



Swing for the Failure | Doug Wekenman | 8.30

Weekly Study

SHARE

Welcome to the final week of ***What Does God Have Planned for Me Next?*** Throughout this series, we have explored how God leads us through surrender, trust, and the next step of obedience, even when He does not reveal the entire plan. This week, we are looking at what it means to move forward with faith when the possibility of failure makes us want to freeze.

Have you ever felt prompted to do something but became so focused on what could go wrong that you never tried? Sometimes we say, “I’m not ready yet,” when what we really mean is, “I am afraid this might not work.” We may avoid a conversation, delay a decision, keep an idea to ourselves, or wait for certainty before obeying. But faith does not require certainty about the outcome; it requires confidence in the God who holds us through it.

- ☐ **When have you allowed the fear of failure, rejection, or embarrassment to keep you from trying something that mattered?**

GROW

Read Hebrews 11:1-6

Hebrews tells us that faith is essential to a life that pleases God. Faith is more than believing that God exists; it is trusting His character enough to seek Him and respond to Him. We often judge a decision by asking, “Did it work?” But God is also concerned with a deeper question: “Did you trust Me?” A faithful step can honor God even when it does not produce the result we expected.

- ☐ **How is acting in faith different from waiting until success feels guaranteed?**
- ☐ **Where are you currently more focused on controlling the outcome than faithfully obeying God?**

The people described in Hebrews 11 acted without knowing exactly how everything would turn out. Their confidence was not in their ability to control the future, but in the faithfulness of the

God who called them. Failure is not always proof that we misunderstood God or disappointed Him. Sometimes it is where God teaches us, redirects us, or strengthens us.

- ☐ **How does trusting God's character change the way you view risk or failure?**
- ☐ **What has a past failure taught you about God, yourself, or the way you move forward?**

Faith is not a formula for receiving the outcome we want. It is the decision to trust God's character and follow His direction before we can see where the step will lead. God's approval is rooted in our trust and obedience, not simply in whether our circumstances appear successful.

- ☐ **Have you ever taken a sincere step of faith only for the outcome to look different from what you expected? What did that experience reveal?**

MOVE

Read Hebrews 11:32-40

Hebrews 11 describes people who trusted God and experienced very different outcomes. Some conquered kingdoms, escaped danger, and received what had been promised. Others suffered, waited, and died without seeing the promise fulfilled. They were all commended for the same reason: their faith. Faithfulness cannot be measured only by visible success.

- ☐ **Why are we often tempted to interpret a good outcome as God's approval and a painful outcome as His absence?**
- ☐ **What would change if you measured success by faithful obedience rather than immediate results?**

Fear often exaggerates the consequences of failure. It tells us that rejection will define us, one mistake will ruin everything, or an unsuccessful attempt will prove we were never capable. The gospel gives us a more secure place to stand. Jesus succeeded where we could not, and His grace meets us in our weakness, mistakes, and disappointment. Because our identity is secure in Him, failure can become a classroom rather than a verdict on who we are.

- ☐ **Which possible outcome are you most afraid of, and what are you believing that outcome would say about you?**
- ☐ **How does your identity in Christ challenge that fear?**

Faith is not recklessness, and wisdom still matters. But wisdom and fear are not the same thing. Sometimes the wisest response is to prepare, focus, and take the risk God has placed in front of us. We do not have to know how everything will turn out. We can try faithfully and trust God with

what happens next.

- ☐ **What is one faithful “swing” you sense God inviting you to take—beginning something, having a conversation, asking for help, apologizing, inviting someone, serving, or trying again?**
- ☐ **What would it look like to prepare wisely and take that step before the week ends?**

P R A Y

Give everyone a quiet moment to identify where fear of failure has caused them to freeze, delay, or play it safe. Invite each person to briefly share the faithful step they believe God is placing in front of them. Pray in pairs, asking God for wisdom to recognize His leading, courage to obey without controlling the outcome, and grace to keep moving when things do not go as planned. Finish by thanking Jesus that our identity is secured by His faithfulness, not by our record of success or failure.