



# MOVING BEYOND AN **ERROR**

by Julie Caldwell

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Wouldn't it be amazing if we could play or coach throughout our careers without having ever made an error?! Unfortunately, that's not reality. Just consider your own play, or ask any Olympian or professional. Whether the error is physical or mental, all of us at one time or another will make an error.

- **WHEN you make an error on the field or court, do you allow your error to control you OR do you take control of your error? In other words, do you allow an error to affect your play or are you able to move beyond it quickly? Explain your answer.**

## ON-THE-FIELD ERRORS

When I made an error on the softball field, I frequently allowed my error to control me. I stewed over it. I beat myself up because of it. And I allowed it to affect my game. Often times I became my own worst enemy. Can anyone relate? Yet with some maturity, I began learning how to deal with my errors appropriately.

The following are some applications I made to my game to help me quickly and effectively move past my error. Each should only take a few seconds.

**Review.** Review what just happened, why the error occurred (i.e. I took my eyes off the ball).

**Reflect.** Reflect on what I am going to do different next time (i.e. Next time I'm going to watch the ball all the way into my glove).

**Release.** *Release the error; let it go. [This can be the most difficult part, but it's necessary. You may want to consider doing something tangible that represents what is taking place mentally and emotionally. For example, I picked up dirt (representing my error) and let it fall to the ground (representing the release of my error)].*

**Ready.** *Ready myself for the current situation (i.e. There is a runner at first with no outs. When the ball is hit to me, I am going get the lead runner.).*

Reviewing, reflecting, releasing and readying myself on the softball field allowed me to put my error behind me so I could press on to the next play. So if applying each of these helped me move past my on-the-field errors, is it possible they could do the same for my off-the-field errors?

## **OFF-THE-FIELD ERRORS**

With the exception of Jesus who is fully God and fully man, no one has lived his or her life here on planet earth error-free (Romans 3:23). Consider Paul whom many highly respect, yet he is self-described as the "worst of them all" (1 Timothy 1:15). More than any other, he could teach us something about our off-the-field errors.

Following Jesus' resurrection, Paul, formerly known as Saul, was the most feared terrorist known to followers of Jesus (Acts 9:1-2). Saul's persecution of believers caused them to scatter throughout the entire region. Yet when Jesus revealed His true identity to Saul during a personal encounter, Saul's life was turned inside out and upside down (Acts 9:3-31). Saul's life was changed forever when he allowed the One Who is Lord of all to become the manager of his life.

- **Have you experienced a time in your life when Jesus revealed His true identity to you? If so, how did it affect your life?**

Once Paul came face to face with Jesus and understood the reality of Who He is, I can imagine he grieved his previous lifestyle of loving everything God hated and hating everything God loved. So how did Paul move beyond his horrific past? Could it be that Paul spent some time reviewing, reflecting, releasing and readying himself with the same words he spoke to believers in Philippi: *"...But I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on..."* (Philippians 3:13-14)?

- **Do you think Paul could have “looked forward” and “pressed on” without “forgetting the past”? Explain your answer.**

I think it would have been impossible for Paul to effectively move forward with the things God prepared for him without first dealing with the baggage of his past. And I believe the same is true of us. Before we can look forward, we may need to be forgiven of some errors or sins we've committed—whether intentionally or unintentionally. Or it may be that we need to forgive others for the errors or sins they have committed against us. Either way, ***forgiveness is the key to forgetting and moving forward.*** (Note: Forgiving and forgetting does not necessarily mean not remembering. Rather, it means the debit has been canceled, and one chooses not to use the error or sin against another.)

As you think about the role of forgiveness in your life, read the following verses and note what you learn about forgiveness:

- Ephesians 4:32
- Psalm 103:7-18
- Colossians 3:13
- 1 Corinthians 13:4-7
- 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

I love what Corrie ten Boom writes in her book *Tramp for the Lord*: "When we confess our sins, God casts them into the deepest ocean, gone forever... Then God places a sign out there that says No Fishing Allowed!" Now that's forgiveness!

- **In light of God's Word to you about forgiveness, consider your past. Is there anyone you need to forgive or anything you need to forget so you can look forward and press on unhindered with the things God has for you? Explain your answer.**

We all error in life, but God doesn't want us to get stuck in those places. So are you ready to FORGET THE PAST and LOOK FORWARD to what lies ahead? Using the 4 R's, describe how you can move past your off-the-field errors or the errors made against you.

**Review.** Review what just happened, why the sin or error occur.

**Reflect.** Reflect on what you can do different next time, if applicable.

**Release.** Release the sin or error. Turn away from your sin, ask God to forgive you, and receive His forgiveness. Or maybe you need to draw upon God's grace to forgive someone who has offended you. Let it go. *[Just as you consider doing something tangible with your on-the-field errors (i.e. picking up dirt and letting it fall to the ground), you may want to do the same with your off-the-field errors.]*

**Ready.** Draw upon God's empowering Presence to ready yourself for the current situation. According to Colossians 3:12-17, put on God's character of tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness, love, peace, and thankfulness.

Now FORGETTING THE PAST, let's LOOK FORWARD and PRESS ON with all God has prepared for us to do with Him!

***"...But I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on..." (Philippians 3:13-14)***



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