

Lesson No. (15)

## **FACTORS OF SUCCESS**

### **References :**

### **Notes for Servants :**

### **Objectives :**

**General:**

**Specific:**

### **Instructions:**

1. Review last week's lesson.
2. Give a brief description about the church occasion(s) for the coming week.
- 3.
- 4.

### **Bible Verse:**

**AThe LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man.@**  
(Gen 39:2)

### **Lesson :**

## **FACTORS OF SUCCESS**

### **Introduction:**

Do we want to be successful or we don't feel that there is an obligation for that? Success is a goal that we should all strive to achieve, we owe that to God who wants his children to be successful we owe it to our parents who would find a great sense of gratitude and happiness when they see us successful. And finally we owe that to our selves to have a meaning for our lives.

### **What is success:**

We have first to define success what does this word mean to us? Some people might view success as the achieving of good grades, having a high post in the community, wealth, fame, having a beautiful wife, rich husband.....etc. What do all of these represent.....? They are means through which people think that they might acquire success and consequently happiness. But do money, fame, beauty bring happiness and peace of mind.....???

The news informed us about a famous American actress who was subjected, by some thieves, to a choice of giving up her jewellery or getting her son killed. Thus, this jewellery only bought her agony. We find some famous and wealthy people committing suicide.

In fact, success is achieving true happiness and everlasting peace. Could we call a person who has achieved all his worldly goals without having any inner peace a successful person? As we said previously the bible sets rules for our lives. If we want to have a successful life we should always remember God=s commandments,

Joseph, the righteous man, was just a servant, yet he was a successful person in Potiphar's house while Akhab, the wicked, king was depressed and unable to sleep. (1 KINGS 21:4)

### **Examples from the Bible on success stories:**

\***A. Joseph, the story of a servant sold by his brothers who became a minister:** He was sold as a servant, young weak no body to help but he became a master of the land (like a minister). From this weak young man betrayed by his bothers to the man who is in control of the economy in Egypt, is a big story. The key to this story is what the bible says. *"And the Lord was with Joseph and he was a prosperous man."* (GENESIS 39:2) *"And his master saw that the Lord was with him, and that the Lord made all that he did to prosper in his hand. "* (GENESIS 39:3). Why did God bless Joseph that much?? Because Joseph was honest with God, he refused to do evil in the eyes of the Lord **A**How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?**@** [Gen 39:9]. He ran for his life leaving his dress behind, although at that time there was no written commandment. Joseph knew that he will be punished for saying no to Potiphar=s wife, but he knew one thing that there is a God who is Almighty that is watching him. He didn=t fear people but he feared God. So we can summarize the elements in Joseph=s character that led to God helping him in this way:

1. Joseph loved his enemies: didn=t take revenge when was capable of
2. Was honest in his master=s house
3. Joseph was successful because he truly loved Purity and longed for it
4. he was a servant for everyone: he served his brothers honestly, and when he did not find them, he looked for them, knowing that they hated him. He then worked honestly in Potiphar's house. He served his prison mates until God chose him to serve all Egypt.

\***B. David: The story of a young shepherd who became the greatest king the history of Israel.** A young shepherd who knew nothing, but to praise God and take care of his sheep. Sure

it never came to his mind that one day he will be taking care of the herd of Israel as their king.

1. David=s heart was with God and his thoughts pleased God. When Samuel went to anoint him, God said to Samuel: ***for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.*** (Sam 16:7)

2. David trusted in the Lord to the extent that he said to the great warrior of the Philistine Goliath ***Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied.***(1 Sam 17:45)

3. Throughout his life David put God before his eyes, and even when he has fallen into sin trap he repented when Nathan the prophet rebuked him for his sin. David wrote the most famous prayers and praises for the Lord in the Bible the psalms which Jesus himself used to quote showing that the Holy Spirit spoke through David for he pleased has pleased Lord.

