

A List of Failures

Winston Churchill was told at school that he would never make anything of himself. He became one of Britain's greatest Prime Ministers but it was after a lifetime of defeats.

Einstein couldn't speak until he was four years old and he couldn't read until he was seven. His teacher described him as mentally slow, unsociable and adrift forever in his foolish dreams.

Beethoven was completely deaf by the age of 46 but wrote five of his greatest symphonies without hearing a note.

Edison tried 2,000 times before he managed a successful light bulb.

Abraham Lincoln's life reads like a biography of failures. He had less than one year of formal schooling and failed miserably twice in business. Defeated in politics at least five times, in Congress, as Vice-president, as Speaker of the House and in the Senate but became the greatest of America's presidents. He instigated the Gettysburg Address which is now learnt by every American as soon as they can talk.

Henry Ford was the first man to put the making of cars on the assembly line and made dollars by the million doing it. But he actually forgot to put the reverse gear into his first model.

Colonel Saunders was so poor he was living in his car. All he had was a pension and a recipe for fried chicken but he also had a vision he refused to let go. Before he died he became a devoted Christian and a millionaire. His picture is now on billboards everywhere, advertising Kentucky Fried Chicken.

Twice General McArthur was refused admission to West Point but the third time he was accepted and came speeding into the history books.

Then there was Rudyard Kipling. He received a rejection letter saying, 'Sorry Mr. Kipling, but you just don't know how to use the English language.'

So, don't get hooked on rejection and don't get hooked on despondency. Entrepreneurs are not born and they don't start with millions. They make mistakes and step on them to climb up.

Often other people's negative edge to your success is hiding their own real struggles. Think of Nehemiah building a whole wall around Jerusalem. His enemies would have stopped it all again and again. 'Why should I come down to you,' he said, 'I am doing a great work.' And the wall was finished in record time. He didn't say 'flatten them and make them nice to me.'

Bill Gates offers these insights to anybody starting out. 1 Life is not fair – get used to it. 2. the World does not care about your self-esteem, it expects you to accomplish something before feeling good about yourself. 3. You won't make \$60,000 a year right out of school, or be a vice-president with a car phone. You have to earn it!

4. Think your teacher is tough? Wait till you have a boss – he owns the company.

5. Your parents weren't always boring. It came from feeding you, washing your clothes, and paying your bills. Before you save the rain forest from the 'parasites' of your parents' generation, you may like to try delousing your own wardrobe. 6. Some schools may have abolished winners and losers but life hasn't. They may have eradicated fail grades and given you as long as you want to get the right answer. This bears no resemblance to reality. 7. Life isn't divided into terms. You don't get summers off. Employers aren't interested in helping you to find yourself. You do that in your own time. 8. unlike television, real people actually have to leave the coffee shop and go to work.

9. Be nice to nerds – chances are you will end up working for one!

10. Finally according to Solomon, 'Sloth makes you poor, diligence brings wealth'. Proverbs 10:4

Spend time with God and hear what He has to say. It will always make a difference Psalm 16:7 says 'I will bless the Lord because He has given me counsel.' And what about Isaiah 54 'Fear not, you will not be ashamed: neither be confounded...for you will forget the shame of your youth...'

Remember that nothing is too hard for God 'With God nothing shall be impossible' was Mary's theme in her song of thanksgiving and she came to trust in her own Son who was raised from the dead. Is there a greater miracle?