told my friends this was it. And then it collapsed. Not only did I lose money, but I lost pride. The embarrassment hit harder than the financial loss. I thought, How can I face people now?

But here's what I learned: falling doesn't make you a failure. Staying down does. Falling is just part of the process. Flying comes when you get back up and try again with wisdom this time. Why Falling Feels So Final,

Falling hurts because it feels final. When you're on the ground, all you can see is the dirt. But what you don't realize is that falling is just the middle of the story, not the end. The enemy will whisper, 'It's over.' But God is saying, 'Get ready, because I'm about to lift you higher.' Proverbs 24:16 says, 'For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again.' That means falling is not optional it's inevitable. The difference between the righteous and the defeated isn't who falls it's who gets back up. Lessons From the Fall, When you fall, you learn things you can't learn any other way: Falling teaches you what doesn't work. Every failure removes one more wrong path and points you closer to the right one. Falling reveals your foundation. You don't know what you're standing on until it shakes. A weak foundation crumbles, but a strong one holds. Falling grows your faith. It forces you to look up when all you want to do is give up. That's where the God-Kind of Faith comes in. From Ground Level to God Level When I was flat on my face after one of the biggest losses of my life, I cried out to God, and He reminded me: 'You're not meant to stay on the ground. I called you to soar on wings like eagles.' Isaiah 40:31 says, 'But

they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.'

Flying isn't about never falling it's about trusting God to lift you after you do. It's about refusing to let the ground define you. It's about believing that your story doesn't stop with the stumble. Practical Steps to Rise After a Fall So how do you go from falling to flying? Admit the fall. Don't hide it, don't deny it. Honesty is the first step toward healing. Assess the damage. What caused the fall? What can you learn from it? Adjust your approach. Don't repeat the same mistake. Apply the lesson. Anchor yourself in God's promises. His Word is your wind. Without it, you'll stay grounded. Advance with courage. At some point, you've got to spread your wings again and jump. My Flying Moments Some of my biggest breakthroughs came right after my biggest falls. After losing a deal that almost broke me, I landed another that set me up for success. After being betrayed in ministry, I experienced some of the deepest relationships I've ever had. Every fall prepared me for a flight I couldn't have handled otherwise. Looking back, I realize that falling

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was never a punishment it was preparation. It stripped me of pride, built resilience in me, and reminded me that the God-Kind of Faith doesn't prevent falls it redeems them. Closing Declaration Say this with me: I may fall, but I won't stay down. God is lifting me higher. My failure is not my finale. I was born to fly, and nothing will keep me grounded. Failure is OK. Falling is OK. Because every fall is just a setup for flight.

Chapter 4: The Pain That Produces Power

Pain is one of the greatest teachers you'll ever have. Most of us run from it, numb it, or try to avoid it altogether. But the truth is, pain has a purpose. It doesn't just break you it builds you. And when you learn how to embrace it, pain can produce a power in your life that comfort never could. The Power of Pain Pain has a way of stripping away the unnecessary and revealing what's real. When you're in pain, you find out what you really believe, who you can really trust, and how strong your faith really is. I can tell you right now, I didn't grow in the easy seasons. My greatest growth came through my deepest pain. There was a season in ministry where I felt like everything was falling apart. Members left. Finances dried up. Criticism grew louder. And I remember crying out to God, 'Why are You letting me go through this?' His answer wasn't what I wanted to hear, but it was

what I needed: ‘Because I’m building something in you that only pain can produce.’ Pain Produces Perspective
Pain changes the way you see life. When I lost deals in business, it gave me a new respect for stewardship. When I lost friends, it gave me a new appreciation for loyalty. When I walked through sickness and saw loved ones in hospital beds, it gave me a new gratitude for health and time. Pain forces you to slow down, re-evaluate, and see life through God’s eyes.

The Apostle Paul understood this. In 2 Corinthians 4:17 he wrote, ‘For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.’ In other words, pain is producing something weighty, something eternal, something powerful inside of us. Pain Produces Purpose

Some of the greatest purposes are born out of pain. Mothers endure the pain of childbirth to bring forth new life. Athletes endure the pain of training to walk in victory. Jesus endured the pain of the cross to bring salvation to the world. So why do we think our purpose will come without pain? I can look at every

painful moment of my life and connect it to something powerful God later did through me. When I went through financial hardship, it gave me compassion to teach financial freedom. When I lost loved ones, it gave me strength to minister as a hospice chaplain. When I experienced betrayal, it gave me wisdom to lead with discernment. Pain shaped my purpose. And it will shape yours too. Pain Produces Power, Here's the real truth: pain births power. It toughens you. It strengthens your spiritual muscles. It forces you to pray harder, believe deeper, and fight stronger. Every time I thought pain was going to take me out, it ended up lifting me higher. Because in my weakness, His strength was made perfect. Romans 5:3-4 says, 'But we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope.' Notice the progression—pain is never wasted. It produces patience, which produces character, which produces hope. That's power. And it only comes through pain. Practical Lessons From Pain, Here's how I've learned to handle pain and let it produce power: Stop running from it. Face the pain. Name it. Acknowledge it. Ask God for

