A key element of success: *failure*

The pressure is almost always here for us to succeed. We want to show our accomplishments. We want to be proud and happy and make our leaders and mentors proud. We want to get that promotion. We want to feel good about our contributions. We want to proudly share our success with our families and friends. But if we fail, we can feel shame, anger, embarrassment and loss of self-confidence.

But there is hope despite the failures we will inevitably face in the future.

Success includes vision, determination, courage, attitude, focus, self-confidence and research. But the one I feel is the most critical element for eventual success is *failure.* Why is that?

There is a close correlation between the intensity of pain from failure and the value of lessons learned from failure. Unfortunately, it may take some time to reach that realization. Regrettably, we can view failure as an end rather than the prospective beginning of a significant success.

Some of the most successful people have experienced some of the most painful and repeated failures. Our failures are an inevitable and necessary part of our development and growth. Below are a few examples of individuals who experienced failure:

- Michael Jordan, one of the best basketball players of all times. He was kicked off his high school team.
- Walt Disney. He was fired from his job at a newspaper early in his career-the reason given: he lacked imagination.
- Albert Einstein. He had the label "mentally slow" put on his permanent school record.
- Oprah Winfrey. She was fired from an early job as a television news anchor.
- Bill Gates. He dropped out of Harvard and closed a failing business, Traf-O-Data.
- Jerry Seinfeld. He was booed off stage in his first stand-up comedy appearance.
- Elvis Presley. He was fired from the Grand Ole Opry and was told to go back to truck driving.

If we are experiencing failure, whether it relates to not achieving our goals or making a mistake that killed a project, or not getting a promotion we expected, I hope you can reframe the failure and learn from it to move forward with more courage, hope and greater success.

"It's fine to celebrate success but it is more important to heed the lessons of failure" Bill Gates.

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