

## SUCCEEDING IN LIFE SERIES

### SUCCESS ATTITUDES

Joshua 1:8 *This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth but you shall meditate in it day and night that you observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then it will make your way prosperous. And then you will have good success.* We are looking on principles on how to succeed in life. So we are talking about principles the world has sometimes discovered but they may not have the full impact of the principles, as God's word will give us. It says that you shall meditate on the word of God day and night and observe to do them. Observe to do what God's word says. In this life that we live, there are two forces that are working. There is the force of evil and the force of good. And we are caught between those two forces. There are two currents that are flowing all the time. And until we reach heaven the choice will always be given to us. Which current do we want to flow with? And it is out there all the time. From the time we are born into this life until we leave this life or until Jesus comes and ends it for us, these two forces constantly vie for our lives. And whether a person has come to know God personally or not, when a person in this life chooses to go with the good force, to do good in life, somehow or other they tap on part of the current and they start succeeding. That is why there are a lot of people outside there who do not know God but who have a good heart in a sense. They desire good and they have tap on certain laws of success. But of course without Jesus life doesn't satisfy. When they have tasted all they can with their five senses, something seems to be missing. But yet from the point of the people outside, they seemed to have success. It is because they have kept certain principles. They have lined themselves up with good force.

I came across one magazine called the "Success Magazine". I also glance through "Entrepreneur" magazine just to keep myself informed. And there was the editorial column where this guy was saying that they have discovered that basically to be successful, people need to have a basic concern for the people around them. And they must seek after this success by observing moral laws too. It is quite amazing that the people who do not know Jesus are discovering that to tap on the law of

success. They also need to follow certain laws. Success doesn't just drop on a person.

Mark 10 is an example of a man who was successful. The bible calls him the rich young man. Mark 10:17 *Now as he was going out on the road one came running, knelt before him and asked him, "Good teacher what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?"* Bear in mind that verse 22 this guy had great possession. He was rich with this world's goods. But there was something lacking in his life. And he said master I want eternal life. He has temporal life but he wants eternal life. And in seeking after eternal life, he came to Jesus and said how do I inherit eternal life? And Jesus in verse 19 says *You know the commandments, do not commit adultery, do not murder, do not steal, do not bear false witness, do not defraud, honor your father and your mother.* Jesus quoted to him the Ten Commandments. His reply was *Lord I have observed them from the time I was young.* You can read behind the lines and see that the reason behind this man's success was that from the time he was young, he followed God's commandments. He has observed to follow God's commandments. And thus has accumulated wealth and great possessions. That is what people don't see. They only see the man coming and followed Jesus and went off. But behind his answer was *Lord I have followed these commandments from the time I was young.* And these commandments have brought him success. These commandments came from God. So we see that it is not possible in this life to be a total success unless we are determined in our hearts to follow the commandments of God.

In following the commandments of God. Sometimes it may not seem to work yet. Sometimes because you choose to be honest, you chose to tell the truth and not tell a white lie in spite of your boss telling you to lie you get persecuted. You seemed to get demoted. And people around you ridicule you. The businessman around tells you how can you succeed in business if you don't drink like we do. If you don't socialize like we do. So you find yourself in a position where you have to ask yourself, "Shall I keep the commandments of God or shall I not?" And here whenever a person keeps the commandments of God, there is something built into a person so much that they will come up in life. Even though by keeping it seems that people will run them down, there is something built into a person.

Let's see Genesis 39:6-10 *So Potiphar left all that he had in Joseph's hand. He did not know what he had except for the bread, which he ate. And Joseph was handsome in form and appearance. Now it came to pass after these things that his master's wife cast longing eyes on Joseph and she said, "Lie with me." But he refused and said to his master's wife, " Look,*

*my master does not know what is with me in the house, and he has committed all that he had to my hand. There is no one greater in this house than I nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?"* And so it was, as she spoke to Joseph day by day, that he did not heed her, to lie with her or be with her. So here we notice that he was being tempted to do wrong. Nobody is looking but God. And Joseph determined in his heart to keep God's commandments. He says, "I want to obey my conscience. I want to do what is right." Remember Joshua 1:8 says *and shall observe to do them*. Even though the Ten Commandments have not been written, they have already been in operation even before Moses came. And they are still in operation because these are social principles that God has brought forth to us. The commandments were not invented in Moses' time. They were written in Moses' time. They were invented when the world was created. And Joseph said no I will not do what is wrong.

