

**First Church of God
April 13, 2014
Pastor Robert G. White**

**“Turn Failure Into Victory”
Part III
II Kings 6:1-7**

¹ The company of prophets said to Elisha, “Look, the place where we meet with you is too small for us. ²Let us go to the Jordan, where each of us can get a pole; and let us build a place there for us to live.”
And he said, “Go.”
³Then one of them said, “Won’t you please come with your servants?”
“I will,” Elisha replied, ⁴ And he went with them. They went to Jordan and began to cut down trees. ⁵As one of them was cutting down a tree, the iron ax-head fell into the water. “Oh, my lord,” he cried out, “it was borrowed!”
⁶The man of God asked, “Where did it fall?” When he showed him the place, Elisha cut a stick and threw it there, and made the iron float. ⁷“Lift it out,” he said. Then the man reached out his hand and took it.”

INTRODUCTION:

The question isn’t “will we fail?”

Because we all do

The question is “Will we be able to get through them when we fail?”

Key: We get through our failures to accomplish our goals. No one ever

achieved greatness without setbacks on the way!

I. THREE FACTS ABOUT FAILURE

Fact #1

We all fail.

Fact #2

The more we attempt...

The greater potential for **failure**.

Fact #3

All failures are classified two ways:

- Those who thought and **never** did.
- Those who did and never **thought**.

Bottom Line:

Failure is a great **teacher**.

II. FIVE PRINCIPLES TO TURN FAILURE INTO VICTORY II Kings 6:1-7

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made the iron float. ⁷"Lift it out." He said. Then the man reached out his hand and took it.

Principle #1

Admit you have a problem

II Kings 6:5... As one of them was cutting down a tree, the iron ax-head fell into the water. "Oh, my lord," he cried out, "it was borrowed!"

Key: *One of life's greatest frustrations is doing something stupid and having anyone to **blame** but yourself.

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Principle #2

Go back to the place where the problem started.

II Kings 6:6...

The man of God asked, **Where did it fall?"**

Problem begin one or two ways.

Problem #1

Wrong Priorities

So many fail in this area because they put "other things" before God, family, and right living.

Key: Martha Syndrome

She shows us a person who is **under** committed to the Lord

-and-

over committed to the work of the Lord.

Problem #2

Wrong Attitudes

Tragedy undermines us in the way we respond to it. So many carry baggage from years ago. The problem isn't the event but their attitude toward it.

Hebrews 12:15...

"See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

3 THINGS ABOUT ATTITUDES

- Wrong attitudes keep us from being **effective**.
- Wrong attitudes live deep in **us**.
- My attitudes are **chosen** by me.

Key: It is not what happens **"to"** me but **"in"** me that matters.

Key: To triumph you must **go back** to the point of the problem, or tragedy you've never gotten over.

Principle #3

Apply the "cross of Christ" to the place of failure.

II Kings 6:6...

When he showed him the place, Elisha **cut a stick** and **threw it** there, and made the iron float.

Key: He put the wood (stick) on the place of the problem!

The wood symbolizes the Cross of Christ.
It can be applied to the greatest tragedy of your life!

**Key: If we place the "Cross" on them there is a
a peace
a healing
and
a strength only the "cross can supply.**

The cross (the sacrifice of Christ) does two things for our situations:

- 1. Forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life.**
- 2. It continues to activate our relationship with Him.**

I John 1:7...

"If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, the Son, purifies us from all sin."

Part III - 04/13/14

Principle #4

Expect a miracle from God.

Psalm 42:9-11...

⁹"O God my Rock," I cry, "why have you forsaken me? Why must I suffer these attacks from my enemies?" ¹⁰Their taunts pierce me like a fatal wound; again and again they scoff. "Where is that God of yours?" ¹¹But O my soul, don't be discouraged. Don't be upset. Expect God to act. For I know that I shall again have

plenty of reason to praise him for all that he will do. He is my help! He is my God.

Biblical Failure:

In the lives of Saul and David both had tragedy yet their responses to it were very different

Saul fell and died in disgrace.

David repented and asked for forgiveness and died in glory.

Key: The problem wasn't their problem.

It was their response that made it a tragedy.

Question:

How will you respond to your failure?

Principle #5

Reach out and pick up the power.

II Kings 6:7...

"Lift it out," he said, then the man reached out his hand and took it."

Key: Take it up for yourself.

Point: Don't just look at the miracle.

- 1. Pick it up!**
- 2. Use it for the glory of God.**

CONCLUSION:

No matter the mess, God wants to make something beautiful of your life. Will you let him today?