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Starting Over Smarter And Stronger

(How to turn regret into meaningful action)

(SERIES: **Mastering The Art Of The Fresh Start: 01 of 08**)
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"... make every effort to **add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. FOR IF YOU POSSESS THESE QUALITIES IN INCREASING MEASURE, THEY WILL KEEP YOU FROM BEING INEFFECTIVE AND UNPRODUCTIVE IN YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.** But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins. Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, **YOU WILL NEVER FALL.**" (2 Pet 1:5-10)

How Do You Define Failure?

Feeding on **comfort and convenience.**

Fixating on **who's to blame.**

Focusing on **what you don't have and can't do.**

3 Essentials For Starting Over

The **wisdom to know what to do.**

"If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does." (James 1:5-8 NIV)

The **courage to begin again.**

The **character to see it through.**

"...for he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones. Then you will understand what is right and just and fair--every good path. **For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul.**" (Prov 2:8-10)

"Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." (Gal 6:7-9 NIV)

6 Simple Steps Of Lifelong Success

Accept **responsibility for my own life.**

"Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge. Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place. Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice." (Psa 51:4-8 NIV)

Clarify **my motives.**

"If I had the gift of being able to speak in other languages without learning them and could speak in every language there is in all of heaven and earth, but didn't love others, I would only be making noise. If I had the gift of prophecy and knew all about what is going to happen in the future, knew everything about everything, but didn't love others, what good would it do? Even if I had the gift of faith so that I could speak to a mountain and make it move, I would still be worth nothing at all without love." (1 Cor 13:1-2 TLB)

Tabulate **my goals.**

"Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails." (Prov 19:21)

"Finally, brothers, good-by. **AIM FOR PERFECTION,** listen to my appeal, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you." (2 Cor 13:11)

Initiate **small, specific changes today.**

"Whoever watches the wind will not plant; whoever looks at the clouds will not reap. As you do not know the path of the wind, or how the body is formed in a mother's womb, so you cannot understand the work of God, the Maker of all things." (Eccl 11:4-5)

Omit **the urgent to do the best.**

"Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but be a new and different person with a fresh newness in all you do and think. Then you will learn from your own experience how his ways will really satisfy you." (Rom 12:2)

"Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things." (Phil 4:8 NIV)

Never **return to old habits.**

"Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will turn back to you. Save me from bloodguilt, O God, the God who saves me, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise." (Psa 51:12-17 NIV)