When some made a decision and say I will not tell a lie, I will not cheat, I will not keep back the money that don't belong to me. I will be honest with it. When you make decisions like that. You are coming to align yourself with the force of good, which will promote you. Sometimes in areas where nobody sees you, you could secretly cheat, secretly do the wrong things, secretly be dishonest but God sees. Remember what the bible says in Proverbs *"He that hid his sin shall not prosper."* Nobody sees but sin and disobedience is a weight. The more you sin and the more you do what is wrong is just like tying weights on you. The bible calls sin weight. Remember the book of Hebrew says cast aside every weight. He was talking about sins that are ignorant. Whatever kind of sin ties you down. And when you are tied down you cannot rise up. Wherever you go that sin confronts you. Until you repent and get it cleansed by the Blood of Jesus which is able to remove all sins.

So here Joseph said I will not follow the wrong way. I want to follow good. And as a result of that when he chose to follow good, the bible tells us here that at first, at first, he was demoted. At first he was pressed down. At first he was cast into prisons. But God was with him. He began to find favor in the prison. God began to open doors for him. As God began to open doors and before long you find he is the Prime Minister of Egypt. I wonder what would have happened to him had he accepted committing adultery. God would stop working in his life. He would never have risen up in life. In one of the success books by Napoleon Hill, he speaks about giving to a higher power and a higher force. The reason I do not recommend his book is because he is not a believer and he does not talk about Jesus. One thing they all recognized that to have a total success man needs a higher power. They always say things like they try to tap on the powers of the universe. Tap on the inner mind. Do you notice everything points to the same thing? They need a higher

power to put them forward in life. Man was never meant to live by himself. We need the higher power of God to bring us up, to promote us, to bring us up in life and to give us success in life. For that reason I do not recommend all these other books because they are not Christians. Being not Christians they would sometimes talk about yielding to a spirit. And Napoleon Hill goes as far as talking to the spirit. And many success books are based on his. The only problem is that they don't realize that there is an evil spirit. As a result of that some people have opened doors for demonic power to operate in their lives. That is why only what is scriptural will stand and will be recommended. The reason being that when you keep God's commandments, you tap on a higher power, the power of God's Holy Spirit.

When Pharaoh saw Joseph he saw the Spirit of God. You cannot succeed alone. You need God. You need a higher power. There are circumstances in your life you can never control. Even the man who says I am in control, one fine day cancer might hit him. Science and technology cannot heal them. Who is in control now? And a man outside there who is rich and prosperous might say I am in control. One day the stock market goes down. Who is in control now? No man in a true sense can control his own life without some form of power helping. Those who have what I call a plastic control are very fragile. Some world events happen and they are finished. In fact the suicide rate of millionaires and billionaires is very high. From being a millionaire to a bankrupt is a very fine line. No matter how proud a person becomes, if he says he has got control of his life, that is pride speaking. Every one of them who said that always fell. Remember the bible law cannot be violated. Pride comes just before a fall. When you see a person getting proud, they are just about to fall sooner or later. The exalted shall be humbled and the humble shall be exalted. The Shah of Iran thought he had everything in control. He was rich, he was prosperous. Then one fine day the Shah of Iran began to proclaim himself as the Lion of Judah. He became proud everything was in control. Before long everything was gone. After all he did, the Shah of Iran he wanted his country to prosper, he wanted the best army. He tried to give them the best. But he could never win the hearts of the people. Nobody, even the richest man on earth is not in control. There are forces that evade them. There are things that evade them in life. A human being cannot control. There are circumstances beyond our control. We need a higher power. As a business you know there are forces beyond your control. You can only do that much. Beyond that you can't control. You can control stock market. You can't control the hearts and the desire of people. We need a higher power.

And to tap on the higher power of God we have to line up with his commandments. We have to line up with the force of good. We have to line up with what Joshua 1:8 says here, *meditate on his commandments day and night and observe to*

*do them.* Joseph had to rely on God. But there are forces that God control. Nebuchadnezzar was probably the most powerful ruler in his time. He looked at the hanging garden of Babylon. He said look at what I did. God said because you said you did it, that is the end for you. He started loosing his mind and behaving like an animal. Until one day he repented and said I am not in control. No matter who you are, you are not in control. You have what you have because God has mercy on you. It was given to you. That is why we have to keep on following the forces of God. Whether in the business or in the ministry, there are forces you can't control. Many times people tried to control. As a result they become tyrant. Do you know some bosses are tyrants? They tried to control everything. They forget that certain things that they cannot control. They must allow God to control. You can pay an employee. You can scold an employee. You can bribe an employee. But it is still the decision of the employee whether they want to give you their loyalty.

