



DATE	March 24, 2019
SPEAKER	Global Staff
TITLE	Finding Faith in Failure
SERIES	Your faith matters. In fact, it's so important to God that He's given you useful tools, situations and opportunities He wants to use to perfect your faith. You just have to jump. What are you willing to jump into or out of, so God can perfect your faith?

Fear... Franklin D. Roosevelt once famously said, "...the only thing we have to fear is fear itself..." Today our speaker focused on a fear that plagues many of us, the fear of failure. FDR's statement was made in the face of a debilitating economic depression. Ours may be the result of many things in our lives, but in both cases the fear can be paralyzing. Let's take a look at how God can use the failures in our lives to jump start our faith!

The Grand Illusion

In his introduction, our speaker stated "Failures show us our desire for a different reality – Kingdom reality." Has there ever been a time in your life where you felt disillusioned with God? How did you resolve this inner conflict?

Have you ever experienced failure but then later saw how it had simply been a plot twist in the story God was writing about your life?

Read Luke 22:54-62 and Mark 16:6-7. Notice how the angel singles out Peter in the passage in Mark. Do you think the Lord Jesus may have instructed the angel to do that in light of Peter's denial? Why or Why not?

Do you think the Lord Jesus has enough grace, mercy, and love for you to single you out the same way? Why or why not?

Read 2 Peter 1:1. How does Peter's description of himself indicate to us that he did not define himself by his failures or sin, but who he was and was becoming in Christ?

Kingdom Come

"Failure requires us to awaken to our desire for a reality beyond ourselves – God's reality: Kingdom reality." What is the kingdom of God? How is this kingdom both here now and coming when Jesus returns?

If we aren't motivated to spread the gospel because we get to and not because we have to, it could be that we've become too centered on a kingdom of our own making. How can we make a point to intentionally be ready, invest, and serve in order to tap into Kingdom reality?

When we spend more money on coffee, pets, and home improvements than we do spreading the gospel, is this problematic? Why or why not?

Read Matt 25:1-9 and Read John 15:5. The speaker said Christ-followers have the equipment, but some don't have the fuel for the long haul. How important is the kingdom of the Lord Jesus to you? Who is the Holy Spirit to you? Have you ever done "kingdom stuff" without reliance on the Holy Spirit's anointing? What was the result?

Christ's kingdom is both already and not yet. Read 1 Peter 2:9. How does Peter's description of followers of Jesus substantiate the statement that His kingdom is "already"?

Today we were challenged with the statement the "Even when we fail, God still wins. His Kingdom breaks through." Lord may we always be players in your Kingdom, empowered by the Holy Spirit, ready and willing to serve regardless of the consequences!