



Christian  
Business  
Leaders

# Failure, Disappointment and Hope

GOD AT  
WORK

*Living every day with purpose*



# God at Work

- God at Work is based on the book by Ken Costa published by Continuum International Publishing Group ISBN 978-0826496355 and the course of the same name produced by Holy Trinity Brompton
- For more information go to [www.godatwork.org.uk](http://www.godatwork.org.uk)

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“...you think that’s bad, wait till you hear this:...”



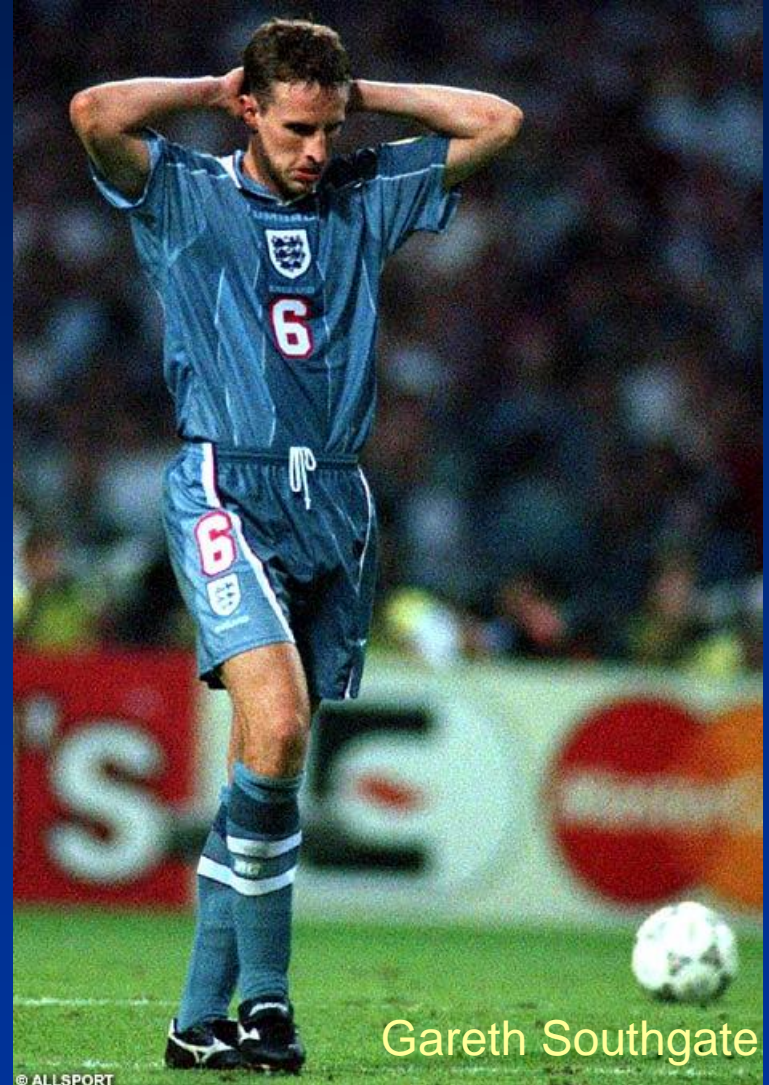
# FAILURE

Failures are divided in two classes:  
Those who thought and never did, and those who did and never thought.

The great thing about failure is that everyone gets to have a turn

# Have you ever failed?

- Didn't get a promotion?
- Business deal went sour?
- Let down by a trusted friend?
- Position made redundant?
- Missed a penalty or scored an own goal?



Gareth Southgate

# Faith and eternity

- In Christ we have hope, which does not disappoint us Romans 5:5
- He takes our guilt, mistakes and failures and exchanges them for peace security and purpose
- This applies to the whole of our lives – including our work lives

# Forgiveness and restoring relationships

- Work relationships can be a bit like families...except that we spend more time at work!
- Paul reminds us of Christ's call to "live at peace with everyone" Romans 12:18
- We need to be people of **grace, truth and trust**
- Broken trust requires reconciliation

# Identifying broken trust Small groups – 10 mins

- What have I failed to do that I should be doing?
- What have I done (or am I doing) that I should not do?
- What has the other person done, or failed to do?
- What has been said that has been hurtful?

# Failure: an opportunity to grow

- I failed, but I am not a failure
  - Avoid indulging in negative emotions
  - He who began a good work in [us] will carry it on to completion. Philippians 1:6
- Getting it wrong develops character and helps keep our pride under control
- God promises to work in all things for the good of those who love him. Romans 8:28
- “Some name it disappointment and become poorer, others name it experience and become richer” Sigmund Warburg

# Heroes or failures

- “Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts.” Winston Churchill
- Winston Churchill: Chief proponent of WWI disaster at Gallipoli, but remembered as a courageous war time leader
- Moses, David and St. Paul: all murderers, but men of significance, not least because they wrote most of the bible
- Jesus: executed at 33 years of age, but rose again and is the source of our hope

# Things to do

1. Turn to God rather than blame him
2. Face the facts, yet still believe
3. Meditate on scripture led by the spirit
4. Keep a journal
5. Persevere in hope (it leads to character not disappointment)



# Praying for hope

- Relationship that need to be restored
  - Courage to forgive or to ask for forgiveness
- Current failures or crises
- Old wounds in need of healing
- Purpose in pain