Like in David's life. It was God who knitted the men of David with David. There are forces you cannot control. Only God is behind all these things. Daniel 1:8 *Daniel purpose in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacy, nor with the wine which he drank therefore he requested the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.* Daniel chose to keep and observe God's commandments. Joshua 1:8 says *that this book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth that you shall meditate on it day and night. And you shall make your way prosperous and you shall good success.* Daniel purposed in his heart to observe the commandments of God. Notice Daniel was not in control of his life. He was just a mere slave. He was a slave taken out of Judah. He had no rights. No employee rights. No union to go to. He has nobody to turn to but the Lord God Almighty. In his heart he determined to do the right thing. And because he had no authority, he went to the eunuch and say could we observe God's commandments. When your heart is right God will give you grace. Notice here it says God had brought Daniel into the favor and goodwill of the chief of the eunuchs. These things are beyond man's control. God gives favor, God give grace. Favor and grace comes from the Lord. So when Daniel decided to follow God and keep God's commandments, he observed to do what is right. Something began to happen in his life, promotion began to come. When a person decided to follow God, it doesn't matter what situation, but I can guarantee you the devil will make sure that you have an opportunity not to follow God. You have a choice not to follow God. When you choose to do good, God begins to come strong for you.

In Joshua 1:8 it speaks to us about meditating on God's commandments and observing to do them. And you shall make your way prosperous and you shall have good success. In talking about doing good there has to be in our lives a

cleansing process so that we desire good. How do we define goodness? Some people define good by their actions. They say he is a good man. What do they mean? They meant that he did good things. He was kind to people. Sometime they say he has a high moral code. But the bible definition of goodness goes beyond that. Goodness has to start from the heart and from the mind. That is why the bible tells us to let God's word come into our lives. Meditate on it day and night until it changes our life. All of us were born in original sin. There is a sin nature in us. Sin nature is basically the selfish nature. Lets talk about giving children two apples. For example if there is a child and I bring two apples. One apple is like those Japanese apples big and huge that cost as much as a chicken. The other is one dollar for ten apples. And you bring it to the child and say choose which one. You can guess which one the child will take. Why is that? It is because there is an inherent selfishness in original sin. For example you are invited to a feast. At that feast there are two dishes. They have the vegetables and they the fried chicken. Over the fried chicken they have the drumstick. And then there parts that are not so meaty. Do you know that some people never think of others? The first thing they go to is to attack the best piece. What is happening? They never think of others. It is inherent in a person. Original sin is a selfish nature that comes up all the time. So something in our life has to change in order to line up with the good force. And it can only be changed by meditation of God's word.

Also in line with original sin is the tendency to negativity. It is being negative about things. You don't have to teach a person to be negative. People are negative naturally. Lets give an example here. If one of our song leaders come and lead songs which they have been doing very well for six times. Then one Sunday they didn't do too well. I can guarantee you that Sunday people will pass comments. But the other six times they did well, nobody say anything. For six times nobody gives them encouragement. Before you correct somebody please check did you encourage him or her before. Sometime the first time you talk to a person is correction. How can that be? It is natural to do it. But it is not Christ-like to do it. If I have for example been encouraging a person. Then when a person makes a mistake, I am in a position to tell because I have been encouraging. But if you have not been encouraging a person, you have no right to tell a person.

For example when people prophesy up here. When they prophesy a good prophecy. None of you came and encourage them. When their prophecies touch somebody's heart who needed the word, none of you came and say, "I thank God you obeyed." Do you know how much it takes to come up here and prophesy? But when a person just missed. You come and say I love you but I have got to tell you, "You didn't do too well." What are you doing? You are being negative. It is easy to

be negative. Do you know it takes training to be an encourager? But it takes no training to judge and criticize. The stream of destruction is negative. I was a very critical person by nature. Because of the way God made me, it took me many years to learn to be an encourager. Think about this way, a person when they are born again comes to the church. They may come with their bad habits. And you want to get rid of them. How could you do it? If you have been as parent, you will never produce a good child by scolding them all the time. Have you noticed that when a child does something right, then you say, "Clever boy." And he does it again and you clap. What is the child responding to? He is responding to encouragement. You will change a person by encouragement and not by correction.

If Jesus had just corrected us all the time. none of us would have responded. But because Jesus keeps telling us of what we can do for Him, He keeps encouraging us. Then we start lining up with what He tells us we can do. Some of you bosses, some of you employers, if you want employees to do well, don't start scolding them. Encourage them tell them what they can do well. If some of you married to an unbeliever, you will never change them by shoving the gospel into their mouth. You will win them by encouragement. People open like a flower when you encourage them. But they close up like the iron curtain when you criticize them. Do you know it is natural for everyone to react to criticism by closing up? And what you give never gets in any more. But when you are an encourager people open up like a flower to you. For that reason the bible tells us in 1 Cor.13: 4-8 *Love suffers long and it is kind, love does not envy, love does not parade itself it is not puff up, does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil, does not rejoice in iniquity but rejoices in the truth, bears all things believe all things, hopes all thing endures all things. Love never fails.* Do you notice here in verse 5 love thinks no evil? Love will change your thought life, your thinking life. A successful person is very generous with his compliments and very stingy with his criticisms. The unsuccessful person is very generous with his criticism and is very stingy with his encouragement and exaltation and compliment.

