



BEAUTY FROM FAILURE

SAM MIDDLEBROOK

Sam Middlebrook is amazed that his wife Shannon said “yes” eight years ago, and is blown away that God would give them three amazing children, Levi (6), Max (5), and one more to be named sometime in October when he gets to witness his third child being brought into the world. He’s into Jesus, his family, guitars, football, and the color orange.

He is the Worship Arts Pastor at Christ the King Community Church in Bellingham, Washington. CTK is a church that believes strongly in worship, recovery, and outreach. For more info on this amazing group of people, go to **www.ctkbellingham.com**

Sam passion in ministry can be found at the place he started called DevelopingWorship.com, and online gathering place for worship musicians, worship technicians, worshippers, and worship leaders. If you’d like to connect with worship-minded people from all 50 US states and more than 45 countries around the world, go to **www.developingworship.com**. In addition to connecting with these people, you’ll also discover dynamic, free videos on the “stuff” of worship ministry - check it out.

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2 Corinthians 7:10-11

Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done. At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter.

Take a moment and think about a time you failed...

Write in the space below some words that come to mind about what you felt like in the midst of that failure.

5 Common Failures Dealt With In Ministry (from least offensive to most offensive)

1. Failing themselves
2. Failing their families
3. Failing others at work, etc...
4. Failing the church or ministry
5. Failing ME

Before you step into the messiness of the failure at hand...

Ask yourself:

1. Am I more concerned about the person or the problem?
2. Do I have any unresolved history with this type of failure either done by me or done in a way that hurt me?
3. Am I about to react, or am I about to respond?

Three common mistakes in the church when dealing with failure...

1. Giving more press to the sin and the sinner than the grace and the Giver.
2. Making every step towards wholeness a public affair.
3. Seeing fellowship as something to be earned instead of given.

God desires for beauty to emerge from failure. How can we as leaders and ministry participants be involved in seeing that beauty come to life?

1. Lead the offending person(s) toward Godly sorrow.
2. Leverage moments of earnestness.
3. Trust their eagerness to clear themselves.
4. Remind them of their indignation and alarm.
5. Point them to paths that lead toward justice for those who were hurt.

Three things that need to be given equal press:

1. The failure
 2. The journey of recovery
 3. The moment of wholeness
- (why do we tend to be so loud on #1 and so quiet on #2 and #3?)