

## This is COTR PART 1

Neal Hopson

### Psalms 56:9 NIV

---

#### MAIN TAKEAWAY

At Church on the Rock, we build our lives on Jesus, He is our firm foundation. We believe that setbacks are part of the process, not the end of the story. In 2026, we are believing for **increase** and **expansion**, and it starts with going wider and deeper in God's Word and build the firm foundation that will keep us steady when storms come.

**Big Idea:** If God is for you, then failure is not final.

#### KEY SCRIPTURES

1. **Psalms 56:9 NIV** Then my enemies will turn back when I call for help. By this I will know that God is for me.
  - a. If God is for us, nothing can defeat us.
2. **Jeremiah 29:11 NIV** 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.
  - a. God has a plan for each of us, and it is a plan of hope.
3. **1 Chronicles 4:9-10 NLT** There was a man named Jabez who was more honorable than any of his brothers. His mother named him Jabez<sup>[a]</sup> because his birth had been so painful. <sup>10</sup>He was the one who prayed to the God of Israel, "Oh, that you would bless me and expand my territory! Please be with me in all that I do, and keep me from all trouble and pain!" And God granted him his request.
4. **Genesis 50:20 NIV** You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.
  - a. Joseph went from the pit – prison – palace – prison – palace. The dream might be to go from pit to palace but it's in the process that God develops and builds us.
  - b. What God has called you to do requires grit, to move forward even when we don't feel like it because your feelings are indicators, not dictators. We walk by faith not by sight, we continue with our faith not our feelings.
5. **Mark 8:22-25 NIV** They came to Bethsaida, and some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him. <sup>23</sup>He took the blind man by the hand and led

him outside the village. When he had spit on the man's eyes and put his hands on him, Jesus asked, "Do you see anything?" <sup>24</sup> He looked up and said, "I see people; they look like trees walking around." <sup>25</sup> Once more Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly.

a. At times we need to get out of our comfort zone to get to what we need.

**6. Matthew 7:24-25 NIV** "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. <sup>25</sup> The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.

a. We must put it into practice, be a doer of the Word. This is how we build our life on the Rock.

b. When we build our life on anything else other than Jesus, it will fall.

### Takeaways

1. The first step is to **start**.
2. Don't let your **setback** cause you to **sit back** but let it be a **set up** for your **comeback**.
3. Failure is not a person (you), it's an event: failure is not who you are, it's something that happens to you and Jesus can restore you.
4. Failure is not the opposite of success; it's a part of your success journey.
5. You can't get to success without passing by the doors of failure: each door is an opportunity to learn and move on, don't stay there.
6. When God wants to do something big it always starts small. Continue doing the small things consistently and get ready for when opportunity comes.
7. If you're too big to do what's small, then you're too small to do what's big.

### REFLECT & REVISIT

Go back and read **Psalms 56:9 NIV**. As you read, reflect on what you are currently facing and where you need God's help. Declare out loud that **God is for you**, not against you. When fear, pressure, or past failure tries to speak, remind yourself that when you call on the Lord, everything changes. Let this scripture strengthen your confidence and renew your faith that if **God is for you, failure is not final**.