



JIM HARSHAW JR.

Revealing Failure as the Path to Success

Success Through Failure Podcast

Action Plan Episode #382

Jason Portnoy

Author and Venture capitalist Jason Portnoy grew up in the suburbs of New Jersey. He went to [Stanford University](#) and eventually found himself in Silicon Valley in the middle of what's called the PayPal Mafia— where he worked with visionaries like Peter Thiel, Elon Musk, Max Levchin, and Reid Hoffman.

This launched him into a life of wealth and prestige that he never dreamed of growing up.

He had stock options in PayPal.

Flashy cars.

And an amazing family.

Everything looked perfect on the outside, but on the inside, he had unhealed traumas from his past. Slowly and painfully, Jason descended into the dark world of pornography and sex— which pushed him and his life to the edge.

Listen to this episode of the [Success Through Failure podcast](#) as Jason walks us through his book, ["Silicon Valley Porn Star: A Memoir of Redemption and Rediscovering the Self."](#) and his journey that sheds light on a crisis of masculinity in our own world where so many men quest for unlimited power and success.

Tune in now and be inspired to look inside of yourself and find your own path to success and fulfillment in becoming the person that you truly want to be.

Top Quotes From This Episode

"God punishes you by giving you everything you want to see if you can handle it."
(Mike Tyson)

"When I say everything falls into place, it doesn't necessarily mean you start getting all the things you wanted because a funny thing happens, you start wanting different things."

"If we want to change something in the circumstances of our life, we have to first change it inside of ourselves and then it will manifest in our external universe."

"I now find myself in a place where I feel very content with my life, my relationships, my professional work. And so what do you do when you're content? You are in service to others. You can be in service to others."

"Failure is a gift because failure just means you are bumping up against the limitations of your programming."

Show Notes

This episode touches on the following key topics and ideas:

- **Share this episode! (2:20)**: Share the podcast on social media by tagging me and using the hashtag #STFpod:
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- **Superstar entrepreneurs (2:48)**: Jason describes working with the likes of Peter Thiel, Elon Musk, Max Levchin, and Reid Hoffman as "intense."

- **A pivotal moment (5:06)**: The time Jason realized he belonged in Silicon Valley.

- **True happiness (6:53)**: Getting everything that you want in life doesn't guarantee happiness.

- **The beginning of the dark path (8:13)**: Jason shares how his porn and sex addiction started.

- **A father's pain (9:57)**: The first time Jason felt "truly disgusted" about himself.

- **Coming clean (11:30)**: Jason talks about the time his wife caught him cheating.

- **Unraveling the root causes (13:24)**: How Jason's childhood traumas affected his life.

- **The falling apart (16:10)**: Jason and his wife on going through a rough patch in their marriage.

- **The healing process (17:57)**: Jason on working with a coach to rebuild his relationship with himself.

- **Support system (21:08)**: The value of having a coach and seeking therapy.

- **Accountability (23:11):** *"You are responsible for the circumstances in your life."*
- **Doing the internal work (26:54):** Jason explains what he calls *"climbing my spiritual mountain."*
- **Retreat mode (32:30):** The *"metamorphosis"* Jason had to go through.
- **Trusting and believing (36:03):** Jason on rebuilding trust with his wife and himself.
- **First significant act of service (38:00):** Jason feels *"so lucky"* to have gone through the challenges in his life.
- **Success through failure lesson (39:58):** Jason believes that failure is a *"gift."*
- **Key to success (42:59):** The value of taking risks and having the willingness to explore uncharted territory.

What's an action item the listener can take in the next 24-48 hours? (44:40)

- Find a place where you can tell all of your secrets— it can be a therapist, a coach, or a 12-step program.
- Practice simplification: What can I get rid of today? What am I doing that's not serving me? What is a bad use of my time?

List of Resources Mentioned in the Episode

Jason Portnoy's book, [Silicon Valley Porn Star: A Memoir of Redemption and Rediscovering the Self](#)

Want to talk to a personal performance coach?

Want to consider executive life coaching? Claim a spot on Jim's calendar for your free one-time clarity call: JimHarshawJr.com/APPLY

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