Failures are Stepping Stones to Achievement

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“Failure is often God’s tool for carving some of the finest outlines in the character of his children and even in this life bitter and crushing failures have often in them the germs of new and quite unimagined happiness.”

- T. Hodgkin

It’s well known fact that now or then almost all of us come across with many types of failures but a few know from its persistence. The people with indomitable lull not accept defeat as being anything more than temporary. They are the one’s whose desires are so persistently allied that defeat is finally changed over to victory. We who stand on the side lines of our life see the overwhelmingly large number of people who cling to defeat and never rise again. But a few courageous souls take the punishment of defeat as an inspiration to greater efforts. They fortunately never learn to accept life’s reverse gear and thus they surrender timidly to failure rather take them as step stones to pave your way to success. Before heading any further it is important to know what really failure is.

What is Failure?

If someone asks us what is failure, the first answer of most of us will be “to be unsuccessful in our aim” and there we are. Most of us have a wrong attitude towards failure and that is why we face it so often. Failure does not mean un-accomplished dreams rather it means not setting any goal in life and thus carrying the burden of our inefficient nature on our weak shoulders. It signifies woeful attitude towards life. Failure is a real trickster with a keen sense of irony and cunningness. It takes great delight in tripping one when success is almost within reach. But failure does not come alone and bring his best pals to name some, gloominess, loneliness and frustration. We find ourselves miles away from our goal, clouds of uncertainty starts overtaking our mind. Negating thoughts shatters the foundation stone of our confidence resulting all of aspiration and hopes to crush down the ground leaving us spiritless and lethargic. People too follow the old proverb “laugh and the world laugh with you, weep and you weep alone” leave us alone and make the situation worst by their criticizing remarks. It becomes difficult to face such an enigmatic situation and some times one becomes so depressed that he ceases his desire to live further. Often we come across reading such articles that a girl hanged through a fan after failing in exams or a boy ended his life by eating poison after not getting the job. Such is the consequence of a temporary defeat. Larger numbers of failures are really the one’s that do not believe in their abilities and are uncertain about them.

Reasons of Failures

It is necessary to ponder upon the various causes of failures, which act as barriers on our way to success. The biggest boulder on the path is the lack of self-confidence i.e. skeptical attitude towards one’s abilities. This handicap can be surmounted and timidly translated into success through auto suggesting our self with positive thoughts. We should remember that both poverty and riches are the offspring of thought. Another most common cause of failure is the habit of quitting when one is overtaken by temporary defeat. I will narrate you a simple story. Once, there was a rich businessman who got to know that there are mines in Colorado full of Gold. So he took some water and started drilling the mines. He drilled day and night but even after a month’s hard work all he could find were rocks and more rocks. Finally, he decided to quite and sold all the land and machinery to a junk man. That junkman started drilling from that very place and to the height of his amazement; he found ores of gold just three feet from where the businessman had left. So we see that unlucky business man skipped
thorough million dollars by just three feet. Before, success in any human’s life, he/she is sure to meet with some defeat and at that time the easiest and logical thing to do is to quit. That’s what the majority of men do. Failure come only to those who indifferently allow themselves to become failure conscious. Success requires no explanation and failure permits no alibis. Unplanned attitude also leads us to failure as nature love symmetry and never deviates from her established law.

Another important cause of failure is waste of time, as time never waits for anyone. Lost money regained, lost health can be made again but time never comes back. All the great successful personalities of human history were very miser in regard of time. Long fellow translated ‘inference’ by only using the time that takes to boil the water for coffee. Henry crick Wight learned Greek in the time he used to travel to his office. Time span of only one hour has got so much potential that it could change one’s whole life. If you can read 20 pages of a book in an hour per day even then you can read 7,300 pages in a year or possibly many literary art works. Such is the impact of time.

**Failures are the step stone to success**

Napoleon Hill correctly said, “Every adversity, every failure and heartache carries with it the seed of equivalent or even a greater benefit.” Hence we should not be afraid of failure as they are destined to come all through the way rather we should not let those failures overpower us. Self-realization and acknowledgement towards one’s abilities comes only after bearing countless difficulties. Thomas Alva Edison failed 1,000 times to make a bulb, when he was asked that wasn’t these failures disappointed him, he calmly replied that every time I failed I know, how not to make a bulb.

Difficulties are the touchstone on which the efficiency of a man is measured. There are some flowers which give fragrance only when they are rubbed. The same way some people are able to prove themselves only when they are surrounded by enigmatic situation. At such a juncture their hidden potential finds an outlet and they are able to do such things, which seemed inconceivable. Abraham Lincoln and Senator Grant are the perfect examples towards this explanation. One who does not loose his/her patience even after repeated failures and remains consistent and determined towards their endeavor are the real winners in the battle of life?

