

## THE TRUE WAY OF SUCCESS:

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*“This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.”* Joshua 1:8.

Success is something the world goes after but really doesn't understand. Money and education do not guarantee it. One cannot marry into it, nor gain it by labor alone. Success as the world knows it is fleeting and unsatisfying. It allows worldly thrills and possessions for a time, but ends up a hollow lifetime that doesn't satisfy. For those who read the Bible and follow its commands, true success is possible and profitable. I want to show you eight steps that will bring true success if you pursue them with all your heart. The first is **Reverence**: We believers are commanded to *“Serve God with reverence and Godly fear”* Heb. 12:28. Our relationship should not be mechanical, with indifference. Stop and think who God is? He is your creator and master, through whom you will receive a lifetime of direction. Godly fear does not mean you panic over Him, but completely worship and respect His wishes. He is our God who must be pleased as He seeks to guide us. He is not your buddy, but your Heavenly father. Fill your life with determination to fulfill His wishes, and His blessing will be a lifetime treasure. Next consider **Obedience**: *“Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry”* I Samuel 15:22 & 23. To know God's direction, you must be willing to obey the principles and commands of the Word. A stubborn, rebellious Christian, will never know

the joy of daily fellowship and direction. What is in your life that you refuse to surrender to God? Stop every trace of rebellion in your life, and He will fill your daily life with blessing. Thirdly, there must be **Discipline**: *“Take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life; but teach them to thy sons and thy sons sons.”* Deut. 4:9. A young person who joins the military soon discovers a different life is required. Are we not soldiers of the cross? Must we disobey the commands of the Commander in Chief? Certainly not! A believer must be willing to obey, whatever the Word reveals. In my military basic training I can still see two guys cleaning the latrine with their tooth brushes. They had been unwilling to obey a command. A disobedient Christian will always be disciplined in some way. Yes, obedience to God will always get you blessing, while refusal to obey will cost you dearly. Now follow that up with **Honesty**: *“Ye shall not steal, neither deal falsely, neither lie one to another”* Lev. 19:11. Honesty always leads to trust and acceptance, as we walk before others. If you don't walk the walk, they won't listen to the talk. How can you show your life in the cause of Christ by thinking and acting like the world? We are all sick and tired of politics today, in which lies are the norm, and truth is ridiculed. We believers must be people to trust, and by our lives demonstrate what is right. How sad to read that there is more divorce today among Christians than outright sinners. Eternal success demands absolute honesty in all our dealings with others. Hold tightly to honesty, which blesses your home as you live together. You can live a lie by the way you dress, the actions of daily living, and your mingling with others. Though sinners often don't understand us, they should be able to trust us. For daily success let me add the principle of **Study**: II Timothy 2:15 urges to *“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a*

*workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*” Our daily growth is much like an artist molding a lump of clay. To know the will of God you must read the Word of God. The principles of human life are best established by those decisions based on Biblical truth. Following its instructions, will produce a great family in its fullest way, shaped by lifetime values. Live the Bible, and your neighbors or fellow workers will be more likely to consider the things of God. Daily Bible reading will help you to construct the full life, that will please God now and be rewarded in eternity. Further Bible instruction demands **Purity**: The writer Paul instructs young Timothy to “*keep thyself pure*” II Tim. 2:22. Good advice urges us to “*Remember now thy creator in the days of thy youth while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them*” Ecc. 12:1. Our nation seems to be moving every way deeper into impurity. God commands marriage to be one man and one woman, married for life. Sex before marriage or outside of marriage will always result in grief sooner or later. Government attempts for younger and younger children to have sex education are tragic blows against decency in America. God gives His best to those who love purity and hate all means of impurity. Immoral acts lead to injured children, polluted families and the ruination of human life.. All impurity shatters the possibility of success in every human. Please dear beloved, guard your eyes, ears, mind, hands, feet and every area of your life with the principal of purity. You can further find lasting success in **Service**: The Bible urges us to be “*steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord*” I Cor. 15:58. Yes, here I go again. You must practice the tenants of Christianity, and daily exercise your faith, to allow spiritual values to shape your life. Your own daily devotions in which most of you suffer failure, are daily necessities. Add to that, family

devotions in a time around the Bible, adapting its truths to all family actions. Remember you are no doubt the only Bible your neighbors read. Be a witness, give your testimony as a regular part of your daily existence. And by all means, assemble with believers in every service of your church. Church tardiness always leads to unhappy existence instead of success. The more you do for the Lord, the greater will be your reward at the judgment. A closing part of success is **Faith**: Hebrews 11:6 warns “*Without faith it is impossible to please Him; for he that cometh unto God must believe that He is, and that He is rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*” The best of eternal success is reserved for those who practice great faith. Without faith, nothing worthwhile is possible. The greater your faith, the more pleased the Lord will be with you and your family. The two words, “By faith” are used constantly in many books of the Bible. Every act of our lives is affected by the blessings of God, as His mercy and grace shape us through life, and for eternity. Show your child your great faith and instill it into him. Teach your teen these Biblical steps to lasting success. Base your married life on eternal Biblical truths, letting them form your daily decisions for lifetime and eternity.

I once heard of a very rich man who died and was buried not in a casket, but in a new Cadillac. As the crane swung it out over and lowered it into the grave a man shouted, “Man that’s living.” Ha! Talk about stupidity. Whatever praise and possessions unregenerate sinners can accumulate, will disappear at death. Only true born again Christians, who diligently live a life of obedience to the King of Kings enjoy true and everlasting success.

“Only one life, twill soon be past,  
only what's done for Christ will last.