perspective. Instead of asking, ‘Why me?’ ask, ‘What are You producing in me?’ Press through the process. Don’t quit in the middle. Stay faithful until the lesson is complete. Use your pain to help others. Your testimony is somebody else’s survival guide. My Personal Testimony of Pain There were nights I wanted to cried myself to sleep because of the weight of ministry, the stress of finances, and the pain of relationships. But those same nights birthed books, sermons, and business strategies that are now blessing people all over the world. If I had never walked through that pain, I wouldn’t have the power I have today. Looking back, I thank God for the pain. I didn’t see it then, but I see it now. Pain didn’t kill me it pushed me. It pushed me closer to God. It pushed me into purpose. It pushed me into power. Closing Declaration Say this with me: My pain has a purpose. My struggle is producing strength. I am not broken I am being built. God is using my pain to release power in my life. Failure is OK. Pain is OK. Because every pain I face is just a setup for greater power.

Chapter 5: Faith Over Failure

Faith has always been the difference-maker in my life. Not my intelligence, not my money, not my connections faith. And not just any kind of faith, but the God-Kind of Faith. The kind that looks failure in the face and still believes. The kind that takes a licking, keeps on ticking, and declares, 'I'm still standing. When Faith Collided With Failure I can't count how many times faith was all I had left. There were deals that collapsed, partnerships that broke down, and sermons that seemed to fall flat. I had moments where I felt like a complete failure. But when I looked back, I realized those were the moments when faith did its best work. Because faith doesn't show up when everything is perfect. Faith shows up when everything is falling apart. One time, I was in the middle of a real estate deal that looked impossible. The financing wasn't lining up, the contractors weren't dependable, and I had more bills than solutions. I remember pacing the

floor, frustrated, about ready to walk away. And then the Holy Spirit whispered, ‘This is not the time to quit. This is the time to trust.’ That’s when I realized: my failure was not final, because my faith was still alive. The God-Kind of Faith, The God-Kind of Faith is not natural it’s supernatural. It doesn’t deny failure, it defies failure. It doesn’t ignore the facts, but it believes the truth of God’s Word over the facts. Romans 4:20-21 talks about Abraham: ‘He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; and being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.’ Abraham’s faith didn’t ignore the fact that he was old and Sarah’s womb was barren. It simply believed that God’s promise was greater than his failure to produce results on his own.

Faith Redefines Failure

Faith has a way of flipping the script. What looks like failure to the world becomes fuel for destiny in God’s hands. When Joseph was thrown into a pit and sold into slavery, everyone else saw failure but God saw preparation. When Peter denied Jesus, the crowd saw

failure but Jesus saw a preacher. When Jesus died on the cross, hell celebrated what looked like failure but Heaven knew it was the greatest victory ever. Faith doesn't remove failure, but it redeems it. Lessons I Learned About Faith Over Failure Faith doesn't stop you from failing, but it keeps you from quitting. Failure might knock you down, but faith helps you get back up. Faith reframes failure as feedback. Every time I failed, faith helped me see it not as the end, but as information for my next step. Faith focuses on God, not the gap. The gap between where I was and where I wanted to be was huge. But faith taught me to fix my eyes on God, not the distance. When Faith Gave Me Courage There was a season when I was preaching, writing books, and building businesses all at once. Some days I felt like I was failing in all of them. But faith reminded me that my job was not to carry the weight of the outcome my job was to obey. Faith gave me courage to stand in pulpits, close deals, and write pages even when I didn't feel qualified. Faith gave me the boldness to speak things that weren't yet visible, and then watch God make them happen. Scripture Foundation Hebrews 11:1 says, 'Now

faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.' Faith is not just wishful thinking. It's evidence. It's substance. It's the bridge between failure and fulfillment. When I failed, faith reminded me that God was still writing my story. Mark 11:22-24 says, 'Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.' That's the God-Kind of Faith the kind that speaks to mountains even after you've tripped over them. Practical Ways To Put Faith Over Failure Speak life, not death. Your words shape your reality. Don't curse your failure declare your future. Keep moving. Even if it's a small step, faith is active. Don't freeze in failure. Surround yourself with faith-talkers. Stay away from negative voices that magnify failure. Pray with boldness. Pray not just for survival, but for victory after failure. My Declaration of Faith, Faith has carried me when failure tried to bury me. Faith has lifted me when doubt tried to drown me. Faith has reminded me that God's promises don't expire just

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because I made mistakes. And if He did it for me, He'll do it for you. Closing Declaration Say this with me: My faith is greater than my failure. Failure may test me, but faith will carry me. I choose to believe God's Word over my situation. I walk by faith, not by sight, and I declare that my future is still alive. Failure is OK. But faith? Faith is what takes you from failure to fulfillment.

