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AILING FOR SUCCESS... FAIL EARLY, FAIL FAST, AND FAIL FORWARD!

BY NELLIE FELIPE

“Where there is understanding, there is power.” Proverbs 8:14

What? Yes, you read the title correctly... “Failing for Success... Fail Early, Fail Fast, and Fail Forward”. If the failure happens publicly, then even more people can benefit from it.

Capitalizing on failure actually depends on how we process the event or situation. The key here is to move on quickly **after** you have:

- Assessed the situation
- Developed solutions
- Implemented the solution of choice
- Sought understanding (gathered, applied, and shared lessons learned)

Be transparent throughout the entire process.

Failing early is not always up to us. Most of us would consider failing early a curse, an evil doing, or Murphy’s Law. Yet this is a blessing in disguise. Failing early means, we get an opportunity up front to smooth out some of the rough places fast. This is a priceless opportunity with minimal risks compared to failing in the midst of our peak.

To fail fast means we do not give in to the desire to wallow in self-pity or feel victimized. We immediately go into damage control, assessment, and solutions development mode.

Failing forward means moving on once we have learned and applied the lessons and shared information with those affected. Lessons learned are invaluable. So many of us forego this step, we want to move on as soon as the problem is solved. This is equivalent to throwing our hard-earned money right into the trash can. The Proverbs tell us that, “Where there is understanding, there is power.” To learn is to gain understanding. We gain understanding through lessons learned. When we skimp on gaining understanding, we pass on power and possibly hinder our future success or, at the very least, make it a tougher road to travel.

Welcome to capitalizing from our mistakes. This is the secret to learning, growing, refining, and gaining wisdom. Nothing replaces the value of wisdom gained through experience... that is if we learned from it. If we look at a failed performance from the standpoint of “*what could I have done better?*” and “*how can I grow from this?*” then the likelihood of repeating the same mistakes are highly unlikely.

By the way, if we become upset with others and/or blame others for the failure, we will NOT be able to honestly respond to the two questions above. Frankly, it is difficult to assess our own performance when we are busy justifying our actions and pointing fingers. Here is a litmus test: If we are thinking about what someone else did or could have done, we have missed our opportunity for growth.

The key to seeing things from the perspective of learning and growing is to take accountability for the failure even if we feel it was more than just our doing. We only have control of ourselves.

Bottom line: Use performance failures to lead us to greater understanding and power.



Nellie Felipe is the founder of [ARIZE Coaching and Consulting](#). As a certified personal growth and leadership coach, she aspires to provoke people to rise in excellence. She believes everyone is born with a purpose that is not just their own; that every person's success impacts and facilitates the success of others. No vision is too small or too large to achieve. If you are truly ready to do what it takes to get to your mountaintop, she will be there to evoke the leader in you. She will come along side you as an accountability partner, a godly counsel, a seasoned professional, a caring friend.

As a consultant, Nellie will equip you with repeatable processes and systems. The consulting services offerings consists of process improvement, project management and change management utilizing proven Six Sigma, Lean Six Sigma and PMI PM methodologies.

She has substantial experience helping leaders achieve greater goals. Attend one of Nellie's online teleseminars, take her on as a coach, or bring her in as a consultant to help you with your business needs. Invite her to speak at your next team building or leadership event. [Check out her services](#). Subscribe to the [free newsletters](#) and [follow her on Twitter!](#)

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