

“Take the U out of Failre”

Matthew 14:23-32

Peter was the first to: **speak**, take a **step** of faith, and **stumble.**

But, at the end of the day, Peter was **standing** next to Jesus.

Peter’s failures never became **personal.**

Failure #1. Desire for **Instant** Success—Walking and Sinking.

²⁸“Lord, if it's you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.”

²⁹“Come,” he said.

—Matthew 14:28-29

Immature boldness:

- We want **maturity** without experience.
- We want spiritual power without **spending time** with Jesus.
- We want **instant** discipleship.

Failure #2. We seek **easy** answers—Asking before we think.

“Peter said, “Explain the parable to us.”¹⁶“Are you still so dull?” Jesus asked them.

¹⁷“Don't you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body?”

—Matthew 15:15-17

Quick to speak and ask, but **slow** to think, meditate, and pray.

Failure #3. We think we are **always** right—Confessing and Rejecting.

Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

—Matthew 6:16

We cannot say “**No!**” and “**Lord**” in the same sentence.

Failure #4. We are willing and **weak**—Sleeping instead of praying.

⁴⁰Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “Could you men not keep watch with me for one hour?” he asked Peter. ⁴¹“Watch and pray so that you will not fall into

temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.”

—Matthew 26:40-41

Failure #5. We battle in **human** strength—Fighting at the arrest.

Jesus commanded Peter, “Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?”

—John 18:11

Failure #6. We are overconfident—Denying His Lord.

“Peter replied, “Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will.”³⁴ “I tell you the truth,” Jesus answered, “this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times.”

—Matthew 26:33-34

Failures 4, 5, & 6 reflect whom and what we trust.

- Overconfidence and lack of confidence are really the same.
- We trust in human strength.
- Our faith is in the flesh.

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

—Philippians 4:13

The three strikes you’re out rule is not in effect.

“For though a righteous man falls seven times, he rises again, but the wicked are brought down by calamity.” — Proverbs 24:16

Failure #7. Hypocrisy—acting untruthfully.

¹¹When Peter came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he was clearly in the wrong... ¹⁴When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter in front of them all, “You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?”

—Galatians 2:11,14

If we take the U out of failure, we recognize:

- Failing does not make us failures.
- We are going to fail.
- Failure is part of success.

“Failure isn’t so bad if it doesn’t attack the heart. Success is all right if it doesn’t go to the head.” —Grantland Rice

Don’t take failure personally. Failure is:

- NOT you.
- The nature of life.
- The cost of success.

Memory Verse:

“Come,” he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.

—Matthew 14:29