

"My days have passed, my plans are shattered, and so are the desires of my heart."

Job 17:11

1. POSSIBLE CAUSES FOR FAILURE (From Proverbs)

1. WE FAIL WHEN WE DON'T PLAN AHEAD.

"A sensible man watches for problems ahead and prepares to meet them. The simple-minded never looks, and suffers the consequences." Pr. 27:12 (LB)

2. WE FAIL WHEN WE THINK WE'VE ARRIVED.

"Pride leads to destruction and arrogance to downfall." Pr. 18:18

"Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed." Pr. 15:22

3. WE FAIL WHEN WE ARE AFRAID TO TAKE RISKS.

"Fear of man is a dangerous trap; but to trust in God means safety." Pr. 25:29 (LB)

4. WE FAIL BECAUSE WE GIVE UP TOO SOON.

"A lazy fellow has trouble all through life." Pr. 15:19 (LB)

5. WE FAIL BECAUSE WE DON'T LISTEN TO GOD.

"There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death." Pr. 14:12

II. HOW TO START OVER

1. ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR OWN FAILURE.

"A man who refuses to admit his mistakes can never be successful. But if he confesses and forsakes them, he gets another chance." Prov. 28:13 (LB)

2. STOP REGRETTING AND START REPENTING.

"The sadness that is used by God brings a change of heart that leads to salvation --and there is no regret in that! But worldly sadness causes death." 2 Cor. 7:10 (GN)

3. FORGET THE FORMER AND FOCUS ON THE FUTURE.

"Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." Phil. 3:13-14

4. TRUST GOD TO WORK IT ALL OUT.

"We know that to those who love God, who are called according to His Plan, everything that happens fits into a pattern for good." Rom. 8:28 (Phillips)

"And the Word of the Lord came unto Jonah a second time." Jonah 3:1

"For if a man is in Christ, he becomes a new person altogether -- the past is finished and gone, everything has become fresh and new!" 2 Cor. 5:17 (Ph)