

SUCCEEDING IN LIFE SERIES

THE UNLIMITED MIND

Matt. 21:18 *Now in the morning as He returned to the city, He was hungry and seeing a fig tree by the road. He came to it and found nothing on it but leaves and said to it, "Let no fruit grow on you ever again." And immediately the fig tree withered away. Now when the disciples saw it, they marveled saying, "How did the fig tree withered away so soon?"* Actually in Mark 11 Jesus actually spoke to the fig tree and then went on to Bethany and the next day as they passed by the disciples noticed it. So actually one night has passed by according to Mark chapter eleven. But from the time Jesus spoke to the tree, the tree started withering from the roots. And it was only visible the next day. The disciples were surprised and asked Jesus how did the fig tree withered away so quickly. How can this be done? How is it possible? Jesus just spoke a sentence to the tree. And Jesus replied in verse 21. *So Jesus answered and said to them, "Assuredly I say to you if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain be removed and be cast into the sea, it will be done. And all things whatever you ask in prayer believing you will receive.* Jesus actually says that you disciples could also do this to the fig tree. Notice he mention in verse 21 *if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what is done to this tree.* See many times when Jesus was on this earth, people said He did those thing He did because He was the Son of God, because He was sinless. Jesus was speaking to His disciples who were not even born again. He was saying to them that if you have that quality faith that believes without any doubt and you would release your word the way I release it, Jesus said you could do it. There is nothing special. The disciples were shocked when they saw the fig tree withered. They thought it was something special. Jesus said it was nothing special. You can do the same thing too. And you cannot only do it to the fig tree. You can do to this mountain. And where they were they could see the Mount of Olives. So He points to that and say you could do to this mountain too.

Jesus was pointing to the great possibility that is within a human being - when a human being would put their heart and mind into something. He was pointing to the great, unlimited possibilities that He has for his disciples. And we are touching on the law of success. In the last message we talked about the law of concentration. How we have to concentrate on a matter in order to pursue it with all our heart and not be distracted. In this message we are going to touch on the power of the unlimited mind. It is important for us to note that the mind that needs to be renewed is a mind that has been given by God. It was not supposed to be rejected. God gave you the mind. God is against intellectualism that produces ungodliness and sin. But God is for the renewal of the mind. The mind can be used for God. And no matter what you have in the spirit, it has to be released through your mind.

The book of third John verse 2 says *Beloved I wish above all things that you may prosper as your soul prospers*. In other words he is saying that you will prosper in proportion to your soul prosperity. Soul prosperity is different from body prosperity. When a person prospers bodily, they receive health and they receive wealth. But third John verse 2 is saying that your prosperity or your blessings in the natural realm will only prosper as your soul prospers. And your soul consists of your intellect, your mind, your will and your emotion. Part of the prosperity has to affect your soul, which involves your mind. Unless your mind enlarged in its thinking, unless your mind begins to see possibilities where there are impossibilities; God will not be able to work through your life to conquer that event or that mountain in your life.

Proverbs 23:7 *As a man thinks in his heart so is he*. In other words you are what you think. If you conceive of the idea that you would never rise up above your circumstances, you will never. If today you grasp hold of the principles that you can do more than what you have done, you will be able to do. God will never be able to do above what you think. He is limited to your thinking. He works in you. Before He does great things in you, He gives you great ideas. And usually it is never a financial problem. It is always an idea problem. It is not financial problem that you would have. It is idea problem. When Robert Schuller was building his famous glass cathedral, it cost him million of dollars. And he didn't even have a thousand dollars in the bank. But God called him to build that multimillion-dollar glass cathedral right in California. And every time he looks at it, it is like a big mountain. This was what God began to speak to him. God says His supply is unlimited provided Robert Schuller would not limit God. And so in his prayer closet he began

to pray. And finally he came out with an idea. Remember he had a money problem but it was not really a money problem. It was an idea problem. And God gave him the idea. God sent him to his contractor, engineer and architect and asked them. How many panes of glass does this building have? And they said so many thousands. If there are so many thousands of glass, how much will each piece of glass cost? Then he began to share with the people. We cannot do it by one person. But if every one of us would take the responsibility of taking care of one pane of glass, we all can do it together. And so finally he gave that to the people and people by the thousands began to give to him. And people began to hear about the big project. And before long they managed to finish every thing. Paid off the whole building and the cost actually ended up about nearly twice as much as it was projected. But they completed everything on cash. All because God gave an idea.

