

# Overview of *Failing Forward*

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**By Dave Havir**

BIG SANDY, Texas—On Jan. 24, 2009, I gave a sermon titled "Failing Forward." In that sermon, I recommended a book with the same title written by author John C. Maxwell. Dr. Maxwell, who is considered by many to be an expert on leadership, has written more than 20 books about the subject of leadership.

As the Passover season approaches, I wanted to write a few commentaries about the subject of failing forward.

In this commentary, I wanted to give an overview of Dr. Maxwell's main points.

In the inside cover of his book, Dr. Maxwell writes: "I want to help you learn how to confidently look the prospect of failure in the eye and move forward anyway. Because in life, the question is not if you will have problems, but how you are going to deal with them. Stop failing backward and start *failing forward!*"

Dr. Maxwell listed the following 15 "Steps to Failing Forward."

1. Realize there is one major difference between average people and achieving people.
2. Learn a new definition of failure.
3. Remove the "you" from failure.
4. Take action and reduce your fear.
5. Change your response to failure by accepting responsibility.
6. Don't let failure from outside get inside you.
7. Say good-bye to yesterday.
8. Change yourself and your world changes.
9. Get over yourself and start giving yourself.
10. Find the benefit in every bad experience.

11. If at first you do succeed, try something harder.
12. Learn from a bad experience and make it a good experience.
13. Work on the weakness that weakens you.
14. Understand there's not much difference between failure and success.
15. Get up, get over it, get going.

While all 15 points are valuable, I will pick only a few concepts and elaborate upon them over the coming weeks as we approach the Passover.

There is no reason to allow failure to keep you down. Whether your failure is a sin or merely a mistake, you need to keep moving forward. Obviously, we deal with sins differently from the way we deal with our mistakes. But, in either case, God wants us to keep moving ahead.

While we correctly seek to avoid failing, we must all learn how to fail forward.