Chapter 6: When People Walk Away

One of the hardest failures you will ever experience is not when money runs out, or when a business deal collapses it's when people walk away. People you loved. People you trusted. People you thought would be there forever. I know this pain well, both in ministry and in business, and it cut me deeper than any financial loss ever could. The Shock of Separation When people leave, it often feels like betrayal. You start asking yourself questions: What did I do wrong? Could I have done more? Why wasn't I enough to make them stay? Those questions can torment you if you let them. I remember when families left the church after I poured into them for years. I baptized their children, married them, buried their loved ones, prayed with them through sickness and struggle. And one day, they just walked away. No explanation. No conversation. Just gone. It hurt. I won't lie to you it broke me for a

season. Because when you give people your heart and they leave, it feels like they take a piece of it with them. But God had to show me something: everyone in your life is not assigned to your destiny forever. Some people are seasonal. And if God allowed them to walk away, it was because they had finished their assignment in my story. Business Betrayals It wasn't just ministry. I've had business partners walk away too. We shook hands, made plans, and dreamed big dreams together. And then when the storms came, they disappeared. Sometimes they even took more than their share, leaving me to clean up the mess. That kind of betrayal leaves scars. But I learned something valuable: people walking away doesn't stop God from walking with you. Their absence doesn't cancel His presence. Jesus Understands This Pain When I look at the life of Jesus, I find comfort. Because even He experienced people walking away. Crowds followed Him when He performed miracles, but when the teaching got hard, many turned back. At the Last Supper, one of His own disciples betrayed Him. Another denied Him three times. The rest scattered when He was arrested. If Jesus, the Son of God, had people walk away, then who

am I to think I won't experience the same? But here's the difference: Jesus didn't chase them. He kept walking in His purpose. He didn't allow their absence to stop His assignment. That's a word for somebody right now don't let who left distract you from who's still with you. Lessons From People Leaving Here's what I've learned over the years about people walking away: Their leaving is not always your failure. Sometimes it's their choice, not your mistake. Separation is often preparation. God may be clearing space for the right people to enter. Your value is not tied to their validation. Just because they walked doesn't mean you weren't worth staying for. God never leaves. Hebrews 13:5 reminds us: 'I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.' How To Heal When People Walk Away So what do you do when people leave? Release them. Don't hold onto bitterness. Let them go in peace.

Refocus on your calling. Remember why you started. Your purpose is bigger than any person. Recognize who stayed. Don't let the pain of who left blind you to the blessing of who remained. Rely on God's presence. When others walk out, lean harder into Him. My

Healing Journey I won't act like this was easy. I carried the sting of people walking away for years. I replayed the conversations in my head, trying to figure out where I went wrong. But eventually, God healed me. He showed me that some people leaving was actually protection. He reminded me that everyone who starts with you is not assigned to finish with you. And He proved that the right people will always stay. Scripture Foundation. John 6:66-67 says, 'From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him. Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?' Jesus didn't chase the crowd He invested in the committed. That taught me to stop crying over who left and start pouring into who stayed. Closing Declaration, Say this with me: I release who walked away. I refuse to live in bitterness. God is sending the right people into my life. My value is not diminished by who left, because the One who matters most promised He will never leave me. Failure is OK. And when people walk away, it's OK too. Because sometimes their leaving is the very thing that pushes you closer to God's perfect plan.

Chapter 7

3 The Business of Failing Forward

Business has a way of teaching you the raw truth about failure. You can't fake it in business numbers don't lie, contracts don't bend, and bills don't wait. Over the years, I've had both great wins and painful losses in business. But what I discovered is this: the secret is not avoiding failure, but learning how to fail forward. My First Big Business Failure I remember one of my first major business ventures. I had the vision, the drive, and the hunger. I thought it was going to set me up for life. I went all in, investing time, energy, and resources. But when the deal collapsed, I was left with empty pockets and an aching heart. It felt like the end of my business career. But looking back, that was just the beginning. That failure taught me lessons that no classroom, no seminar, and no mentor could have taught me. It was my real-world MBA, paid for with sweat and tears. What It

Means to Fail Forward Failing forward means you don't waste your mistakes. You use them as stepping stones instead of stumbling blocks. It's not about ignoring the pain of failure, but about pulling wisdom out of it. Every failure contains data information about what works and what doesn't. And when you use that information, you're not failing you're learning. Thomas Edison once said, 'I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work.' That's the essence of failing forward. Failure isn't a wall; it's a door. It doesn't stop you; it directs you.

Business Lessons I Learned Through Failure

Cash flow is king. I learned the hard way that profit on paper doesn't mean success in reality. If you don't manage cash flow, your business can die even while looking good on the surface. Partnerships matter. Not everyone deserves a seat at your business table. I've had partnerships that drained me and others that propelled me. Failure taught me to choose wisely. Details determine destiny. Small oversights can cause big problems. I learned to read every line of a contract and pay attention to the fine print. Reputation is wealth.

