

The Downward Spiral

or

8 Easy Steps to Failure

Our lives are the result of the choices we make. We choose to win by pursuing proven strategies of success. We fail, lose and fall, when we pursue the wrong choices in life.

There are, choices we knowingly make.

There are, choices others make, that we allow.

There are, choices we pursue through knowledge.

Life is a walk through the product of the choices we make, consciously, unconsciously or by default.

Success is the fruit of wise choices. Failure is the result of wrong choices, wrong thinking, wrong motives.

1. Failure to fully surrender your life, to the Lordship of Christ.

Deuteronomy 6:5 (NKJV) You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

Psalms 70:4 (NKJV) Let all those who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; And let those who love Your salvation say continually, "Let God be magnified!"

Psalms 31:23 (NKJV) Oh, love the LORD, all you His saints! For the LORD preserves the faithful, And fully repays the proud person.

Romans 6:1, 16, 19 (NKJV) What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? ¹⁶ Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin *leading* to death, or of obedience *leading* to righteousness? ¹⁹ I speak in human *terms* because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members *as* slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness *leading* to *more* lawlessness, so now present your members *as* slaves of righteousness for holiness.

Psalms 40:8 (NKJV) I delight to do Your will, O my God, And Your law is within my heart."

2. Failure to step back from relationships that hinder or impair growth in righteousness.

Psalm 1:1-2 Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the ungodly,
Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;
² But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day
and night.

Deception will distract you from Direction! "Be not deceived"

Psalm 6:8 Depart from me, all you workers of iniquity; For the LORD has
heard the voice of my weeping.

Psalm 97:10 You who love the LORD, hate evil! He preserves the souls of
His saints; He delivers them out of the hand of the wicked.

Proverbs 12:20 Deceit is in the heart of those who devise evil, But
counselors of peace have joy.

2 Timothy 2:19 Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having
this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who
names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

2 Corinthians 6:17-18 "Come out from among them And be separate,
says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you." ¹⁸ "I
will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the
LORD Almighty."

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3. Failure to depart from weaknesses, addictions and bad habits.

Isaiah 58:13-14 " If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, From
doing your pleasure on My holy day, And call the Sabbath a delight, The
holy day of the LORD honorable, And shall honor Him, not doing your own
ways, Nor finding your own pleasure, Nor speaking your own words, 14
Then you shall delight yourself in the LORD; And I will cause you to ride on
the high hills of the earth,

And feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father. The mouth of the
LORD has spoken."

Psalm 5:12 For You, O LORD, will bless the righteous; With favor You will
surround him as *with* a shield.

Romans 6:13 And do not present your members *as* instruments of
unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from
the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God.

Psalm 34:14 Depart from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it.

Joel 3:10 Let the weak say, 'I am strong.'
Decisions decide direction, good or bad. "choose life that you and your kids may live."

4. Failure to take delight in the potential of the Word of God.

Jeremiah 6:10 To whom shall I speak and give warning, That they may hear?

Indeed their ear *is* uncircumcised, And they cannot give heed. Behold, the word of the LORD is a reproach to them; They have no delight in it.

Romans 7:22 For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man.

Psalms 33:4, 6 ⁴ For the word of the LORD *is* right, And all His work *is done* in truth. ⁶ By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, And all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.

Proverbs 18:2 A fool has no delight in understanding, But in expressing his own heart.

Psalms 119: 174, 77, 47, 35, 16 ¹⁷⁴ I long for Your salvation, O LORD, And Your law is my delight. ⁷⁷ Let Your tender mercies come to me, that I may live; For Your law *is* my delight. ⁴⁷ And I will delight myself in Your commandments, Which I love. ³⁵ Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, For I delight in it. ¹⁶ I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word.

Joshua 1:8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

"your Word is life"

5. Failure to pursue peace as a way of life.

Psalms 34:14 Depart from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it.

Isaiah 26:3 You will keep *him* in perfect peace, *Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.*

Psalms 37:37 Mark the blameless *man*, and observe the upright; For the future of *that man is* peace.

6. Failure to hang with people of faith.

Hebrews 10:25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

Psalm 133:1 Behold, how good and how pleasant *it is* For brethren to dwell together in unity!

1 Peter 2:5 you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

A body is more than all its parts,
the parts that fit, function

To function in the life of Christ and grow in the ways of the Lord, you have need of, people who will develop you in the way of truth, sons of God who will build you up, people who guide and mentor you into becoming the part you are called to be in the family of God.

7. Failure to praise God and sing His praises.

1 Chronicles 16:34 Praise ye the Lord for His mercy endures forever

Psalm 33:1-3 Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous! *For* praise from the upright is beautiful.² Praise the LORD with the harp; Make melody to Him with an instrument of ten strings.³ Sing to Him a new song; Play skillfully with a shout of joy.

Psalm 47:1 Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples! Shout to God with the voice of triumph!

Psalm 147:1 Praise the LORD! *For it is* good to sing praises to our God; *For it is* pleasant, *and* praise is beautiful.

..." when they praised the Lord, saying, He is indeed good, for His lovingkindness is everlasting" 2 Chronicles 5:13

"They worshipped and gave praise to the Lord, saying truly the Lord is good, truly His lovingkindness is forever."

8. Failure to honor God with the tithe and with offerings.

Leviticus 2:12 As for the offering of the firstfruits, you shall offer them to the LORD,

Malachi 3:8 "Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings.

Bring ye all the tithe into the storehouse

Exodus 23:19 you shall bring the first of the fruit of your land, into the house of the Lord your God.

Genesis 14:20 Abram celebrated his victory by returning the first 10th of his spoils to the man of God.

Wrong choices have severe consequences.

Developing a right heart, a right mindset and a right lifestyle, produces much success, peace, safety and approval. It begins with feeding on the Word of God and growing in its nurturing truth. A life cannot change without a change of focus.

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

Proverbs 16:3 Commit your works to the LORD, And your thoughts will be established.

1 Chronicles 28:9 "As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind; for the LORD searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever.

The steps of a ladder or staircase lead up as well as down, dependant on your motive in using them.

Jeremiah 29:13 And you will seek Me and find *Me*, when you search for Me with all your heart.

A person of wisdom will take these insights and use the knowledge to plug the holes in the dike.