I think that many people might be struggling with the fear of failure. I am writing this to tell you my own experience of what is helping me to overcome, because I am the one that often feels in such a way. I am also writing to those who have experienced the love of God and still feel in such a way.

Many times I feel God is telling me to do things for Him and I feel discouraged because there is a fear of failure in me. And many times this can paralyze us. Then I understood that God actually doesn’t look at our success, but at our attitude on doing something. Many times we don’t do something because we fear that we won’t succeed or do it in a perfect way. And I fear that I won’t achieve the normative, I won’t get to that level required from me and then I block. But God actually doesn’t look at that. Sometimes we can even lose. He doesn’t care if we are going always to win. I say this, because many times we picture the victory in our mind and we get an idea of what a success and victory might be, but this is not always the right point of view or idea. Important is to do what we have to and to take a step toward it.

**God doesn’t look at how good are you in doing something, but at how much you acknowledge your weakness in front of Him.**

Many times we can also lose in our sight, but be winners in His. The people today want always to be first, to succeed in every area, to be perfect. When we see that and we see ourselves weak or incapable, we fear. And I am not speaking about achieving our own desires or purposes, **but about the will of God, when He places in us a desire to do something**. It might be to approach someone and share with him the Good news or do whatever else is having to do with God and His glory. We can see the parable of the ten talents in Matthew 25:14-30. In verse 24 it speaks about the man who, after having received one talent, hid it in the ground.

24“Then he who had received the one talent came and said, ‘Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed.  Matthew 25:24

Often I see myself in that character, having one talent only.

Now, why does it give an example with the one having received one talent and doesn’t for example speak about the one with two or five, saying that they hid them? Was there something wrong with the fact that this person was having one talent only? Of course not. In the beginning of the parable we see that the master gave to each one of them according to their possibilities.

14“For *the kingdom of heaven is* like a man traveling to a far country, *who* called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. 15**And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability**; and immediately he went on a journey. Mathew 25:14-15

At that point it wasn’t up to them, how much were they going to receive. It was up to the master. We can however say that the one having received less was having the same opportunity as the rest. We can also suppose that he was even having less to do and worry about, but obviously that was his possibility. But we can also see a syndrome that we find amongst those who know that have received less or maybe they think so.

And they often reason in this way: “I can’t, I won’t, I am too weak, I am not like them, I have little.”

This happens as well, because we often compare ourselves with the rest of the Christians, which in some cases might be good, but not always, in a sense that God’s work in each person is **unique**, even if we are speaking about the same faith, the same baptism and the same God.

24“Then he who had received the one talent came and said, ‘Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, *there* you have *what is* yours.’ Matthew 25:24, 25

I think that he was scared of failure. That’s why he didn’t invest his talent, but hid it away. And this is worse than failing. Obviously the Bible tells us to be prudent before doing whatever, but this was a different case and we mustn’t hide away what God has given us to do. **God is looking at our attitude when we do something, not always at the outcome of it.** We can better say that He will worry about the outcome. We must just take a step. Many times we might be scared of the high expectations we have placed in front of us. We think that we definitely have to succeed, we definitely have to bring good results with us. And when we see with our (limited) mind that we can’t achieve that, we get discouraged and we give up on doing whatever we had to.

There are two mistakes here. We mustn’t always expect a success and we mustn’t look at a situation with our own understanding and mind. All of this scares us away. The enemy is the one telling us “you won’t succeed, you won’t be able to do it.” We need to answer rather, “Yes, I will succeed or maybe not, but I am doing this in obedience to God. He sends me. **The victory belongs to Him, not to me**.” It is much more important to obey, rather than to succeed in our own way.

How many people won’t take a step, won’t make a compromise with Christ because they think, they will fail. And they maybe will! But that’s the point. That the victory is not ours, but His. We do a mistake when we want to make it ours.

Going back too the parable, I think anyway that even with mistakes, but taking a step to invest his one talent, was going to make his master happy. And I think that God can use our mistakes and turn them into something beautiful. But this is for those who are called, who take the steps. 28And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose. Romans 8:28

Let just the mistake not be, because we hid it underground. Even the one talent is important for the Kingdom. David killed Goliath with one small stone.

37Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. Romans 8:37

39He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it. Matthew 10:39

These were words of Jesus who also in the eyes of many people lost dying on the cross, but in fact He overcame and sat on the right side of the power. The people today want always to win, but in their own way, not in God’s way. I can rather say that many times we need to **lose** our own way.

Then what’s important to see is what exactly we retain as a victory and what as a loss. Important for us is rather to have obedience than always wining and succeeding in our own way and get the glory. **The glory belongs to God alone**. We can also get as an example the story of Samson. After cutting his hair off and being blinded, because of his mistake, they made him a prisoner. We can see a total failure here, but nevertheless after praying to God and receiving back his powers (that were not his, they were from God), he managed to destroy the Philistines’ temple with himself being inside. He died with them, but with his death he managed to destroy more enemies than ever he could in his life.

What does it mean? That God managed to turn what was meant for bad in something good. **This is a true victory. The one that is such in the eyes of God**. The one that bears fruit for Him. He knows how and in which way to bring a victory. Many times what we define as a victory or success is the one that looks so in our eyes and way, but God looks at it differently. We only need to love Him and obey Him. He makes all things to work together for good for those who love Him. For this to happen we obviously need to have faith and accept Him in our hearts first. That’s why we mustn’t fear failure if we belong to Him and if He called us to do something. It’s also very important that he called us to do something and we heard it from Him. If it is our own call or idea, obviously we have to be cautious, but if it is His calling in our life, then we mustn’t fear anything because fear comes from the devil many times and he does it with the purpose not to do what God wants us to.

We can see many situations and stories in the Bible in which apparently the people there have lost hope and failed, but God used that to bring beauty from the ashes. We can see the story of Job for example in which the devil brought trials and tribulations to his life, and Job lost almost everything, but at the end he came with a victory and more knowledge about God, and more blessings than before. It also looked like Jesus lost dying on the cross and the enemy surely rejoiced, but we all know that this became the sacrifice through which we can be forgiven and have His life in us today.