Money comes and goes, but character keeps doors open. Even when I failed, how I handled myself determined whether I got another opportunity. Persistence pays. The only reason I'm still in business today is because I refused to quit after failure. I chose to fail forward instead of falling back. Biblical Perspective on Failing Forward, The Bible doesn't shy away from failure stories. Peter failed Jesus by denying Him, but he failed forward into becoming the rock of the early church. Jonah failed by running from God, but he failed forward into fulfilling his assignment in Nineveh. Even Samson failed morally, but in his final act, he fulfilled his calling. Failure is not final if you put it in God's hands. Proverbs 24:16 says, 'For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief.' That means the difference between failure and success is not how many times you fall, but how many times you rise. Practical Steps to Fail Forward in Business Document your lessons. Every failure has a lesson. Write it down so you don't repeat it. Pivot quickly. Don't sit too long in defeat. Learn, adjust, and move. Invest in growth. Use failure as motivation to sharpen your skills and expand

your knowledge. Stay resilient. Tough times don't last, but tough people do. Resilience is your currency. Trust God's plan. Sometimes a closed door is God's protection, not your rejection. My Story of Failing Forward After one of my biggest business failures, I had a choice: quit or keep going. Everything in me wanted to quit. I was embarrassed, exhausted, and broke. But something inside said, 'This is not the end.' So I got back up. I studied harder, networked wider, prayed deeper, and moved smarter. And sure enough, new opportunities came. Better ones. Ones I never would have recognized without the wisdom of failure. Closing Declaration Say this with me: I choose to fail forward. My mistakes are not wasted they are wisdom for my next win. Failure may slow me down, but it will not stop me. God is using every failure to push me into greater success. Failure is OK. In fact, in business and in life, it's not just OK it's necessary. Because failing forward is the path to true success.

Chapter 8: Church Hurts & Ministry Missteps

Church hurt cuts deep. Business failures sting, but ministry failures those leave scars on your soul. Why? Because the church is supposed to be a place of healing, family, and love. So when things go wrong in ministry when people wound you, when leaders fail, when you make mistakes yourself the pain is magnified. But I've learned this truth: even in ministry, failure is OK. The Reality of Church Hurt, If you've been in church long enough, you've seen it. People gossiping, leaders falling short, members leaving over disagreements, decisions being criticized, motives being questioned. I've had people I poured into turn around and slander me. I've made leadership calls that didn't sit well with everyone. And I've stood in the pulpit wondering if I failed God because of how others responded. Here's the reality: church is full of people. And people are imperfect. As

long as people are involved, there will be mistakes, misunderstandings, and missteps. But those missteps don't cancel the mission. The enemy would love for church hurt to push you out of your calling, but God will use even that pain to refine you. My Ministry Missteps

I'll be the first to admit I've made mistakes in ministry. I've preached sermons that were more opinion than revelation. I've led from frustration instead of faith. I've overextended myself trying to please everyone, only to burn out and disappoint people anyway. I've made leadership decisions too quickly, and sometimes too slowly. But every misstep has taught me something. It showed me I can't do this on my own I need the guidance of the Holy Spirit. There were seasons when I thought about quitting. When attendance was low, finances were tight, and criticism was high, I wondered if I had failed as a pastor. But God reminded me that my success in ministry isn't measured by numbers or applause it's measured by obedience. If I preach the Word faithfully, love God's people sincerely, and stay true to His call, then I haven't failed, even if others think I have. Healing

From Church Hurt, I've also been on the receiving end of church hurt. I've been betrayed by people I trusted. I've been judged harshly for being transparent about my struggles. I've had people leave without explanation, and others stay only to cause division. And I've carried the weight of seeing others wounded by the church. But here's the key to healing: remember that people may fail you, but God never will. The church may be imperfect, but Christ is still the head of it. Don't let the failures of people make you walk away from the faith. God can use the hurt to give you a deeper compassion for others and a stronger resilience in your calling. Biblical Perspective, Even in the Bible, we see ministry missteps. Moses struck the rock instead of speaking to it. David fell into sin as king. Peter, a leader of the early church, denied Jesus. Paul and Barnabas had such a sharp disagreement they parted ways. Yet God still used every one of them to advance His Kingdom. Their failures in ministry didn't disqualify them they deepened them. Second Corinthians 4:7 says, 'But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.' That means God knew He was

putting His Spirit in imperfect people. Your flaws don't surprise Him. Your failures don't disqualify you. He uses cracked vessels so His glory can shine brighter. Practical Lessons For Leaders If you're leading in ministry, here are some lessons I've learned the hard way: You will disappoint people. You're not called to meet everyone's expectations just God's. Protect your heart. Don't let bitterness take root when people wound you. Learn from mistakes. Don't repeat them, but don't let them paralyze you either. Stay accountable. Surround yourself with wise counsel to keep you grounded. Remember your why. You're doing this for God's glory, not man's approval. My Journey Through Church Hurt I've been in ministry long enough to know this truth: church hurt will either make you bitter or make you better. It broke me at times, but it also built me. It taught me compassion. It taught me endurance. It taught me to love people even when they didn't love me back. And it taught me that at the end of the day, I serve an audience of One. Closing Declaration

