



**CULTIVATING THE SEEDS OF CHANGE ©**  
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***The Year of Celebration***

**Fail Successfully**

Every failure has the potential to become a spring board for success. The secret is to learn to leverage the experience to bring about different results: the results that bring success.

Failure + Experience + Leverage=Success

A six year old boy receives a new bike for his birthday. He is pleased with its shiny metallic deep blue paint job. He parks it in the driveway and takes time to walk around and around admiring every inch of his new possession. He's now grown, not a baby any more!

"Wanna ride it?" Dad asks.

"Oh, boy do I!" the boy shouts with unbridled excitement. His heart is pounding as he jumps onto the seat. Suddenly, he realizes the bike has no training wheels. He's never ridden without training wheels.

"Dad, I can't ride this bike", he says with his head hung down. "It doesn't have training wheels. I'll fall."

"It takes practice, but I know you can do it!" dad says encouragingly. "Just ride like you always do. You'll learn how to keep the bike from tipping over and I'll be right here if you need help."

The first several attempts make the boy feel awkward; the bike going to the left and his body falling to the right. Every time he gets started and tries to sit on the seat, the bike seems to take control, throwing him around like a dandelion seed in the wind.

Discouraged, he yells out to his dad, "I can't do it! This is stupid. Take the bike back!"

Dad just smiles. "Son, give it one more try. If that shiny new bike doesn't take you all the way to the corner, I'll gladly take it back!"

The boy is almost eager to see the bike fail. "Silly bike, now you'll see!" he thinks to himself. This time something is different. The bike seems to have given up on torturing him. Slowly he and his new bike begin moving down the street. He still cannot keep the bike completely stable, but he is learning from prior attempts how to keep the bike upright.

***"Life is a series of experiments and tests."* Harald Anderson**

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Failure is usually seen as a very negative thing. At some point we are taught that failure is not something of which you should be proud or accepting. However, unless someone fails at an attempt to do something, progress would never be made or would be limited. Failure is an invitation to learn how to do something better or to discover what you are better at doing.

Failure is a perception which is strongly linked to a specific expectation or outcome. When the goal is not the right goal for you and you do not reach it, you have been a success, not a failure.

Failure is feedback about an action, a decision or a choice you did or did not exercise. Failure is sometimes the result of insufficient information or experience. Experience is what failure offers to us. What we learn from the experience of failure can be leveraged to our best advantage.

***Each success is preceded by many failures. The key is not to stop moving forward.***

Here are some notable failures to inspire you:

Mary Kay Ash

Lucille Ball

Alexander Graham Bell

Jack Canfield

Michael Dell

Walt Disney

Amelia Earhart

F.W. Woolworth

Thomas Edison

Albert Einstein

Ben Franklin

Bill Gates

Rudy Ruettiger

Colonel Harlan Sanders

Theodor **Seuss** Geise

(Dr. Seuss)

Steven Spielberg

Donald Trump

Barbara Walters

Oprah Winfrey

***Get started now. With each step you take you will grow stronger and stronger, more and more skilled, more and more self confident and more and more successful...But you have to take action to get it." Jack Canfield, The Aladdin Factor***



**For things to be different you have to cultivate change. If you are ready to take action to create and live an extraordinary life, contact Renée for a coaching consultation at [Renée@landofpossibility.com](mailto:Renée@landofpossibility.com) or call (301) 279-2363. All rights reserved. This may be reproduced with copyright statement and credits intact.**