Remember when you have financial problem. It is not because you have financial problem. It is because you have run out of ideas of what to do. There are a lot of good ideas floating around. But there is none as best as what the Lord Almighty can give you. And God can never do beyond what your mind can conceive. Only when your mind conceives of the possibility can you begin to rise above the situation. As we look at life. All through life we have always been told what we cannot do. We are trained in that manner. If you ask a person who is jobless. And you ask them why are you jobless. Because I can't get this job. Why can't you get this job? Because I don't have the qualification. Why can't you get the qualification? Because I am not good at my studies. Why are you not good at your studies? It is because I am not good at languages. Why are you not good at languages? It is because you are too lazy to learn. If you face every impossibility that you say it is an impossibility, then it becomes an impossibility to you.

Remember that every thing that God has always asked a man to do has always been that which is impossible to that person. God told Noah to build a boat. God told Abraham come out of his land and he will give him a better place. God spoke to David to conquer his enemies. And Jesus Christ when He walked on this earth never knew impossibilities. There were many things that were never done before. But that was no problem to Him because He had a mind that has removed the word *impossible*. *Say from this day forward I am going to remove the word impossible from my thinking life. Nothing is impossible to the one who believes. I refused to allow natural circumstances to put a limit to my mind.* You will notice that all the time it is the

natural that limits man. For example if you ask a person why can't you buy that piece of property? They will say my finances are limited. Why are your finances limited? Because of these circumstances here. Why are those circumstances hindering you? When you begin to actually go into it, you will find that some way some place at some time a person has allowed impossibility to creep in. For example you meet people who are not successful. And you ask them why are you in that situation. Since I was small I had this thing which always hinder me and it is always been my incapability in life. That person has accepted that incapability. There are many people who are handicapped who do better than that guy. Because they have put their mind to say it can be done. There have been people who had gone through accidents, total wrecked who have won in the sport games. Because they set their minds to it. They said it can be done.

Remember the first guy who ran the four minutes mile. You know what is the actual barrier. It was in the mind of a human being. Before he conquered that four-minutes mile, running a mile in four minutes, tradition said that it was impossible. But the moment he broke it and he finished a mile in three minutes plus, the very next few days runners started to break the four minutes barrier. It was a mental block that was inside. We are conditioned to it. If you tell yourself you cannot do it, your whole system starts functioning that way. Your whole system starts functioning and saying it cannot be done. The moment you accept the fact that it is impossible as you began to run the four minutes mile your subconscious mind works against you. You have to convince yourself it can be done. *Say all things are possible to him who believes.*

A person is limited to only one idea. It is like the person who is lying on the pool of Bethesda and Jesus said do you want to be healed. And the man said nobody is around to help me get into the water. He only saw one possibility of healing. He only saw the way to be healed is to get into the water where the angel was stirring the water. But here are many other ways that it can be done. And God began to deal with his life through Jesus who said rise and be healed. He doesn't even have to get into the water. And he was healed in a different way than he expected. All things are possible to him who believes. But we have to battle with limitations that human beings set on us.

For example if we tell people that we are going to buy a piece of land to build a church. The first thing they say it is not possible in this city. Have you ever confronted this kind of thing? Every time you want to do something, somebody comes and say it is not possible. I remember Robert Schuller when he went to Tokyo. He said to the Christians, "Why don't you build a church?" And they said there is no land in Tokyo. And one day as he was driving along he saw that lake nearby. He said why not you all fill up the lake and then take the land. They said that it is not possible. Nobody has done it before. And many years later when he came by he felt very angry. Because the unbelievers had filled up that lake and build a Disney Land there. But the believers don't want to believe that it can be done.

