

Understanding how to live free from Condemnation and Failure Handout #1

If we want a successful life, our mindset is important. We can either embrace a mentality of failure or of success. Our minds are powerful, and our thought processes can move us in either direction

1. **A mindset that lines up with the Word of God is necessary for a successful life.**
 - a. Who we are, or who we become, is based on how we think; our mindset is important.
 - b. For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he... (Proverbs 23:7).
 - c. Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing (Genesis 12:1, 2).
 - d. Even Abraham, who was known for his faith, initially had a mindset that needed to change. God told him to leave his father's house because He wanted Abraham to get away from the influence of his family's mentality.
 - f. Sometimes success depends on how we think. We must break away from the self-preservation mentality. Self-preservation stems from the fear that what God promised will not come to pass; however, this way of thinking denies Jesus as our source.
 - g. Instead of relying on self-effort to supply what we need, which leads to failure, we must rely on God.
 - h. And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you (1 Peter 5:10, ESV).
 - i. This is a promise from God; however, fear causes us to doubt this and wonder if it applies to us.
 - J. A self-preservation mindset ignores the fact that Jesus is our supply for everything.
 - k. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot (Romans 8:6, 7, ESV).
 - L. Setting our minds on the wrong thing produces the wrong things in our lives. We must not lean on our own strength; self-preservation causes us to do just that.
 - m. Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD (Jeremiah 17:5).
 - N. To be cursed is to be empowered to fail. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God (Ephesians 2:8).
 - o. When we look to ourselves as our own source, there will always be certain

things we cannot accomplish on our own. Something that is a gift cannot be earned.

p. Then Jesus went to work on his disciples. "Anyone who intends to come with me has to let me lead. You're not in the driver's seat; I am. Don't run from suffering; embrace it. Follow me and I'll show you how. Self-help is no help at all. Self-sacrifice is the way, my way, to finding yourself, your true self. What kind of deal is it to get everything you want but lose yourself? What could you ever trade your soul for?" (**Matthew 16:24-26, MSG**).

q. The world is inundated with self-help advice; however, some things we simply cannot do by ourselves. The environment we live in is all about what we can do; this leads to the mentality that we do not need God.

R. Choosing our own path in life leads to failure. If we depend on our own capabilities, we will not know where to go.

S. Man's goings are of the LORD; how can a man then understand his own way? (**Proverbs 20:24**).

2. **A poverty mentality leads to poverty. This mindset says we will never have enough.**

a. The poverty mentality is another mindset that must be destroyed.

b. Poor people have poor thinking. A mentality of dependence causes us to think that we can only feel secure if we have more of something; it tells us we never have enough.

c. This mentality is seen in someone who depends on others while declaring they are not doing enough for that person; this has a built-in system that leads to failure.

D. The poverty mindset is an identity issue defined by our resources and possessions. However, the Bible tells us that our identity is not based on what we possess, but on who possesses us.

e. The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want (Psalm 23:1).

F. When we recognize who possesses us, we will no longer be in want.

g. Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD and depart from evil (**Proverbs 3:5-7**).

h. I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless, I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me (**Galatians 2:20**).

i. We break the poverty mentality when we focus on who possesses us. Christ possesses us; therefore, we can change our thinking for the better.

j. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God (Colossians 3:3).

k. Because we know whose we are, we will always have sufficiency. When our lives are hidden in God, the actions we take become acts of faith. We will have more than enough to do what He wants us to do.

3. **Jesus knew He was a child of the King; children of the King do not lack for anything.**

A. I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me (**John 5:30**).

b. Even Jesus confessed that He was not His own source apart from God. The only way we can find our true identity is to lose ourselves in the lordship of the Father.

c. And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he steadfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem, And sent messengers before his face: and they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him. And they did not receive him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem. And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did? But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. And they went to another village. And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain man said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head (**Luke 9:51-58**).

D. No child of the King is poor. It is a misconception to think that Jesus was poor and homeless; to think this is to take Scripture out of context. Jesus was referring to the fact that the Samaritans had refused to let Him hold a meeting there, and that He had to move on to the next village.

E. What is interesting is that if Jesus had been poor, He never would have needed a treasurer to keep track of His money.

F. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh (**Matthew 2:11**).

G. Jesus was financially wealthy even as a baby; He could never have been in poverty, because He was a child of the King. However, religion still maintains that He was physically poor.

4. **Comparing ourselves to others makes us envious. We must count our own blessings.**

A. We must also avoid the comparison mentality. This type of mindset makes us think that our success has to be at someone else's expense.

B. One of the fastest ways to become discouraged and trapped by the sin of envy is by comparing ourselves to others. God has a specific plan for each of us; we will not accomplish that plan by eying others' success. We must count our blessings.

C. Comparing ourselves to others robs us of our joy.

D. Pay careful attention to your own work, for then you will get the

satisfaction of a job well done, and you won't need to compare yourself to anyone else. For we are each responsible for our own conduct (Galatians 6:4, 5, NLT).

E. Comparing ourselves to others is unwise. We should instead focus on God's plan for us, and not get distracted.

F. For we dare not make ourselves of the number or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise (2 Corinthians 10:12).

G. Oh, don't worry; we wouldn't dare say that we are as wonderful as these other men who tell you how important they are! But they are only comparing themselves with each other, using themselves as the standard of measurement. How ignorant! (2 Corinthians 10:12, NLT).

H. Don't put your trust in mere humans. They are as frail as breath. What good are they? (Isaiah 2:22, NLT).

i. Comparing ourselves to others is putting too much trust in them. When we do this, we belittle what God has done for us. We must be okay with ourselves and not let our possessions define us.