

## Fifty Failure Factors in Counseling

1. Is the counselee truly a Christian?
2. Has there been genuine repentance?
3. Is there a vital commitment to Biblical change?
4. Are your agendas in harmony?
5. Do you have all the necessary data?
6. Are you trying to achieve change in a concrete biblical manner?
7. Have you been intellectualizing?
8. Would a medical exam be in order?
9. Are you sure you know the problem(s)?
10. Are there other problems that must be settled first?
11. Have you been dealing with the issue and ignoring the relationship? (With God and w/ fellowman)
12. Did you give adequate scriptural hope?
13. Did you minimize?
14. Have you accepted speculative data as true?
15. Are you regularly assigning concrete, pertinent homework?
16. Would using a D.P.P. form help? Discovering Problem Pattern form can be replaced with Things to do/ Time Schedule form.
17. If this is a life-dominating problem are you counseling for total restructuring?
18. Are you empathizing with self-pity?
19. Are you talking about problems too much?
20. Have you carefully analyzed the counselee's attitude expressed in his language?
21. Have you allowed counselee to talk about others behind their back?
22. Has a new problem entered the picture, or has the situation changed since the counseling session began?
23. Have you failed to move forward rapidly enough in giving homework?
24. Is the problem not so complex after all, but simply a case of open rebellion?
25. Have you as a counselor fallen into some of the same type problems as the counselee? (Affecting you judgment & leadership)
26. Does doctrinal error lie at the base of the problem?
27. Do drugs (tranquilizers, etc.) present a complicating problem?
28. Have you stressed the put off to the exclusion of the put on? (Have you turned obedience into law)
29. Have you prayed about the problem?
30. Have you personally turned off the counselee in some way?
31. Is he willing to settle for something less than the scriptural solution?
32. Have you been less aggressive & demanding than the scriptures?
33. Have you failed to give hope by calling sin, SIN?

34. Is the counselee convinced that personality (behavior pattern) change is impossible?
35. Has your counseling been feeling oriented instead of word oriented?
36. Have failed to use full resources? (Help from other Christians in the form of: assigning a laymen to help, getting advice, referring to one more competent)
37. Is church discipline in order?
38. Have you set (allowed) poor patterns in previous sessions?
39. Do you really know the Biblical solution to the problem? (Could you write it out in a practical, applicable form?)
40. Do YOU really believe there is hope?
41. Has the counselee been praying, reading the Word, attending church, fellowshiping and witnessing? (For the right reasons)
42. Could/should you call in another Christian counselor for help?
43. Would a full rereading of your weekly counseling records disclose any patterns? (A professional counselor always keeps good records)
44. Have you questioned only intensively but not extensively?
45. Have you been wrongly assuming that this case is similar to a previous case?
46. Has the counselee been concealing or twisting data?
47. Do I need to interview other parties involved?
48. Are you simply incapable of handling this problem?
49. Are you reasonably sure there is no organic base to the problem?
50. Are you focusing on the wrong problem?