There is no such thing as impossibility when you set your mind onto it. Impossibility exists in traditions and in the things around you as you look at them. You will realize that everywhere a person says I cannot do this. Examine it. in your own life there are a lot of things that you said you cannot do. You have limited yourself. I cannot remember all these things. Why can't you remember all these things? Some other people who have gone through handicapped and they have done it. But you with all your help, with all your normal functioning of your organ are saying I cannot do it. The moment you say it your mind blocks out. The moment you accept impossibility that's it. And you accept that you have defect on your life. There are many other handicapped who could do better than you. Do not accept limitation. That is one of the things that caused people not to be successful. They accept the fact that it cannot be done at some point in their life. Their parents may have told them that. They may have dreamed of being a pilot or something. The parents said cannot be done. And so it could not be done. Or somewhere along the line, friends may have told them it cannot be done. You will get used to it when you move around among Christians who are what I called impossibility thinkers. To them every thing is not possible. Why is it not possible? Nobody has done before. Why hasn't anybody done it before? Because it is just not possible. That is all they can say. But wherever or whatever God ask you to do, God expect that you discover it is possible.

The most amazing thing about Matthew 21 is this. Jesus had faith in the ability of His disciples. Think about them. One of them betrayed Him. One of them denied Him. Two of them were quarrelling to be on the right hand and left hand. These

bunch of disciples. I am sure people are saying why do you choose these bunch. What can they do? Do you know what Jesus said? You can remove mountains. He told these very bunch of disciples, "You can remove mountains. You can do this to the fig tree as I have done." The only limits to the possibilities in your life are in your mind.

The first time Christopher Columbus wanted to sail across the world, people said it is dangerous. It has not been done. It cannot be done. Because if you sail across the world right at the end you will fall over. That is what they believe. They believe the world was flat. They got their theory wrong. They believe the world was round and they believe the sun goes round the earth. Then came a guy named Copernicus. And he said the earth goes round the sun. Every body laughed at him. Every scientific discovery that we accept as a fact today was challenged as heresy by the scientists of earlier days. See human beings have a tendency to be complacent. It has never been done before. Don't rock the boat. We are O.K. here. Don't do anything adventurous. Just sit and go through life like us. But it is those people who want to change the world, who want to be the head and not the tail, who have to rise up in their thinking life. Their minds have to get rid of limitations and impossibilities and rise up above what has not been done before. You have to a concept of that in your heart and in your mind.

God never wants you to limit yourself. *"Say God never wants me to limit myself."* Jesus told His disciples what I do you can do also. Matthew 17 the disciples could not cast out a demon. In verse 19 the disciples came to Jesus privately and said why could we not cast him out? So Jesus said to them because of your unbelief. That is their only problem. Your minds were limited. Your minds start thinking why it cannot be done. Do you notice when you tell people of some project, the first thing they tell you is why it cannot be done. Very few people will tell you why it can be done. Think about any area in the natural. For example if you are going to start a business or something, the majority of people is going to come to you and say why it cannot be done. The market condition, the recession, this and that. They give you one thousand reasons why it cannot be done. If you want to be an eagle and not a sparrow, then you have to think above them. Those are the crows and the sparrows. The crows and the sparrows cannot go above where the eagle goes. Sometimes the crows and the sparrows look up at that majestic bird called the eagle flying above them. How did they do it? And sometimes some of you baby eaglet say I can reach

that mountain. I can go right up there. You have visions of golden eagle. There is an instinct in you that say you can rise and be the head and not the tail. And as you began to stretch your wings to fly, the crows will come to you and tell you don't do it. And they will give you a thousand reasons. The crows and the sparrows will tell you one thousand times how it cannot be done. Why it cannot be done. All things are possible if you dare to believe. But it takes courage, it takes daring. That is why one of the things Joshua has to be told is be of good courage. It takes boldness to believe it can be done. It does not take anything to believe it cannot be done. All you have to do is just be lazy. But it takes courage to believe it can be done. You can do it with God's help.

