

Failure

"The men who try to do something and fail are infinitely better than those who try nothing and succeed." Lloyd Jones

What is failure? Failure is not obtaining the desired outcome. Failure is practice and learning. Failure is the process of learning. When learning to ride a bicycle, is it failure when one falls off?

Is failure bad? Is failure negative? No. Failure should be considered positive and rewarding. It shows we are attempting new things, learning, growing, and developing.

Failure is progress and learning. Failure is the elimination of things that do not work as you progress toward what does work. Failure is just a step on the path to success.

Was Thomas Edison a failure? He failed many times trying to develop the electric light. Finally, he found the solution. He is honored for the development of the electric light and the perseverance to keep testing until he found the correct solution. His attempts to find the solution were just steps in finding the answer that did work.

Was Olympic skater Scott Hamilton a failure? He came in last in his first National competition. He came in last more than once. The judges told him twice to leave the ice early as he had no chance. For Hamilton, being last was not a failure but instead a stepping stone to the Olympics. He was fired from the Ice Capades. Then he started the Stars on Ice tour which has been a success for years, while the Ice Capades is no longer in business.

Failure is what doesn't work when you are trying options to see what does work. Failure is a process to find what works. What works can be called success. Failure is a natural and proper progression of learning. We are here to learn, and learning is trying and doing. Failure is one of the steps we need to take in our learning process on earth.

I was not selected for a position once, and the person selected, in my opinion, was less qualified than I was. One could say I failed in that I did not get the position. The other side of the coin is that I wanted out, my plan had been to get out, and to have been selected would have been wrong and detrimental to me personally. In failing, I won. The failure allowed me to move forward to what I truly wanted to do.

Perhaps we should either redefine failure as noted above or eliminate the word from our vocabulary. Fear of failure has prevented many people from doing and creating for the benefit of us all. Ideally, overcoming my fear of failure in writing

this book has resulted in a product that can help the reader. True failure is in not attempting the task or stopping before you succeed.