Say this with me: I will not let church hurt push me from my calling. I release the wounds of ministry, and I

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embrace the grace of God. My failures and the failures of others will not stop God's plan for my life. Failure is OK. Church hurt is real, but it's not the end. Because God uses even our ministry missteps to shape us into leaders after His own heart.

Chapter 9: Family, Forgiveness, and Finding Strength

Family is one of the greatest blessings and one of the greatest challenges. It's where love runs deepest, but it's also where hurt can cut the sharpest. I've learned over the years that failure isn't just something that happens in business or ministry—it happens in family too. But I've also learned that forgiveness and faith can turn family failures into strength. The Struggles at Home For years I thought success in ministry and business automatically meant success at home. But I quickly discovered that wasn't true. I've had seasons where I was so focused on building, serving, and achieving that I neglected the ones closest to me. That imbalance caused tension, hurt feelings, and missed moments I can never get back. It was a failure I had to face head on. There were times I didn't handle fatherhood perfectly. Times I was short-tempered, distracted, or absent when I should have been

present. Times I didn't communicate with my wife the way I should have. Those moments left me feeling like I had failed as a husband and father. But God reminded me that failure in family doesn't mean finality in family. Forgiveness can restore what failure tried to destroy. Forgiveness Within Family, Forgiveness is the glue that holds families together. Without it, small offenses grow into big walls. And every family will need forgiveness, because every family member will fail at some point. I've needed forgiveness from my wife, my children, my siblings. And I've had to extend forgiveness to them as well. It's not easy sometimes it feels impossible but it's necessary if the family is going to survive. Ephesians 4:32 says, 'And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.' That scripture has guided me in family life. If God could forgive me for all my failures, how could I withhold forgiveness from my own family? Finding Strength in the Middle of Family Failure Family failures can drain you. They can leave you feeling weak, unworthy, and weary. But I've found that my greatest strength often came after my weakest family moments.

Because those moments drove me to my knees in prayer. They reminded me that I can't be the father, husband, or brother I'm supposed to be without God's strength. Isaiah 41:10 says, 'Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.' That promise has carried me through family storms. When I didn't know what to say, when I didn't know how to fix it, when I felt like giving up, God's strength lifted me and gave me the courage to keep going. Lessons Learned in Family, Forgiveness, and Strength Presence is more valuable than perfection. Your family doesn't need you flawless they need you present. Forgiveness keeps the family moving forward. Without it, every failure becomes a permanent wall. Strength is found in surrender. Admitting you can't do it on your own opens the door for God's power. Love covers failure. First Peter 4:8 says, 'Love shall cover the multitude of sins.' Love is stronger than failure. My Personal Story, I've sat at the dinner table and seen the disappointment in my family's eyes when I let them down. I've had to apologize to my children for missing moments. I've

had to apologize to my wife for not listening. But every apology opened the door to forgiveness. And every act of forgiveness brought us closer together. Our strength as a family didn't come from being perfect it came from learning how to forgive and keep moving forward.

Closing Declaration, Say this with me: I will not allow family failures to define me. I choose forgiveness over bitterness. I choose love over division. And I choose to lean on God's strength when my own strength runs out. Failure is OK. Even in family. Because forgiveness can heal, and God's strength can restore what failure tried to steal.

Chapter 10: How to Fail and Still Believe

One of the hardest things to do in life is to believe after you've failed. Failure has a way of shaking your confidence, silencing your prayers, and making you wonder if faith even works. I've been there. I've looked at failure and thought, Maybe I should stop believing so big. But then God reminded me: real faith isn't proven in success it's proven in failure. The test of faith is not whether you can believe when everything goes right, but whether you can still believe when everything goes wrong. The Battle Between Failure and Faith When failure hits, doubt is always close behind. You start asking questions like: Did I hear God wrong? Did I step out too soon? Am I really called to do this? Those questions can paralyze you if you let them. But here's the truth: doubt may come knocking, but you don't have to let it move in. Faith is a decision. It's not a feeling. It's a choice

to trust God's Word even when your world is falling apart. I remember a time when I was believing God for a big project. I declared it, prayed it, and told people about it. But when it fell through, I felt embarrassed and discouraged. Part of me wanted to stop believing out loud because I didn't want to look foolish again. But the Spirit of God convicted me: If you only believe when things succeed, that's not faith that's sight. That moment shifted me. I realized that my faith had to be stronger than my failures. Faith That Survives Failure Biblical faith has always survived failure. Abraham believed for a child for decades and failed multiple times trying to fulfill the promise in his own strength. Yet he still believed God, and it was counted to him for righteousness. Peter failed publicly by denying Jesus, but his faith survived the failure and turned him into a world-changer. Thomas doubted, but his faith eventually carried him to preach the gospel to nations. Hebrews 11, the Hall of Faith, is full of people who failed. But their names are remembered not for their failures, but for their faith. That tells me that God doesn't define us by our failures He defines us by our faith. How I Learned to

