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Don't Let Failure Discourage You



The chief attraction at PaPa's beautiful farm is still PaPa!
(Dustin Janney)

It is impossible to succeed without failing. This may seem like a contradiction, but those who have experienced the greatest success have

known the greatest failures. The man who never fails is the one who never attempts anything. And the more one attempts, the more he fails. But the more he fails, the more he'll learn. And the more he puts into practice what he's learned, the more he will succeed.

So to quote Dr. Bob Jones, Sr., again, "Make chariot wheels out of your failures, and ride them to success." I've never learned anything from my successes; all I've learned is from my failures. Failure is opportunity for improvement. When you discover something will not work, try something else. If that doesn't work, then try something else. Sooner or later you'll find the solution. I have read that Thomas Edison, when trying to invent the light bulb, tried 700 things that failed. Finally a friend said to him, "Mr. Edison, you have failed 700 times. Why don't you quit?" To which Edison replied, "I have not failed 700 times; I've discovered 700 things that won't work in a light bulb." He is responsible for more than 1,100 inventions which we enjoy today, including the light bulb.

And by the way, a friend of mine told me that he visited Edison's home, and there was a light bulb still burning that was made by Thomas Edison himself.

Do you remember trying to learn to ride the bicycle? Did you ride it perfectly the first time? Of course you didn't. Like everyone else, you fell. And if your experience was like mine, it didn't feel good. But you wanted to learn to ride, so you tried again. And you probably fell again and again until finally you were able to balance yourself and ride for a long distance without falling.

You eventually got to where you could ride without holding the handlebars. Every failure was a learning experience, and you never would have succeeded if you hadn't failed. So don't let failure discourage you. It is the stuff of which success is made.