If you examine your life, where you are today, and what has hindered you, you will notice that there is something common about top producers. People who become the boss and not just an employee. People who rise up in life. People who could do things successfully, build large corporations, build large ministry. There is a mark about them. They are generous in their compliment and in their encouragement. So they have got people to work together. But if you examine the lower level, which is made up of those who never rise up in life, you notice something common about them. All of them are hypercritical. They are negative about their country, negative about this, negative about that, everywhere is negative and they are always down

there. Do you see God criticizing us all the time? He is not criticizing us all the time. Notice something Jesus said, if you confess Me before man I will confess you before the angels in heaven. He boasts about you to the angels. Do you know He never said if you talk bad about me, I will talk bad about you. Do you know when it comes to the negative things He is silent? He did not say if you talk bad about Me, I am going to backbite you here in heaven. We can never catch Jesus doing that. When you talk bad about Jesus, Jesus never mention one bad word about you. He is incapable of doing that because He is good. He thinks well about you even though you think evil about Him.

That is why I believe every minister, every pastor, every evangelist, teacher, apostle or prophet must learn this lesson because they are leaders of the body of Christ. If people talk bad about them, they must learn never to reply. We must learn to be like Jesus. In the same way if you are in the business world, you will never rise up in life if you talk bad about your boss. There is an unseen atmosphere that will always be there that will block you. All the other people may talk bad. Do you know it will create an atmosphere? Everything that comes out from your mouth builds something into you. You try it. You keep talking bad about people. Before you meet them there is a big barrier. But when you talk good and speak well about a person, you have chosen to walk the road of success, not the road of failure. All failures got a lot to criticize about. Every one who is a failure always has some event or some things to blame. But all who are successful never blame anybody but themselves if they fail.

So the bible says to meditate on the word of God day and night. Why, our mind is like a computer. What you program in is what you program out. But our mind consists of two parts. It consists of the conscious mind and the sub-conscious mind. Our conscious mind is only about five percent. 95% of it is the sub-conscious mind. And it is the sub-conscious mind that affect your feeling, affects your response, your reaction. The sub-conscious mind plays a big role in success and relationship. Do you notice that God tells you to meditate day and night? It is not just like taking these principles and getting them on your conscious mind. You must soak into them until they get into your sub-conscious mind. It is just like in the computer they have the machine language. After you program it into your computer, it gets into the sub-conscious of the machine. It is the language that the computer speaks between the printer and between the screen. If it were not programmed in the computer wouldn't work at all. So there is an inner language that is inside us in our sub-conscious that we need to program in and take God's word as it is. If you want to succeed in life, you have to keep programming your sub-conscious mind with the word of God. The only barrier to your success is your thought life and to God's

power in your life.

Let me show here in Matt. 14 Jesus Christ was walking on the sea on the fourth watch which is between 3 a.m. to 6 a.m. And as He was in the sea, there was this disciple in the boat. And they saw Him and they said it is a ghost. Jesus called out to them and said it is I, be not afraid. Peter standing in the boat in Matt.14: 28 says Lord if it is you command me to come to you on the water. Jesus said come. And as Peter came out and started walking on the water, he was following Jesus' command. As he was walking towards Jesus he saw the waves rising. And verse 30 he was afraid. Something started happening in his mind. Take note of this, what happens and goes on in the mind, affects what goes on at the feet. What took place in his mind affected what took place at his feet. When his mind became full of doubts, he started sinking. What happened? He was afraid and he doubted. As he was sinking he said Lord help. Jesus in verse 31, stretched out His hand, caught him and said, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" Notice all he had was doubt and the miracle was cancelled. A negative mind will cancel what you are doing. What goes on in your mind affects your feet. What goes on in your mind affects your business. Do you know when people gather together in a church service and the anointing is operating, what goes on in their mind is going to affect whether they are going to receive a healing. What goes on in a person's mind is going to affect what goes on in their bodies. Such a simple thing.

If there are some doubts in your mind, do you know Jesus can even be physically here, yet you will still not be blessed? I remembered ministering in a miracle rally and I saw Jesus standing at my left watching the people. I told the congregation that the Lord Jesus Christ is present. I then told the people to come forward to shake hands with Him. Those who came forward and believed as they shook hands with Jesus (even though they could not see Him) felt a very strong presence, and some were even slain in the Spirit. Later on I saw the Lord weeping, and I asked the Lord, "Why are you weeping?" The Lord replied that His people does not believe that He is present in their midst. When He said that, I too began to weep with the Lord. Oh the unbelief of many Christians. How great a blockage it can be to the blessings of the Lord. But Jesus said if you believe and do not doubt all things are possible. That is why the bible emphasizes meditation. Meditation on God's word will remove inherent doubt in your conscious mind and in your sub-conscious mind. But the main problem in people is the sub-conscious mind. Put something in your mind when you wake up. And put something in your mind when you sleep.

