

# FIVE DAYS OF FRESH STARTS THROUGH FAILURE

## BETH DUEWEL

DAY 1: Elijah was afraid and ran for his life." Faith is not sure footing. Not even a well-worn path. Talk to God about your fears, because our perception of failure (with its side-kick, fear) will try to bully you. Boss you. Read 1 Kings 19 and see how God came to Elijah's rescue. God will overpower your anxieties today. Just ask.

*Father, pass by in a whisper today. I know You are the Hero of my story. Help me relinquish my fear to Your will, and remember that Your work is separate from my accomplishments, from my weaknesses. Your STRENGTH does not fail. Amen.*

DAY 2: "Now go! I will help you speak and teach you what to say." Moses listed all the reasons he would fail God. But God told Moses to go and he did. Even though it seemed *Moses never quite "arrived,"* God's plan was to build a bigger faith through failure. Messy middles are as important as beginnings and endings. What are you in the middle of today? Read 3-Exodus 4 and invite God to be a part of your day. He will help you.

*Father, help me. Help me with the feeling of failure, guilt, or regret. May I keep watch for You to grow me in this new and fresh place. Help me to rest in this middle ground with You have a plan and You will lead me through. Amen.*

DAY 3: "For we are his workmanship." Paul understood he was a work in process, recognizing God's plan and preparation for his life. He walked in faith. Perfectionism will frustrate you, though. But faith like Paul's tells us we don't have to TRY HARDER, we simply rely on God's help to TRY AGAIN. Read Ephesians 2 and ask God to help you see you like He sees YOU!

*Jesus, help me know You more. Knowing You keeps my eyes fixed in a place of Your perfection, not mine. Help me persevere with You today. Amen.*

DAY 4: "Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love,..." Working though failure means we allow ourselves the FREEDOM of a fresh start. This verse reminds us that Jesus offers His fresh presence. Every morning. He invites failure, allows it even, because He has made a way beyond it. Read Psalm 148 today. Invite your heart to begin again in a lost dream, a repeated prayer, or a tired hope.

*Jesus, I stay stuck sometimes. Help me see this struggle \_\_\_\_\_ with Your fresh eyes. May I see \_\_\_\_\_ as whole again. Renew my tired soul while I make eternity my timeline. Amen.*

DAY 5: "Because he bends down to listen, I will pray as long as I have breath!" David practiced spiritual retrospect. What carried David through his feeling of failure was remembering God's faithful to him in the past. God's faithfulness isn't dependent of our goodness, it's reliant on His. Ask God to reveal His goodness to you today. Read Psalm 116 for encouragement.

*Father, You are faithful. You are GOOD, and attentive to me. Keep me watching, waiting, and praying with You. I have seen Your goodness OH, GOD! Amen.*