And Jesus made a statement in verse 20 *Because of your unbelief for assuredly I say to you if you have faith as a mustard seed you will say to this mountain move from here to there and it will move and nothing will be impossible to you.* I want you to get a grasp of the vision Jesus had. Jesus wants a group of soldiers in the army of God who move and say nothing is impossible. If you are the type of disciples Jesus wants to be, you would be someone who eradicate and remove the word *impossible* from your mind. If Jesus said *nothing shall be impossible to you.* Look at the type of disciples He wants. He wants the type of disciples who dream great dreams. See great visions daring to do great and mighty things for God that the world tells them they cannot be done. Sometimes the crows and sparrows tell them it cannot be done. The Pharisees tell them it cannot be done. You have enough people telling you it cannot be done. You need people to tell you it can be done. Whatever you want to achieve in life, it depends on your faith. And how much faith should it be - a mustard seed. You don't need a lorry load. Just that small tiny idea and vision that drops into your heart can bring you to. It can grow and grow.

I remember Cho Yonggi who is now the pastor of the world largest church with more than 800,000 members now. The Presbyterian church was one of the largest churches in Seoul, Korea. One day as a young man he took a ruler and went to the church and started measuring the church. And the Presbyterian elder came and asks, "What are you doing?" He said I am going to build a church bigger than this. They laughed. And he built one slightly a few feet bigger. One man dares to dream the impossible and do the incredible. If you go for ten thousand souls in life, you will probably live and die wining ten thousand souls. But another person can believe God for one million souls, and they will probably live and die wining a

million souls. Who set the limit? You set the limit not God. If you believe that all you can do is to buy a tiny little flat just next to the slum area, you probably have that. I am not suggesting covetousness. But I am suggesting that you do not have a limited mind. God could do better if you would change your thinking life.

What did God said to the Israelite nation? You shall be the head and not the tail. But that is one thing you notice among those who lived in the slums have a slum thinking. The people you mixed with tend to give you the same kind of limitation type of thinking. When you mixed with people who are unsuccessful they will always talk about unsuccessful things. Did you notice that those who want to be successful, mixed with people who have been successful in order to get that same kind of thinking and the way they talk and the way they think are different. The successful think and talk differently. The unsuccessful think and talk in a certain way. It depends on your thinking. And Cho Yonggi said this that he noticed that unsuccessful pastors tend to group together. And successful pastors tend to group together in a conference. One group talks about the impossible. The other group talks about great possibility. That is also the same in the spiritual realm. Without any bias I attend pastors conference whether it is big or small. So sometimes when they organize a local pastors conference. And a lot of them come from small churches that are struggling. When I mixed with them I noticed the speakers they bring in talk small. For example they will stress on discipleship. And just completely neglect the growth of the church. They will share messages that will make you complacent and make you be satisfied with what you have. They always say quality. But they forget quality always produce quantity. Quality disciples always are fruitful. You cannot have quality without quantity. Sometimes I encourage these pastors and say don't limit yourself to these kind of conferences. Go to conferences where the churches are growing. They inspire you; they tell you what you can do. And you come out of it knowing what you can do. Instead of going to a conference that tells you what you can't do. You talk to people who are struggling, they will tell you the difficulties involved. But the funny thing is that there is another person facing the same difficulties and are overcoming it. So one guy is blaming it on his circumstances. The other guy is not affected by the same circumstances. What is wrong? The mind of a person was wrong. It was a limited mind against an unlimited mind.

