

“FAILURE” REALLY DOESN’T EXIST

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Eliminate the word *failure* from your vocabulary. *Failure* really doesn’t exist; it’s not a real thing. It’s just someone’s judgment about a person, thing or event. Where can you go to get a cup or a pound of failure? You can’t; it is what’s called a “hypothetical construct,” an idea.

Here’s an example. If I say that I’m sitting on an overstuffed, green, wing-backed chair, you get a specific image in mind. If I say that I’m sitting on a white, wooden, ladder-backed chair with a rush seat, you get a different specific image in mind, right? But if I only say, “chair,” you don’t get any specific image in mind; it could be any chair. The letters C-H-A-I-R are symbols that, used together, represent an object, so we can talk to each other and communicate an idea from one mind to another. *Chair* is a hypothetical construct, an idea about an object. It could be any type of chair, but the word *chair* gives you an idea of a seat with some legs and a back; it might or might not have arms.

Where do hypothetical constructs or ideas exist? They exist only in your mind. That’s where failure exists, too. The letters F-A-I-L-U-R-E are symbols that communicate an idea, only this time it’s not an object, but an event - a judgment that declares something is wrong or worthless or not good.

You do not have to accept anyone’s idea about failure; you can choose a different *idea*. How you think about anything determines how you’ll feel about it. For example: if a tree falls on your car, you could judge it to be awful and figure that now you’ll have to deal with the insurance company, get a rental car, and have days of struggle ahead - or - you could judge it to be wonderful and now you can get that new car about which you’ve been dreaming! See? How you *think* about the event of *a tree falling on your car* determines how you will *feel* about the event. You’ve heard of the power of positive thinking, right? Now is the time to start using that power in your life.

Decide to tell yourself that what other people might judge as your *failure* is only something that *doesn’t work for you*. Instead of calling something a *problem*, call it your *project* and you’ll get a whole different image or attitude in mind. You’ll find it’s easier to work on a *project* than on a *problem*.

Remember the three steps to changing anything: recognize it’s not working for you, own your part in that mess, and try something new. Begin again. Try a different way. Change your mind, and change your life. When you find what does work for you, celebrate!