Believe Again After one of my biggest personal failures, I didn't want to believe anymore. I wanted to shrink back, play it safe, stop dreaming so big. But then I realized that's exactly what the enemy wanted. If failure can kill your belief, it can kill your destiny. So I made a decision: I would keep believing, even if I failed again. I would rather die believing than live doubting. And sure enough, as I kept believing, God kept showing up. Not always in the way I expected, but always in a way that built my faith. Every time I believed again after failure, my faith muscles grew stronger.

Practical Steps: How to Fail and Still Believe Separate your identity from your failure. You failed at something, but you are not a failure. Anchor yourself in God's Word. When everything else shakes, His Word remains. Stand on it. Surround yourself with faith voices. Don't isolate yourself. Be around people who speak life. Speak faith out loud. Don't let fear silence you. Declare God's promises even after failure. Remember God's track record. If He's come through before, He'll come through again. Scripture Foundation

Habakkuk 3:17-18 says, 'Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.' That's what it looks like to believe after failure. Even when nothing is working, faith still rejoices. Second Corinthians 5:7 reminds us, 'For we walk by faith, not by sight.' Failure is sight. Faith looks beyond it to God's promise. My Personal Declaration I've failed in business, in ministry, and in relationships. But I refuse to let failure stop my faith. I choose to believe again. I choose to dream again. I choose to declare God's Word even louder than before. Because my failures don't disqualify me they qualify me for greater faith. Closing Declaration Say this with me: I can fail and still believe. My faith is greater than my fear. My trust in God is stronger than my mistakes. Failure is not the end of my story. I will keep believing, keep dreaming, and keep moving forward. Failure is OK. And believing after failure is what makes faith unshakable.

Chapter 11: Bouncing Back Stronger

Failure will knock you down, but it doesn't have to keep you down. The difference between people who stay stuck and people who rise higher is simple: resilience. Resilience is the ability to bounce back not just to where you were before, but stronger, wiser, and better. This chapter is about how to rise from failure with more strength than you had before you fell. The Art of the Bounce Back I've fallen hard in life business failures, ministry struggles, broken relationships. Each time, I had a choice: stay down or bounce back. What I discovered is that bouncing back is not automatic. It takes intentionality. It takes faith. And it takes grit. The first time I lost big money on a deal, I wanted to quit real estate altogether. I felt embarrassed and defeated. But after some time in prayer, I realized God wasn't done with me. The loss wasn't the end it was a lesson.

So I dusted myself off, learned from the mistake, and got back in the game. The next deal I landed was better than the one I lost. That's the power of bouncing back stronger. Why Some Never Bounce Back, Not everyone bounces back. Some people stay stuck in failure for years, even decades. Why? Because they let shame, fear, and bitterness hold them down. Failure only becomes permanent when you let it define you. If you believe the lie that failure is final, you'll never rise again. But if you believe the truth that failure is just feedback, you'll always have the strength to get back up. Biblical Bounce Backs The Bible is filled with bounce-back stories: Job lost everything, but bounced back with double. Joseph was betrayed and imprisoned, but bounced back to become second in command over Egypt. Peter denied Jesus, but bounced back to preach Pentecost and win thousands of souls. Jesus was crucified and buried, but on the third day He bounced back with resurrection power. God specializes in bounce backs. And if He did it for them, He'll do it for you. Lessons From My Bounce Backs, Every time I bounced back, I came out stronger. Here's why: learned what not to do. Failure

gave me wisdom I wouldn't have gained otherwise. I built resilience. Once you survive a fall, you realize you can survive another one. That builds courage. I deepened my faith. Nothing draws you closer to God than realizing you need Him to rise again gained credibility. People respect leaders who've been through something and bounced back. How to Bounce Back Stronger Here are some practical steps to help you rise after failure: Refuse to stay down. Make a decision that failure will not hold you. Reflect on the lessons. Don't waste the pain. Learn from it. Renew your mind. Stop replaying the failure in your head. Replace the memory with God's promises. Rebuild with wisdom. Don't go back the same way you fell. Build better. Rely on God. Your strength might not be enough, but His strength never runs out. Scripture Foundation Micah 7:8 says, 'Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the Lord shall be a light unto me.' That's the anthem of a bounce back believer. Falling is inevitable, but rising is guaranteed when God is on your side. Isaiah 61:3 reminds us that God gives us 'beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the

spirit of heaviness.' That means every failure, every loss, every pain can be exchanged for strength, joy, and power when you trust Him. My Personal Declaration I've fallen more times than I care to admit. But every time, God gave me the strength to rise again. And I didn't just come back I came back stronger. That's why today I can stand before people and say with confidence: Failure is OK. Because I've seen God turn my failures into foundations for greater success, Closing Declaration Say this with me: I may fall, but I will rise. My bounce back will be greater than my setback. I am stronger, wiser, and better because of what I've been through. Failure is not my ending it's my launching pad. Failure is OK. Because every fall is just fuel for a stronger rise.

