



Part 11: Failing Forward 2 Cor. 7:2-16

Key Verse: “Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.” 2 Cor. 7:10

Two alternatives when I fail: Break _____ or break _____.

Helping Others Fail Forward

1. Stay _____

“I do not say this to condemn you; I have said before that you have such a place in our hearts that we would live or die with you. I have great confidence in you; I take great pride in you.

I am greatly encouraged; in all our troubles my joy knows no bounds.” 2 Cor. 7:3,4

2. Share _____

“For when we came into Macedonia, this body of ours had no rest, but we were harassed at every turn --conflicts on the outside, fears within. But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus, and not only by his coming but also by the comfort you had given him. He told us about your longing for me, your deep sorrow, your ardent concern for me, so that my joy was greater than ever.” 2 Cor. 7:5-7

3. Speak _____

“Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it. Though I did regret it --I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while-- yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us.” 2 Cor. 7:8,9

Helping Myself Fail Forward

“Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.” 2 Cor. 7:10 (*Repentance:* _____)

Failing Backward

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Failing Forward

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

“See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done...” 2 Cor. 7:10,11

When I Fail Forward, It...

1. Encourages _____

“By all this we are encouraged. In addition to our own encouragement, we were especially delighted to see how happy Titus was, because his spirit has been refreshed by all of you.” 2 Cor. 7:13

2. Deepens _____

“And his affection for you is all the greater when he remembers that you were all obedient, receiving him with fear and trembling.” 2 Cor. 7:15

3. Builds _____

“I am glad I can have complete confidence in you.” 2 Cor. 7:16

Daily Meditations

Here’s a chance to spend some time each day this week meditating on today’s topic!

This week’s memory verse: “Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.” 2 Cor. 7:10

Monday

Read 2 Cor. 7:2-16. Look back over your notes from last weekend. When a friend of yours needs to be confronted or challenged, do you tend to... (check all that apply)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ignore | <input type="checkbox"/> Stay silent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Procrastinate | <input type="checkbox"/> Soft-pedal to the point of ineffectiveness |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agree to preserve the friendship | <input type="checkbox"/> Confront too harshly |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stew until you explode | <input type="checkbox"/> Speak the truth in love |

What can you learn from Paul’s example?

Is there someone you know right now who needs to “fail forward”? What can you do to help?

Ask God to help you help others to "fail forward". Determine to, with God's help, be an encouraging friend who speaks the truth in love.

Tuesday

Read 2 Cor. 7:2-9 again. Of the first three points in the message summarizing Paul's approach, which is hardest for you to practice in real life confrontations?

- Stay positive (Always find something encouraging to say!)
- Share transparently (Revealing your feeling is the beginning of healing!)
- Speak truthfully (Even if it causes your friend some pain at first!)

Why is this hardest for you?

What attitudes are needed to keep loving confrontation from becoming judgmental accusation?

How do you see those attitudes in Paul?

Ask God to help you to stay truthful yet transparent and positive with those around you. Thank Him that He speaks to us in this exact way through His Word!

Wednesday

Read 2 Cor. 7:10-11. Practically, how does *godly sorrow* differ from *worldly sorrow*?

Can you think of a time when godly sorrow motivated you to make a change in your life?

Can you think of a time when worldly sorrow kept you in despair?

Why is worldly sorrow-- the prison of regret and relapse-- so easy to get stuck in?

Where in your life do you need to switch from worldly sorrow to godly sorrow today?

- The way I look at my past
- An addiction or compulsion
- My self-identity
- My marriage or family
- A bad habit
- Other: _____

Godly sorrow involves repentance-- the Greek word for repentance, *metanoia*, literally means a change of mind, or change of thoughts. Where do you need to change your thinking in order to switch from worldly sorrow to godly sorrow?

Ask God to help you make the switch from destructive worldly sorrow to constructive godly sorrow today! Ask God to help you truly repent-- that is, to change your thinking about a subject.

Thursday

Read Luke 22:54-62 and then John 21:15-19. How is Peter an example of worldly sorrow changing to godly sorrow that leads to life?

Where in your life is Jesus asking you to move forward and leave the past behind?

Ask God to help you fail forward, not backward, in the areas you have fallen!

Friday

This weekend we'll be studying 2 Cor. 8 and 9. Read these chapters through today in preparation for the weekend messages. What main point jumps out at you?

How is Paul's positive approach even evident here as he talks about giving?

How can you apply these verses in your own life?

Thank God for his generosity to you-- especially in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ!

Saturday

Please finish any devotions you may have missed and review the memory verse for the week. Sincerely ask God to help you repent where you need to-- to have godly sorrow and not worldly sorrow. Please pray for the services this weekend. Thanks!!