**C. Daniel : Story of a war captive who became a minister in captivity:** Daniel was one of the Israelites who were taken to Babylon as captives. A war captive yet, through his sticking to God=s commandments, Daniel had a very prestigious post in Babylon. It is God=s blessing to those who put the Lord always before their eyes, that he made Daniel that important man in the king=s palace. ***Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm. (Dan 6:3)*** When faced with hiding his faith or face punishment, Daniel didn=t fear for his post and he prayed to God the way he used to do. He opened the window and prayed in the direction of Jerusalem knowing that the penalty of this is being a food for hungry lions. And he was thrown to the lions, but the God Whom Daniel loved and obeyed His commandments saved him from the lion=s den in a miraculous way

***Some highlights on Daniel=s character:***

1. Although captive in a foreign country yet Daniel never forgot God
2. In many chapter in Daniel we find him fasting and refused with the three young men to eat the king=s food preferring to obey God than obeying the king
3. A man of power and influence in the royal palace yet he didn=t fear for his position and prayed to God the way he used to not fearing the lion=s den not fearing to lose his position in the palace.
4. Being a man of prayer, Daniel was entitled to a lot of heavenly revelations
5. Like many characters in the Bible Daniel never spoke against his enemies on the contrary when he was thrown in the lion=s den by the king=s orders and God saved him. And when the king came the next day to see what happened to him, Daniel didn=t curse the king but he said: Then said Daniel unto the king, ***O king, live for ever. My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths.*** (Dan 6:21-22)

**Success factors:**

**1. Put God and his commandments first in your life:**

AFor after all these things the Gentiles seek, for your Heavenly Father knows that you need

all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and these things shall be added to you. Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.@ [Matt 6:32-34] Whatever we want to achieve in our lives it should be based on this point. And we should always remember that having a control over one=s self is a great success. St. Cyprian says, **AThere is no victory greater than the victory over oneself.**@ He also says, **ATo conquer oneself is greater than to conquer evil.**@ For example purity from evil and from sin is not only a conquest but also a success, it is the top of success. St. Augustine says, **AI put myself on top of the world when I feared nothing or desired nothing of this world.**@

## 2. Follow the Book:

**A**Only be strong and very courageous that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth but you shall meditate on it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous and then you will have good success.@ [JOSHUA 1:7-8]

## 3. Seek the goal:

**AI** do not count myself to have apprehended but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead. I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.@ [PHILLIPIANS 3:13-14]

## 4. Do what you are supposed to do with honesty:

As a student or a working person, we should do our part of studying or working hard and God in his turn will do His part of granting to us what he sees of suitable future for us. Honesty requires us not to cheat in order to pass a test. Cheating can destroy every hope of success. How can we call success that which is based on cheating; how can we call it real success. Putting on an act or a front is a form of cheating. It is like a malignant disease that destroys a person=s life .Everything that we are given a measure that you will be given an account for in front of God, e.g. studying. Wasting your time and being careless in your work is a clear contradiction to God's will. **AI**f any would not work, neither should he eat@ [II The 3:10]. Our Saviour worked as a carpenter with Joseph His father, thus blessing work and making it holy.

## 4. Never give up:

**AL**et us not grow weary while doing good for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.@ [GALATIANS 6:9]

## 5. Forgiveness of enemies and love for others:

The more we realize that the love of enemies is a Biblical command, the more we discover that it is a secret of success, happiness and power. The absence of love changes one's life to hell. It also lowers one's level and self respect which leads to envy. It can reach to the point where one cares about the most worldly, unimportant trifles. The absence of love results in envy, jealousy, un-forgiveness, the desire to get even and the total loss of peace the greatest treasure in your life is your faith in God. The presence of God with you is a notion of your success, happiness and peace. Always keep in mind that God is with you. **AA**nd they shall call His Name Emmanuel which is being interpreted: God with us.@ [Mat 1:23] **AI**f God be for us, who can be against us.@ [Rom

8:31]

**6. Do all for Christ:**

According to my earnest expectations and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed but that with all boldness as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or death. For me to live is Christ and to die is gain. @ [PHILIPPIANS 1:20-21]

**Conclusion**

Finally, never forget this: the secret behind your success is in God's presence with you. Believing in God's presence with you grants you peace and thus, there is no place for fear.

- \$ Loving others is the thermometer by which you measure your success.
- \$ To be honest in your study and in your work is a divine commandment for your success.
- \$ Be careful in your social relationships so that you abide with the Bible sayings, leading toward the building of your life and the life of others.
- \$ Your purity during your youth is a declaration of your success and the foundation for a