To have an unlimited mind there are three areas you got to fight. The first area is

doubt and unbelief. Doubt is what you experienced when you have no knowledge yet. Doubt and unbelief I put them differently. Doubt is what you have not seen yet. You have no knowledge about. And doubt produces fear. For example a small child growing up. For some unknown reason you tell them about a place they have never been or a dark place. And you say go there. They have an unknown fear. A fear of the unknown. Why because they have no knowledge of it. It is something dark out there. They have no knowledge of that place. But the moment they have knowledge, they will look at it and they will go inside there and they switch on the light themselves. Because they know the place. They are not fearsome any more. For example some of the city folks and city children don't know the forests. So you put a city child there. They dare not to venture about. But those children who are growing in the villages in the jungles, they are used to walk jungle path like nothings. Why because they have knowledge of the place. Lack of knowledge produces doubt. When you have no information you have doubt.

When those people said to Christopher Columbus it cannot be done. It is because they have no knowledge. So no knowledge produces doubt, produces fear of the unknown. We have to get knowledge to remove doubt. And knowledge that is received that is not acted upon is an area of unbelief. Unbelief is by free choice. Doubt is by ignorance. You doubt because you are ignorant. But after you received knowledge it is no more doubt. It is unbelief. Unbelief is an act of your will. You choose not to believe even though you have the facts. Christopher Columbus can come back with the gold and with all those things he brought back from the new world. And you look at it and say I still don't believe. It is your choice. It takes the first person to apply the information into life for others to follow. You are the head and not the tail. The head always breaks new borders and new boundaries. The head always rises up to areas where others had not done before.

When Copernicus said that the earth revolves round the sun, everybody laughed at him. They almost killed him. But one day they discovered that all their calculation of astronomy will not tally unless they accept the fact that the earth revolves round the sun. For example if you want to send an astronaut to the moon, you have calculate the rotation of the earth. You have to calculate the path of the rocket and you have to know the path of the moon. And you have to know the path of the sun. Otherwise the rocket will go off but missed and go the other side. That is why they need huge computers to calculate. And that is why they have the countdown

because it must be the exact second. At the most they got a small percentage of error which they can adjust. The mathematical calculation is enormous. But it is all based on the fact that they must accept that the moon goes in a certain way. The sun goes in a certain way and the earth goes in a certain way. If they get their facts wrong, their calculations will all be out. And so what happened was those people who begin to travel in the sea. They begin to say when we accept the fact that the earth goes round the sun, we can understand and interpret the movement of the stars. And by the stars we can travel to great distances. We can tell north, south, east, and west without a compass. And so the fact and the truth became practical. It became practical for people to accept the fact that the earth goes round the sun. More people accepted because it means gold and silver and prosperity. It means that we can navigate the ship properly. It means that it can bring in great prosperity to the nation. It becomes practical. It affects people right where they lived. So if you have a fact and truth that does not change the way you live, then you are living in unbelief. The truth of God should change you.

For example I discovered that healing is in the bible. That Jesus took my sickness and diseases. And I have lived without medicine. It is a fact with me. If it is not true in my life I cannot preach it because it has not been made practical in my life. It will only change another person's life when you know it is true. It is something that works. Something that makes you healthier. So it affects lives. Then it is beneficial. So I encourage you the only way to remove doubt and unbelief is by information and acting on the information and it comes from God's word. If you want required information, look for the right type. For example if you want to do something said I want to be a successful businessman in a certain area. There will be enough people telling you how it cannot be done. But because you believe it can be done. Your mind acts in a funny way. See our mind is the slave of our spirit. Your mind will tell you how it can be done. It depends on your gear. You switch your gear to it cannot be done. Your mind tells you it cannot be done. You switch your gear to it can be done. Your mind will find way for it to be done. It is a peculiar phenomenon that you will discover. When you set your mind to say it can be done, your mind seems to be able to find ways to do it. It is something strange about this mind that we have. It operates based on your choice of thinking. I do not encourage covetousness. I encourage people to be good stewards. I want to encourage people's thinking to move beyond what they cannot do before. To switch their thinking to the level where it can be done. It is possible to do this. It is possible to do that. All things you see it as possible. The only question in your life is this,

whether it is the will of God. The question should not be can it be done or cannot be done. People set their minds to say it is not the will of God only when it cannot be done. I think that is wrong.

