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DEAR CHIEF: I’m paranoid of failure. I don’t like experiencing it and I want to avoid it. I’d like to be aware of its warning signs and causes so I can side-step them and begin being the one who gets promoted rather than the one watching others get promoted. I am extremely conscientious about this because I’ve had more than one person tell me I’m a failure in life and my career. Your advice and guidance are really needed here.

SIDE-STEPPING FAILURE



DEAR SIDE-STEPPING FAILURE: First of all, don’t let others’ opinions of you get you down. Regardless how things have gone for you in the past, it’s time to learn from your experience and move forward to avoid doing the same things that have rendered you your current feelings and fate.

Fearing failure can be a good thing if you let it. It can be a successful motivator and drive you to success. When a sportscaster asked Hall of Fame quarterback Joe Montana how he was able to play at such a high level of effectiveness in the NFL, Montana replied, “I was always afraid I’d fail so I played with constant fear.”

Nonetheless, there are many things that hold people back from achieving their potential and possibly leading to failure. I’ll briefly mention some of them:

1) If someone is born with a mental deficiency, there is little they can do about

I don’t want to fail

it. To bridge this weakness, assistance and help from capable people are needed.

2) There is little hope for someone who does not have a well-defined purpose in life.

3) Someone lacking in ambition is someone who typically won’t pay any price to become successful.

4) Insufficient education can handicap some people. If you don’t have a college degree in your field of work, then other efforts to become self-educated are necessary.

5) People without self-discipline never master control over themselves and usually succumb to their temptations and/or the control of other influences.

6) Bad health will ground even the most ambitious person. Do everything you can to eat healthy, exercise, avoid bad vices, and think good thoughts.

7) Procrastination has caused many people to fail as they go through life waiting for the time to be right to start doing something worthwhile. Don’t wait. The time will never be right. Simply get started.

8) People who fail often never persisted in their effort. They stopped short in their journey and quit.

9) There is no hope of success for the person who repels people through a negative personality.

10) Intemperance has cost many people their jobs and relationships. Overindulgence in eating, drinking, drug use, and sexual activities has ruined many lives.

11) An uncontrolled desire for “something for nothing” has also led

to the downfall of people, especially those who gambled away their fortunes at casinos, stock markets, or senseless business deals.

12) Selecting the wrong mate in marriage is one of the most common causes of failure. The misery and unhappiness that accompany a bad marriage usually destroys one’s ambition. Similar to this, one’s wrong selection of associates in business can have a similar outcome, causing them to possibly lose everything they have.

Additionally, here are other causes of failure that some people would debate me on but I believe they’re legit:

- Being superstitious.
- Being prejudice.
- Indecision.
- Wrong selection of a vocation.
- Indiscriminate spending.
- Lack of enthusiasm.
- Having a closed mind.
- Inability to cooperate with others.
- Having power not earned.
- Being dishonest.
- Being egotistical and vain.
- Guessing instead of thinking.

Having read through this litany of causes of failure you should be able to ascertain the formula for success by simply flip-flopping the message of everything I wrote. By doing so, you’ll see a road map for success.



For an opportunity to have your question, issue or concern addressed in the Dear Chief column, go to www.DearChiefAdvice.com and submit your comments or email them to Jeff@DearChiefAdvice.com.