

LEARNING FROM FAILURE:

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The first step towards learning from a failing is to *acknowledge it and take responsibility for it*. This sounds like the most logical thing to do when you have failed, simply acknowledge and take responsibility, but the reverse in the case in society. Have you met a student who passed an examination with flying colours? He typically will say of his result when he is asked that, “I scored 5 As and 3 Bs!” more often than not he will speak with a zest that tells you he is proud of *his* accomplishment. In the same vein ask a student who performed woefully in the same examination and you will hear something like, “*They* gave me 3 Ds and 4 Fs.” I want you to note the choice and usage of words here. The student who did well takes responsibility for his performance but the other who failed deflects responsibility and attaches it to the examination body. *They* failed him! This is a simplistic example but goes to buttress the point.

What is your attitude towards your failings? Do you quickly acknowledge that you have failed and take responsibility for it or do you deflect it to just about anybody who you can deflect it to? If you search for such escape routes you will find many – your spouse, children, religion, school, economy, environment, the weather, or even God. The problem with taking these escape routes is that they ensure you do not leave your condition. You will continue to remain in the rot because if it isn't your fault that you failed then you will wait for the person or circumstance whose fault it is to correct itself or the condition for you.

If on the other hand you are set on a progressive course in life, you will acknowledge that YOU failed and take full responsibility for YOUR failing. Do not underestimate the importance of taking responsibility when it comes to your failings. As in all cases of taking responsibility, you suddenly feel empowered to

succeed when next you do the same venture. Taking responsibility gives you the following advantages:

- Shows you and people around you that you and *you alone* is in control of your life.
- Impresses upon people that you are a responsible person.
- Increases public opinion of you.
- Enhances your personal sense of self-worth.
- Reduces fear of failing in the same and other ventures.
- Makes you confident of the fact that you aren't a passive failure.
- Increases your confidence of trying the same thing again and even trying other things. Increases your chances of success in life.

Never be afraid of taking responsibility for your failings. Imagine losing these benefits simply because you aren't able to acknowledge a failing and accept responsibility for it.