Chapter 12: The God-Kind of Faith in the Face of Failure

If there's one thing that has carried me through every failure, it's this: the God-Kind of Faith. Not human optimism. Not motivational hype. Not positive thinking. But the supernatural, mountain-moving, devil-defying faith that only comes from God. Faith that doesn't deny failure, but looks it in the eye and says, You will not stop me. What Is the God-Kind of Faith? The God-Kind of Faith is not faith in yourself, your resources, or your talent. It's faith in God alone. Jesus said in Mark 11:22, 'Have faith in God.' In the Greek, that literally means, *Have the God-Kind of Faith.* The same faith that spoke the world into existence. The same faith that raised Jesus from the dead. The same faith that can take your failure and flip it into victory. This faith doesn't collapse when failure comes. It stands firm, knowing that failure is temporary, but God's Word is eternal. Facing

Failure With Faith When failure shows up, you've got two choices: fold or fight. And the only way to fight is with faith. I've had seasons when failure surrounded me on every side financial loss, ministry setbacks, relational pain. I wanted to quit. I wanted to give up. But the God-Kind of Faith rose up in me and said, This is not the end. Keep believing. Keep standing. Keep speaking the Word.

Faith doesn't stop the storm from coming, but it keeps you steady in the storm. Faith doesn't prevent failure, but it ensures that failure won't have the final word. Biblical Examples of God-Kind of Faith in Failure Abraham failed multiple times trying to produce the promise, but faith kept him believing until Isaac was born. Moses failed when he struck the rock, but faith still made him one of the greatest leaders in history. David failed with sin, but faith brought him forgiveness and restored his destiny. Peter failed by denying Jesus, but faith turned him into a preacher of Pentecost. Paul failed as a persecutor of the church, but faith transformed him into the greatest missionary of all time. The common thread? Their failures didn't cancel their faith and their faith

didn't let failure define them. Lessons I Learned About Faith in Failure Faith speaks in the face of failure. Don't let failure silence your confession. Keep declaring God's promises. Faith sees beyond failure. Where others see an ending, faith sees a new beginning. Faith stands when failure shakes you. When you feel weak, faith anchors you in God's strength.

Faith shifts your focus. It takes your eyes off the failure and puts them on the Father. My Testimony of God-Kind of Faith There were moments I thought failure had me beat. Moments when I lost money, lost relationships, lost opportunities. But every time, faith reminded me that God's plan was bigger than my pain. The God-Kind of Faith lifted me when I couldn't lift myself. It gave me the courage to keep writing books, keep preaching sermons, keep making business moves, even when failure tried to silence me. I wouldn't be here today without that faith. It's not that I never failed it's that I never stopped believing, Scripture Foundation Hebrews 11:6 says, 'But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is

a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.' God isn't asking you to be perfect He's asking you to believe. Faith is what pleases Him, even when you've failed. Romans 10:17 says, 'So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.' That means if you're going to keep faith alive in the face of failure, you've got to keep feeding on the Word. Practical Steps: How to Walk in God-Kind of Faith After Failure Feed your faith daily. Get in the Word. Speak the Word. Pray the Word. Starve your doubt., Stop feeding on negativity, fear, and failure talk. Surround yourself with faith-filled people. Don't isolate yourself community builds faith.

Stay obedient. Faith without works is dead. Keep moving in obedience, even when you've failed. Worship through the failure. Praise shifts your perspective from failure to God's faithfulness. Closing Declaration Say this with me: I walk in the God-Kind of Faith. My failure will not stop me. My mistakes will not define me. I choose to believe God's promises no matter what I see. Failure is temporary, but faith is eternal. Failure is OK. Because the God-Kind of Faith turns failure into fuel for your destiny.

