

PROTIPS – September 11, 2008

Failing Forward

At 31, this man failed in business.

At 32, he was defeated in a legislative race.

At 34, he failed in business again.

At 35, his girlfriend died.

At 36, he had a nervous breakdown.

At 38, he lost another election.

At 43, 46 and 48 he lost 3 congressional races.

At 55, he lost a senatorial race.

At 56, he failed a bid to become vice president of their country.

At 58, he lost a senatorial race.

At 60, he became America's most respected and beloved President. His name is Abraham Lincoln. His life experiences tell us that no one is really a failure until he gives up trying. Abraham Lincoln showed us that we can fail forward. Our defeats can fuel us to future victories. How?

First, we should learn from past mistakes. Take time to pause and evaluate what went well and what did not. List down the things that should be avoided in your next venture. Take note of what should be done differently in your future attempts and endeavors. Effective na teacher daw an gating nakaraan. Bahagi nito an gating mga pagkakamali at kabiguan. Learn from past mistakes.

Secondly, allow failures to refine you but not define you. If we are teachable, failures can be effective character molders. Failures can turn our pride to humility, our self-sufficiency to dependence on God. Failures force us to re-evaluate our priorities. Don't let failure define you. Allow God to use them to refine you.

Lastly, if you want failures to become your stepping stone to move forward and upward, draw hope from His story (with a capital H) and history (small h). His story, meaning God's story and history, events and happenings in the past. Your failed attempts are not isolated. Hindi lamang ikaw ang nagsosolong biguan at sawi sa mundong ibabaw. If you read through history books and God's book, the Bible, you'll find out that there are a lot of success stories about failing forward. In the Bible, you have the true to life failures and triumphs of Abraham, Moses, David, the apostle Peter and many more. In history, you will be inspired by the stories of men and women who used their defeats as learning blocks and stepping stones to great accomplishments. Isa na nga riyan si Abraham Lincoln.

It is expected of us to fail every once in a while. Kahit nung mga bata pa lamang tayo, inaasahan na habang natututo pa lamang tayong lumakad ay madadapa at matutumba tayo. We will fail, that is a given. But failure is not your destiny. In God's economy, failure can be an instrument to push you forward.

Be a blessing in the workplace today.