Don't Be Afraid of Failure
- Jake Emerick

Many people are extremely afraid of failing. They think of all the bad things that could happen before they start doing anything. There have no doubt been millions of people who have had great ideas that could have had a positive impact on the world, but they were too afraid to fail and so failed at their chance to leave behind a positive legacy. The cure to cancer or AIDS may be sitting in the mind of a person who is afraid of what their colleagues in the scientific community might think about them. Or they fear rejections by doctors because the treatment is too unconventional and doubt others would ever administer it to their patients. Think of our current presidential election. The best candidates might not be candidates at all because they are too afraid they might be rejected at the polls.

There have been many famous people who failed, kept trying, and had success. Thomas Edison failed hundreds of times when he was attempting to create an incandescent light bulb, but because he didn't give up, I will be doing my homework and reading my book tonight by the bright light of a light bulb instead of a kerosene lantern. Steve Jobs was kicked out of the company that he had created. He then went on to create Pixar, which was highly successful. When he sold it to Disney he became the largest shareholder of Disney. Speaking of Disney, Walt Disney was fired from a company for not having any good ideas. Now the company that bears his name has seven theme parks around the world, a cruise line, a private island, a TV channel, and many classic movies that are often the first movies children see. Former president Richard Nixon knew failure first hand. John F. Kennedy defeated him in the 1960 presidential election. He then ran for governor of California but lost that election as well. He then came back to run for president again and won.

So why exactly are people so afraid of failing? Perhaps they think that they will lose respect. Maybe they are politicians who don't want to propose their ideas because of the upcoming election. Maybe a man won't take a new job because the company is new and thinks it might go under. Some people have too much pride and don't want to look foolish in front of others for not succeeding. Many just want to impress others and failure doesn't seem very impressive. Some are insecure, while others simply like the way their life has been and just don't want to change their daily routine.

If you have the opportunity to go and do something and might fail at it, go ahead and do it. I'm taking an art class and failed for two days to mix paint into a color I liked. I tested 19 different mixtures before I found the shade that I wanted. Don't be afraid of failing; embrace it. Failing is only failing if you view it that way. If you view every failure as if you learned a new way to make an improvement, then you didn't fail, you educated yourself.