

Are You Afraid to Make a Mistake?

“David answered, “You come at me with sword and spear and battle-ax. I come at you in the name of God-of-the-Angel-Armies, the God of Israel’s troops, whom you curse and mock.” 1 Samuel 17:45

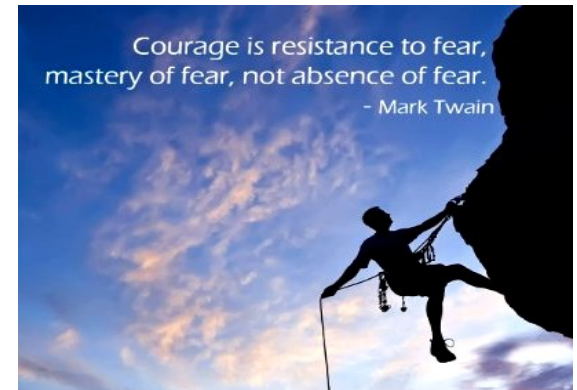
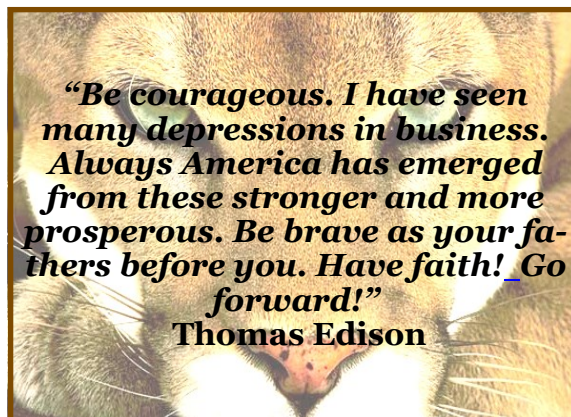
Almost everyone knows the story of David, a young teen, and Goliath, a giant who was supposedly nine feet tall. David was like so many of us. He would do two things right and then do one thing wrong. He had courage to try even if it meant failure.

One day his father sent him to the front lines of battle with food for his brothers. He noticed that all of them, including the head of the army, were afraid of a big man on the other side named Goliath.

For some reason, David was not afraid of him and told them he would go out and kill him with his sling shot. Saul offered his armor and helmet, but David refused and armed himself with five smooth stones and a sling shot. As David approached Goliath, the Philistine, Goliath said. *“Am I a dog that you come after me with a stick?”* And he

cursed him by his gods. *“Come on,”* said the Philistine. *“I’ll make roadkill of you for the buzzards. I’ll turn you into a tasty morsel for the field mice.”* I Samuel 17:43-44. Those are pretty strong words to a young man who only had a few stones and a sling against a nine foot giant who is fully armed and supported by an army.

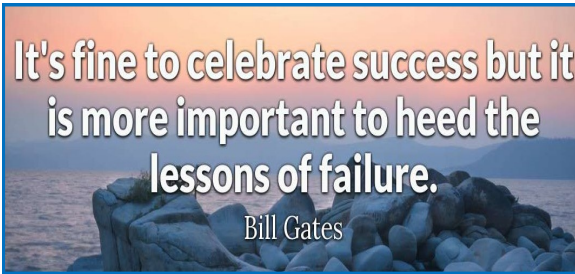
But young David was prepared. He answered. *“You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands, and I’ll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord’s, and he will give all of you into our hands.”* Wow! 1 Samuel 17 45-47. The Message



We all know the end of the story. David took one of his stones, put it in the sling and hit Goliath in the middle of the forehead. Victory was given to a young boy who risked his life for his king. Do you think David was afraid? David had the Lord on his side, and did not need the material protection of metal armor. We have God’s promise and that’s pretty strong armor.

We will face many battles in life, and sometimes we will be afraid, but if we don’t try and give it our all and ask for God’s blessing we will never succeed. I have often heard of students praying for God’s help as they sit down to take a test, but they don’t pray for God’s help as they are studying for the test! We have to put forth our effort.

This is only the story of young David, one of the “young lions” of faith. After Saul’s death, David became king of Israel, but life was never easy. God continued to bless him during his reign as king. Goliath ridiculed David. Sometimes we get ridiculed for our thoughts and our actions. Sometimes



It is much easier to go along with the crowd rather than stand alone against what might seem like an army. Many people have tried many things, and many have failed, but many more have succeeded. Bill Gates watched his first attempt crumble. After complete disaster, he tried again and created Microsoft.

Walt Disney was told he had no creativity by a newspaper company. One day he drew a mouse and skyrocketed to popularity.

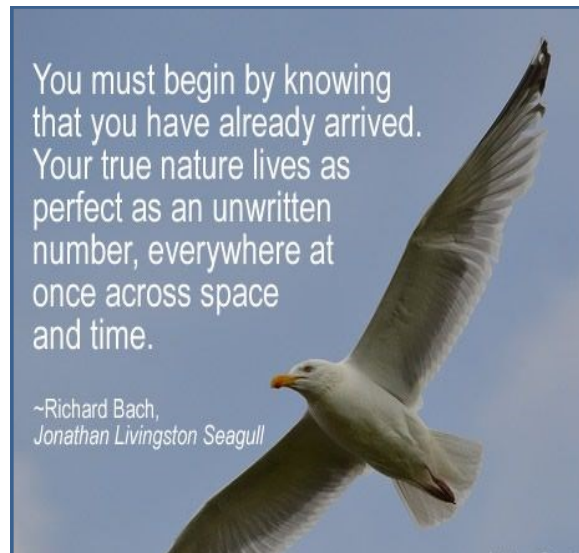


Milton Hershey started three candy companies and just couldn't seem to get it all together. He truly believed in his vision for milk chocolate. The rest of their stories is history. There are many successful people in the world today who succeeded because they dared and had courage to try again and again.



Most of us aren't going to become as

famous as these people, but we can be courageous in many things and we will succeed many times. We need to concentrate on the positive that God gives to us freely every day. Remember the most often thing told to us in the Bible is to "Fear Not."



Prayer: Heavenly Father, You have given us many gifts. You have given us health, hope, strength, courage, energy and love. You have forgiven our sins. Help us to give those gifts to others as Your servants and give courage to those who are struggling. Amen

1. How did David have the courage to face the giant?
2. What giants do we have to face in life today?
3. What or whom shall we fear?
4. Paul told the people "Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong." 1 Corinthians 16:13. Is that for us today also?

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