

Title: Our God is Greater – overcoming the valley of failure
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Luke 3:2 (NKJV) ² while Annas and Caiaphas were high priests, **the word of God came** to John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness.

Luke 3:4-6 (NKJV) ⁴ ... “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘**Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.**’ ⁵ Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill brought low; the crooked places shall be made straight And the rough ways smooth; ⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”

Internal, not external

Perception change: *the valley of failure is a graveyard for many, but the birthplace of the mighty.*

Failure speaks loudly

Why is failure such a knockout?

Valley of failure – speaks to us

1. ***It says: “you are the problem.”** Failure is an identity issue.

Our response: *“if at first you don’t succeed, destroy all evidence that you’ve tried.”*

Failure – *we hide it, deny it, fear it, ignore it and hate it. (lets change this) (rather admit them)*

2. **We beat ourselves up – our own worst enemy.**
3. **Graveyard:** Many a man and woman have **made their grave in the valley of failure**
4. **Dream small.** Dreams become smaller. Hope to cope. Not dream to overcome.

Perception change: **birthplace of the mighty**

Failure, our best friend + teacher

- Failure is the best teacher we could ever have.
- Failure, is simply practice for success
- ***“When we give ourselves permission to fail, we at the same time give ourselves permission to excel.”**

***Failure speaks loudly to us, but the word of God speaks even louder**

Encountering God

Luke 5:5 (NKJV)⁵ But Simon answered and said to Him, “Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net.”

Luke 5:6–7 (NKJV) ⁶ And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. ⁷ So they signaled to *their* partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.

Luke 5:8-9 (NKJV)⁸ When Simon Peter saw *it*, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!" ⁹ For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken;

"Lord, what are you doing?

God's Word - the dead will rise!

John 5:21 (NKJV) ²¹ *For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son **gives life** to whom He will.*

- **Too far gone? God's word turns the greatest failures, into our greatest victories!**