

GROWTHguide

Grow Through Failure

August 20, 2017



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

Romans 3:23, John 1:8, Psalm 51, Luke 9:23,
Matthew 11:28-30, Daniel 9:4-1, Psalm 32:5-7

DAY 1

When Apollo 13's mission to the moon was aborted due to mechanical failures within the space craft, Commander Jim Lovell uttered those famous words, "Houston, we have a problem." For the next set of painstaking hours, the folks at mission control worked around the clock to find a solution. The mantra coined by the Director of Flight Control was, "Failure is not an option." The spacecraft was safely brought back to the earth and all crew were saved. Truth be known, it doesn't work like that when it comes to people. Even though we wish our lives to be failure free, we end up failing.

- **What happens when failure does come in life?**
- **Why are we so afraid of failure? Can anything good come from it? Why or why not?**

DAY 2

Read [Romans 3:23](#), [1 John 1:8](#)

We are fallen, broken people and there's no shame in acknowledging we have failed at things along life's journey. Not only is life not perfect, but we haven't always lived life as we should. None of us! We all fall short of the glory of God. God wants repentance. When we look back over our failures in life we should feel a deep sense of

contrition, repentance, knowing we have done things we shouldn't have done. Who hasn't made a mistake? Who hasn't failed along life's journey? Who hasn't expressed disappointment or suffered loss or felt the setbacks that come from our failures?

Think about your failures in life. What was going on when they occurred?

Transparency is a word we hear a lot about and it is so critical to one on the Christian journey. It means being honest about who you are and the mistakes you have made. Transparency means coming clean and confessing your failures to your holy God.

- **Why is it difficult to confess your sins/failures to God?**
- **What steps are you taking to live your life with greater transparency to both God and others?**

DAY 3

[Read Psalm 51](#)

The above Psalm was written by King David after his greatest life failure was discovered: adultery. David writes about contrition, guilt, shame and the pain caused by his sin.

- **As you read the Psalm, make notes of the emotion you feel being expressed by David.**
- **What does he mean when he says, "Create in me a clean heart?"**
- **How are some of the words in this prayer appropriate for you?**
- **How does David end his prayerful Psalm? What is it he is seeking?**

DAY 4

Two things we struggle with when it comes to failure: guilt and shame. Guilt means I've done something wrong; I've done something that has violated life's rules and it makes me feel guilty for what I have done. Shame says, "there is something wrong with me." The darkness that we struggle with through our failures isn't a forever thing **when we hold onto the Gospel of Jesus Christ because we know our guilt and shame have been dealt with on the cross.**

- **What does it mean to you to know Jesus took your guilt and shame to the cross?**
- **How do your failures become part of your story? What good can come from that?**

DAY 5

Read [Luke 9:23](#)

The Bible tells us all people have sinned (failure) and fallen short of God's standard. We are not perfect creatures, but we should strive to be the way Jesus has shown us to be. If we truly love God, we will want to please him. God affords every opportunity to confess our sins, to be instantly forgiven, and to reap eternal rewards. In fact, he says we should take up our cross daily. This means we should cast aside selfish desires that lead to failures and to choose a righteous direction in life. Confession means to begin a renewed relationship with God.

- **The Lord wants to see true, meaningful repentance from humbled hearts. ([Matthew 11:28-30](#))**
- **He wants us to be specific in our prayer for the confession of sin ([Daniel 9:4-19](#)). Tell God what you did.**
- **He wants us to acknowledge we have sinned, and he wants us to know that he readily forgives. ([Psalm 32:5-7](#))**

Take time today to make a confession to God, and accept his forgiveness.

DAY 6

Today is a day of reflection. Think about all you've read and learned this past week. Ask God for guidance in acknowledging and learning from your failures. Understand that Jesus died for you and God readily forgives your sins.

Having trouble reading this e-mail? You can open a PDF of the Growth Guide by [clicking here](#).



St. Paul United Methodist Church
1199 Highland Ave. | Largo, FL 33770
727-584-8165 | church@stpaulumc.org

www.stpaulumc.org



St. Paul United Methodist Church, 1199 Highland Avenue, Largo, FL 33770

SafeUnsubscribe™ {recipient's email}

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by church@stpaulumc.org in collaboration with



Try it free today