

*For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.
(2 Timothy 1:7 NKJV)*

I. EVERYONE FEARS FAILURE.

24 Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man... 25 So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.' 26 His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant!... 28 'Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents.' (Matthew 25:24-26, 28)

II. OVERCOMING THE FEAR OF FAILURE

A. We will fail.

We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check. (James. 3:2)

1. We must allow ourselves to feel the disappointment, but not disapproval.
2. Failure is an event – never a person.

We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they are good for us — they help us learn to endure. (Romans 5:3 NLT)

B. We can overcome.

...for though a righteous man falls seven times, he rises again... (Proverbs 24:16)

1. It doesn't matter what happens to us. It matters what happens in us.

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. (Galatians 6:9)

C. We must take faith risks.

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. (Hebrews 11:6)

1. We cannot play it safe and please God.

Greatest fear: failure

Greatest pain: regret

2. What faith risk is God calling you to take?

38 Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. 39 But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God." (Acts 5:38-39)