



September 2017

## *Business Failure: A Blessing or a Curse!*

The dictionary defines failure as a lack of success, but is it?

There's an interesting article titled, *29 famous people who failed before they succeeded*, that cites how Walt Disney was fired by the editor of the Kansas City Star because he felt he "lacked imagination and had no good ideas," and that Oprah Winfrey was let go from her first television job as an anchor in Baltimore for getting "too emotionally invested in her stories." Another good one is Steven Spielberg having been rejected several times by the University of Southern California School of Cinematic Arts.

Worth noting is that the area in which each of these individuals went on to become well known and respected for is the very area where they originally failed. What does this tell us about ourselves and our own gifts? Here are three thoughts worth pondering.

- **Feel It** | What if instead of feeling badly about failing the first time, we choose to use that same energy on questioning how much we really wanted it in the first place? What if in doing so, we realized that not only did we want to succeed, but that we couldn't help but feel the way we did because we truly believed in what we were doing? For the examples listed above, these questions seem to apply. For Walt Disney not to be creative, Oprah not to be passionate about what she believes in, and Spielberg not to create compelling cinematography is like asking a fish not to swim.
- **Heal It** | There is no discounting the fact that failure is painful. There is disappointment, stress and all kinds of self-doubt. When allowing yourself to truly and fully feel the failure experience, you will learn a lot about who you are and what you truly want – and don't want. This process is critical to healing, which is defined as becoming sound and healthy again. This process also requires listening to your own voice over the voice of others – something that many of us have not been taught to do or value. Instead, it is more common to have the medical profession prescribe something to numb our voice or to partake in couch therapy and talk about how badly we feel (misery loves company as they say).
- **Carry On** | By giving yourself permission to feel and heal, what will be revealed is a strategy for carrying on. At this stage, you are more than you were before – much more, in fact. Failure is a powerful teacher and a valuable one when the student is ready to learn. When carrying on, you will have a new and improved view of what you want and how to go about getting it. You will be able to check off what you now know doesn't work and use your time and energy in more productive ways to achieve your goals.

Failure is a part of all our lives. It is something that helps to shape us and, in many respects, makes winning all the sweeter. Elbert Hubbard said it best, *"There is no failure except in no longer trying. There is no defeat except from within, no really insurmountable barrier save our own inherent weakness of purpose."*

For more information, visit: <http://www.buzvr.org/>

[Knowledge Institute](#) specializes in helping individuals to start, grow and succeed in business through innovative training systems used by [individuals](#) and small business assistance [agencies](#), as well as content marketing services for [B2B corporations](#).

Join Our Mailing List!