

## Thomas Edison — Successful Failure

by Doug Vetting

Thomas Edison failed many times. But Edison, who was born in 1847 and died in 1931, was a great inventor. In fact, he gave us more than 1,100 inventions. So how could he have failed so often? Let's look at his invention of the light bulb to answer that question.

When he first started working on his idea of making artificial light, he was unsuccessful. Edison had a big problem. He couldn't find a filament or wire that would give good light when electricity flowed through it. Thomas Edison spent 2 years trying thousands of materials, looking for the right filament that would give off light and last a long time. Just think, if you turned 10 years old today, you would be working on the light bulb until you were 12. And if you were like Edison, you would also be working up to 16 hours a day. You would be trying thousands of items— everything from blades of grass to wire made from platinum. He even used human hair. Each time, you would fail. Wouldn't that drive you crazy?

But Edison didn't go crazy. He just kept trying. Finally, he tried using carbonized thread, which is ordinary cotton sewing thread burned to an ash. It worked. On October 21, 1879, the first electric light bulb began to burn. It lasted for 45 hours. After years of failures, Thomas Edison had succeeded. Thomas Edison was not afraid of failing. Instead, he learned from his failures. After each failed attempt, he knew he was closer to inventing the light bulb.

Do you learn from your failures? Maybe you got a bad grade on a spelling test. Was it because you were watching ALF on TV the night before instead of studying? Learn from your failures. Let them lead you to success.

# Edifier

**Evant church of Christ**

310 W Brooks Drive

Evant, TX 76525

254-471-5705

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*Attending church services regularly is like making a path through the forest: the more often you use it, the less obstruction you find in the way."*

**Sunday Worship:**

**9:30 am Bible Study**

**10:20 am Worship**

**12:30 pm Afternoon**

**Wednesday Night**

**7:pm**

**Will Vann, Preacher**

**863-899-0987**

**Email: [wvann@yahoo.com](mailto:wvann@yahoo.com)**

**[www.evanchurchofchrist.org](http://www.evanchurchofchrist.org)**

## The “Big Potatoes” of Life

Years ago Chinese farmers decided they would eat the good big potatoes and just use the small ones for seed. A new understanding of the laws of life came to them when through the years during which they kept up this practice, nature reduced all their potatoes to the size of marbles! These farmers learned through bitter experience that they couldn't keep the best things in life for themselves and use the leftovers for seed.

The laws of life decreed that the harvest would reflect the planting. But you know, planting small potatoes is still a common practice with a lot of us. Too many of us take all the big things of life for ourselves and only plant the leftovers. We expect that by some crazy twist of the laws of nature our selfishness will be rewarded with blessings.

We must learn that we can't always eat the big potatoes and still keep having them. Planting small potatoes simply means that is all we can expect in return. This law applies in family relationships, friendships, on the job, in community affairs, in politics and everywhere else. This law applies especially in our service to God.

We succeed when we sacrifice. Whether it is in attending worship services, teaching others about God, visiting the sick, or giving, the big potatoes given to God will result in more blessings than we can even dream about. In Malachi 3:6-18 God is teaching the Israelites the law of small potatoes. In verse 10 we read, “And try Me now in this, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.”

The greatest blessing of all, of course, is that of eternal life. We can have the hope of heaven if we choose to give our life to God, rather than keep it for ourselves. Jesus said, “For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.” (Matt. 16:25).

### Those to Serve

(B) Calvin Burks (FV) Jeffrey Burks  
(O) Keith Stifflemire A) Doug Pruett

1st prayer Jack Wall

2nd prayer Kyle Stifflemire

Announcements: Mike Mallett

Singing: Judd Wall

### Prayer List:

Naomi Wall  
Leta Sheldon  
Mildred Lovell  
Janese Lancaster  
Ruby Jones  
Lloyd Crownover  
Pray for our Nation  
Our Troops  
Law Enforcement  
Rescue Personal

### Dates to Remember

January 1st

Mission Fund

January 29th

Noon Fellowship Meal



To

Doug & Theresa Pruett

### New Year Begins Any Time

One November we ordered a new automobile, which did not arrive until the new year. As we cleaned out the old car, I muttered, “How did we accumulate so much junk?” We sorted through old maps, dried-up ballpoint pens, outdated addresses and loose coins.

We made unwavering resolutions about keeping this new car clean, orderly and functioning properly. Thinking about resolutions, I sensed a connection between a new car and a new year. The first order of business is to clear out the clutter, discard the useless, remove the dust and dirt. Begin fresh!

A new year can begin anytime in our lives. We can sort through old attitudes, clean our minds of envy, toss out the habits of gossip and carrying grudges. We can resolve to keep our promises and curb our anger.

I stood back and surveyed the fresh, shiny car. Yes, a new year could begin anytime or any place. A lot of things from the past need discarding. Things we collect that are of no more value or usefulness need to be trashed. Paul wrote, “But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds” (Col. 3: 8-9).

It is amazing how a brand new car changes your life. None of the old squeaks, rattles and knocks. Cruising down the road in a brand new auto is a delight. So is the journey ahead, if we can truly forget things in the past and press on to greater things.