Let me give you an example, sometimes people they are sick. So they go and see a doctor. The doctor said this is a very difficult case. I recommend you to a specialist. And the specialist says this needs a special hospital. So they spend more money and they travel to another country with all the facilities there. Finally they reached the best in the whole world. And the person says it cannot be done. Then they come out and say it is not the will of God to heal me. Only when they reached a point it cannot be done, they say it is not God's will to heal me. Do you know what these people are actually doing? They are deciding God's will by circumstances. They are actually contradicting the bible principle. We never decide God's will by circumstances. You decide God's will by your communion with God.

David was able to build the temple. David had the ability. He had the gold, the silver. He prepared the architectural plan. But it was not the will of God. The only reason why you didn't want to do is because it is not the will of God, not because it is not possible. The mind that God has given you is the mind that is capable of large capacity. The only reason I am not in the business is because it is not the will of God, not because I cannot do it. That is where we say in the second point in this area. The only limitation you have on your life is two things, the word of God and the will of God. Don't do some things that are not the will of God for you. Do it only when it is the will of God.

Sometimes I hear full time people talk this way, "If it is God's will for me to go to Africa, God will send me the money." You know what they are saying. I decide God's will by circumstances. Whether you have or you have not it is decided by your communion with God. In other words if you don't have the cash to go, you should still move in that direction if it is God's will. And somehow either God will translate you there as you walk in that direction without the money. You see people who say it are limiting God by their circumstances. People who talk like that are people with limited minds. They don't see ways like God sees.

It is possible to get a piece of land right in the city to build a church. The moment you say it is possible, you began to look for it. The moment you say it is not possible. You will never see it. *Say all things are possible to him who believe. It is only decided by the will of God.* Don't do things that are not God's will. And don't stop doing thing just because it is not possible. You stop yourself from doing things only because it is not the will of God.

Do you remember God told the Israelites in Deuteronomy? He says that the nations you face are greater and mightier than you. If they ever look at their possibilities they are finished. What does it say? That goes to No.3 the unlimited mind believes in miracles. *Say I believe in miracles.* That is what the world doesn't believe. The difference between the world and us is we believe in miracles. We believe that one can chase a thousand. Two can chase ten thousands. We believe that. When Joshua fought with all these inhabitants in the land of Canaan, God sent hailstones. God has His army working for you. If they were to stand and look across the Jordan River with their legs shivering and say it cannot be done, they would die there. They must step into the land. And then God said I give you every place your foot step on.

Train your mind to always say it can be done. There is no such thing, as it cannot be done. All things are possible to him who believes. Which is the third area we say it can be done because we the miracle factor. The world may have a recession but John Osteen built his church in the recession. The world tells you now is not the time to start a business. If God told you to go ahead, it can be done. In this third area let me tell you this. Miracles are dependant on needs and not on want. Sometimes people start claiming things because they want it not because they need it. God will supply not only your needs but also your wants. Ps.23 says the Lord is my Shepherd I shall not want. Listen very carefully. This is usually what happens. The time of the supply comes at the time of your need. You may be a school kid. Or you may be a young adult just starting off in life. You don't have much saving. You have completely nothing. But you believe God for a car. At the moment your needs are sufficient. You could go by with it. But you are going out with a lovely girl who is about to be married that very year. And in two years time you are going to have two kids. And all these needs will be ahead of you in three, four years time. And that time is not so convenient to travel by bus. As you are claiming and you are

walking and believing God and you are faithful in your finance. God began to supply a motorbike. And as you keep visualizing and believing that your family is going big. You get a van. But the van comes when you need it. Some of the things you believe you don't need it yet. And that is why God never send it to you yet. But believe for it comes to you when you need it. I encourage you to believe for the impossible thing. And some of the things that you want to achieve and believe God for are probably what you will need in the future. When the need is ripe it will drop on you.