Henry wrote the prophetic lines “we are the master of our fate and the captain of our souls because we have the power to control our thoughts.” These words clearly indicate that we should not let hopelessness enter our mind even after failures and we must canitalize our thoughts towards our shortcomings, remove them and get our desired goal. To be cheerful and vivacious even after a failure is very difficult but remember if Columbus had lost his spirit then how he would have been able to cross the landless sea. If Napoleon has been prosaic, then would he have been able to cross the Alps. There are numerous such examples scattered all through our way by which we can take lesson and place ourselves up on the ladder of success. All the real successful people win by their firm faith but they also face the failures by that immovable faith only. They prepare themselves for the very best but they are also equipped to bear the worst.

**Success Simplified**

“A burning passion coupled with absolute detachment is the real key to all success.”  
-Mahatma Gandhi

Mahatma Gandhi has rightly remarked that to be successful blazing desire for the dream is prerequisite, along with robust confidence on one’s abilities and above all a positive consistent attitude towards the attainment of that goal. To become successful one has to be success conscious and he has to have his candle of hope burning all the time. Time is also equally important as it passes swiftly and leaves behind brooding bodies, which failed to realize its true worth. One must always be ready to grab
all opportunities which come along the way without thinking of impact as, if it proves good. The person will be a step above his ladder towards his goal and even if it turns unlucky it gives us a memorable experience, not to repeat the same. It is rightly said, “opportunities have a sly disguised habit of slipping through the back door” but one who is alert finds an occasion to prove its mettle by chasing the right opportunity. It’s a well know fact that we use less than 10% of our total mental potential and even great scientists like Albert Einstein used not more than 13% of their mental efficiency. So whatever mind of a man can conceive and believe, it can really achieve that. There are no limits of the mind except those we acknowledge.

Last but far from the least, any person who wants to win must cut all sources of his retreat, by doing so he is known to the fact that if he looses, he is gone. This statement will be clearer by this incident. A long ago a great warrior faced a critical situation which

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<th>Secrets of Success in Life</th>
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<td>“Great work requires great and persistent effort for a long time. Neither need we trouble ourselves if a few fail. It is in the nature of the things that many should fail that troubles should come, that tremendous difficulties should arise. “The road to the good is the roughest and steepest in the universe”, so said Swami Vivekananda whose thoughts influenced and still influence several generations of young people who have learnt to take life, the courageous way. The life story of great mean teaches our youth that failures are the milestones leading you to the ultimate goal of great success that you can ever dream of.</td>
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In 1958, when A.P.J.Abdul Kalam came out as a graduate of aeronautical engineering, he had his long dream of flying. He longed for a career in the Indian Air Force and stood ninth in the batch of 25 called for interview in Dehradun, where only 8 were selected. A disappointed Kalam visited the pilgrim centre of Rishikesh where he met Swami Shivananda and narrated to him his story of disappointment. Swamiji told him, “Accept your destiny and go ahead with your life. You are not destined to become an Air Force Pilot. What you are destined to become is not revealed now, but it is predetermined. Forget this failure, as it is essential to lead you to a long destined path. Search instead for the true purpose of your life.” Nobody knew that for Kalam the immediate failure was the other side of the coin of the spectacular success waiting fior him. He himself never realized that he was predestined to become the ‘Missile Man’ of India, the recipient of the highest civilian award of the country, Bharat Ratna in 1997 and thereafter, became the President of India in 2002 and the first citizen of the country.

The future of India lies in the hands of youth. Always remember that fear arises when you lose your self-confidence. Believe in yourself. Beware of your thoughts. Think positively. Thereafter nobody can stop you from achieving the goal. “Have infinite patience and perseverance and success is yours,” said Swami Vivekananda.

made it necessary for him to take a decision which insured this success. He was about to sent his army to the enemy who was much larger in strength. He loaded his soldiers into boats, sailed to the enemy’s country, unloaded soldiers and burned all the boats. Addressing his men he said, “You see the boats going up in smoke that means we cannot leave these shores alive unless we win. Now we have no choice but to win or we perish” and they won.

Conclusion

Every human being who reaches the age of understanding wishes for success. Wishing alone seldom bring victory but desiring victory with a firm state of mind that becomes an obsession, planning definite ways and means to acquire that carved success and backing those plans with persistence which does not recognize failure, bring real success. The crystallization of desires into action soon brings rewarding results. Life is 90% attitude and 10% the result of it, same way success and failure are the two different sides of the same point. When we fail we become sad but after getting
a success every moment of life is like a blooming flower and due to this human attitude is always in a flux. But if we become mentally tough and prepare to face the worst situation then it will be easier for us to, overcome the sorrow of failure. Faith is equally important and even Napoleon Hill admits this by stating “all thoughts which have been given positive feeling and are blended with faith begin immediately to translate themselves into their physical equivalent or counterpart.” Faith is the head Chemist of the mind. When faith is blended with thought and never-defeating attitude then the subconscious minds instantly picks up the vibration, translate it into its spiritual equivalent and transmits it to impossible results. In the end it is Max Muller “in the lexicon of youth for a bright manhood, there is no such word as failure.”

3. Fishbein M, Ajzen I (1975) Belief, attitude, intention, and behavior: an introduction to theory and research. Addison-Wesley, MA