

# Refusing to Accept Failure

Every successful person is someone who failed, yet never regarded himself as a failure. There are many examples; here are just a few:

- Wolfgang Mozart, one of the geniuses of musical composition, was told by Emperor Ferdinand that his opera *The Marriage of Figaro* was “far too noisy” and contained “far too many notes.”
- Artist Vincent van Gogh, whose paintings now set records for the sums they bring at auction, sold only one painting in his lifetime.
- Thomas Edison, the most prolific inventor in history, was considered unteachable as a youngster.
- Albert Einstein, the greatest thinker of our time, was told by a Munich schoolmaster that he would “never amount to much.”

John C. Maxwell, author and internationally recognized expert on leadership development, said it is “safe to say that all great achievers are given multiple reasons to believe they are failures. But in spite of that, they persevere. In the face of adversity, rejection and failings, they continue to believe in themselves and refuse to consider themselves failures.”



On a personal note, Maxwell said, “No matter where I fail or how many mistakes I make, I don’t let it devalue my worth as a person. As the saying goes, ‘God uses people who fail – ‘cause there aren’t any other kind around.’”

Like many people, you may have a hard time maintaining a positive mindset and preventing yourself from feeling like a failure, But know this: It is possible to cultivate a positive attitude about yourself, no matter what circumstances you find yourself in or what kind of history you have.

Remember: You are a child of the King, and you are involved in a very important mission.

Let your positive attitude, not circumstances or past failures, determine how you view yourself.

*“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future” (Jeremiah 29:11 NIV).*

– Beecher Hunter