

# Your Failures & God's Grace

Fear Factor-3

"I've failed a lot." Who said that? It could have been Paul, who calls himself the chief of sinners. It could have been Peter, who denied his master at the most critical moment in history. It could have been me. It could have been you.

Failure is common to all. What separates the fighters from the rest of the world is the courage to go on and not yield to the temptation to head for the sidelines where neither victory nor defeat are possible.

## Welcome

*...Above all, love each other deeply*

*A word or phrase that describes what has been happening with me since our last meeting is....*

## Worship

*...Offer God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that confess His name.*

**Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10** and focus on the grace and power of Jesus Christ that is made perfect in our failure and weakness.

Possible songs: "The Steadfast Love of the Lord" (123), "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" (57), "I'm Pressing On The Upward Way" (539), "We're Marching To Zion" (869).

## Word

*...You have known the holy scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation.*

### Read Philippians 3:12-16

1. Using the imagery of a track race, where does Paul picture himself in his spiritual life? What prize is he after? How is he going to reach his goal?
2. Paul says he forgets what is behind (vs 13) as he pursues his prize. What past things might he be forgetting? Why does Paul need to forget these things?
3. What past things do you need to confess, forgive, accept forgiveness for, and forget?
4. Comparing your spiritual life to a race, where are you—sitting it out, at the starting blocks, running all out, ready to give up? Explain.
5. What "hurdles" (failures, disappointments) seem especially high to jump?

## **Works**

*...Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve.*

Trying to be perfect is not the point of life; “the prize of the upward call is what it’s all about. The fear of failure has many different faces. It can cause you to be indecisive. You can’t make decisions because you’re afraid you’re going to make the wrong one. The fear of failure can make you a workaholic. You never slow down, never rest, never relax because you’re afraid of failing. The fear of failure can make you a perfectionist. You’re never satisfied. It’s never just right. Does the fear of failure keep you from walking in faith?

Spend some of your quiet time this next week reading and meditating on the parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14-30.