Chapter 13: Your Failure is Not Final

Failure likes to convince us it's the end. When you've lost, when you've fallen, when you've been embarrassed or rejected, the voice of failure whispers, This is it. It's over. You'll never recover. But I came to tell you today: failure is not final. It may be a chapter in your story, but it is not the conclusion. With God, your failure is just the setup for your comeback. The Lie of Finality Failure tries to make you think it's forever. That if you fail in business, you'll never succeed. If you fail in marriage, you'll never love again. If you fail in ministry, you'll never be trusted again. But those are lies from the enemy. Failure is an event, not an identity. It's something you go through, not something you are. Proverbs 24:16 says, 'For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief.' The difference between the just and the wicked is not that one never falls it's that one

never stays down. When I Thought It Was Over I can recall moments in my own life when I thought failure was final. Deals I lost that made me feel like my career was over. Mistakes in leadership that made me feel like my calling was done. Even personal failures that made me question if I was still worthy of God's love. But every time I thought it was over, God proved me wrong. He showed me that His grace is greater than my greatest failure. Biblical Proof That Failure Is Not Final Moses murdered a man, but still became the deliverer of Israel.

David committed adultery and murder, but still became a man after God's own heart. Peter denied Jesus three times, but still became the leader of the early church. Paul persecuted Christians, but still wrote most of the New Testament. If failure was final, none of these men would be remembered for their faith. But God specializes in rewriting stories. He takes failure and turns it into testimony. Lessons I've Learned About Failure Not Being Final God's grace is greater than my mistakes. No failure is bigger than His forgiveness. Failure is a comma, not a period. It may pause your story, but it doesn't end

it. Your calling is irrevocable. Romans 11:29 says, 'For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.' That means even if you fail, God's calling still stands. Every ending births a new beginning. What feels like the end is often just the start of a new chapter. Practical Steps to Overcome the Lie of Finality Forgive yourself. Don't carry yesterday's failures into today. Change your perspective. See failure as a teacher, not a tombstone. Stay in the fight. The only way failure wins is if you quit. Trust God's promises. His Word is final, not your failure. My Declaration of Victory I've had failures that could have destroyed me. But I refused to let them be final. I chose to get up, believe again, and keep moving forward. And today, I can say with confidence: failure was just part of my process, not the end of my purpose. Closing Declaration Say this with me: My failure is not final. My mistakes are not my master. God's grace is greater than my failures. I will rise, I will recover, and I will finish strong. Failure is OK. Because failure is not final it's just the fuel for a greater future.

Conclusion: Living Proof That Failure Is OK

As we come to the end of this book, I want you to take a deep breath and let this truth sink in: Failure is not your enemy. Failure is not your identity. Failure is not your finale. Failure is OK. And if you don't believe it, just look at me I am living proof. Looking Back Over My Failures

When I look back over my life, I see a trail of failures. Deals that collapsed. Friendships that ended. Sermons that didn't land. Decisions I wish I could take back. Moments when I felt like I wasn't enough. But I also see something else: God's grace carrying me through every single one of them. Every failure became a stepping stone. Every mistake became a lesson. Every loss became a setup for a comeback. The truth is, I would not be who I am today without my failures. They shaped me. They humbled me. They strengthened me. And most importantly, they pushed me closer to God. If I had

never failed, I might have thought I could make it on my own. But failure reminded me that I need Him every single day. Why Failure Is OK Failure is OK because it doesn't define you faith does. Failure is OK because it doesn't stop you it strengthens you. Failure is OK because it doesn't end your story it expands it. Failure is OK because God's plan is bigger than your mistakes. Romans 8:28 reminds us: 'And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.' All things. That includes failure. Living Proof I'm not writing this book as someone who avoided failure. I'm writing it as someone who has failed forward, failed faithfully, and failed into God's favor. I'm not ashamed of my failures anymore. They are part of my testimony. They are proof that God can take broken pieces and build something beautiful. They are proof that His grace really is sufficient. They are proof that no matter how many times you fall, you can rise again. When people look at me today and see the ministry, the business, the books, the family, the legacy I want them to know the truth. None of this happened because I was perfect. It happened

because I refused to let failure have the last word. It happened because I chose to trust God in the middle of my mistakes. It happened because I kept getting back up. Your Turn, Now it's your turn. I don't know what failures you've faced. I don't know what mistakes haunt you. But I do know this: your story is not over. Your failure is not final. And your future is still alive. If God could carry me through failure after failure, He can carry you too. All you need is the courage to keep believing, keep trying, and keep moving forward. Don't let shame hold you back. Don't let fear stop you. Don't let the opinions of others define you. Failure is OK. Because God has already written redemption into your story. Final Lessons To Carry With You Failure is part of the process. Don't run from it learn from it. Faith is greater than failure. Keep believing, even when you fall. Forgiveness is the key. Forgive yourself and others, and keep moving forward. Bounce back stronger. Let every fall make you wiser and tougher. God has the final say. And He always turns failure into victory. Closing Declaration, Say this with me: Failure is OK. My failure is not my finale. I am living proof that God's grace is greater than my mistakes.

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I will rise again, dream again, and believe again. And my story will inspire others to do the same. As I close this book, I pray you carry this truth with you for the rest of your life: Failure is OK. And so are you. Because the God who called you has already factored your failures into His plan. And He has declared that your ending will be greater than your beginning.