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## Hope-FULL

Hope in the Middle of Failure

2 Corinthians 4:7–18 (HCSB)

*Now we have this treasure in clay jars, so that this extraordinary power may be from God and not from us. <sup>8</sup> We are pressured in every way but not crushed; we are perplexed but not in despair; <sup>9</sup> we are persecuted but not abandoned; we are struck down but not destroyed. <sup>10</sup> We always carry the death of Jesus in our body, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. <sup>11</sup> For we who live are always given over to death because of Jesus, so that Jesus' life may also be revealed in our mortal flesh. <sup>12</sup> So death works in us, but life in you. <sup>13</sup> And since we have the same spirit of faith in keeping with what is written, **I believed, therefore I spoke**, we also believe, and therefore speak. <sup>14</sup> We know that the One who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and present us with you. <sup>15</sup> Indeed, everything is for your benefit, so that grace, extended through more and more people, may cause thanksgiving to increase to God's glory. <sup>16</sup> Therefore we do not give up. Even though our outer person is being destroyed, our inner person is being renewed day by day. <sup>17</sup> For our momentary light affliction is producing for us an absolutely incomparable eternal weight of glory. <sup>18</sup> So we do not focus on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.*

**When I admit my failures, I...**

### 1. ACKNOWLEDGE THAT GOD'S PLAN FOR ME IS GREATER THAN MY FAILURE v 7

Proverbs 16:3 (HCSB)

*Commit your activities to the LORD, and your plans will be achieved.*

- God knows about our frailties, but still wants to use us.
- God put the light in cracked vessels to let the light shine through.
- Everyone can see that it's God's power, not ours.

### 2. RECOGNIZE GOD IS WORKING RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF MY FAILURES vv 8-10

- My hope exists because I am...
  - Pressed, but not crushed.
  - Perplexed, but we don't give up.
  - Persecuted, but not abandoned.
  - Pummeled, but we keep getting up.

Jeremiah 8:4 (HCSB)

*"You are to say to them: This is what the LORD says: Do people fall and not get up again? If they turn away, do they not return?"*

Proverbs 24:16 (HCSB)

*Though a righteous man falls seven times, he will get up, but the wicked will stumble into ruin.*

- Troubles and failures allow us to experience temporal death in order to have eternal life.

### 3. FIND HOPE BY FOCUSING ON THE ETERNAL vv 16-18

Proverbs 3:5–6 (HCSB)

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding; <sup>6</sup> think about Him in all your ways, and He will guide you on the right paths.*

Deuteronomy 31:8 (HCSB)

*"The LORD is the One who will go before you. He will be with you; He will not leave you or forsake you. Do not be afraid or discouraged."*

- Because of our hope in Christ, we never give up.
- Our present troubles won't last, but they produce a glory that lasts forever.
- Success comes by focusing beyond our troubles toward victory in Christ Jesus.

**The Next Step:** Allow God to use your failure as the foundation for your next success.