

TRUE SUCCESS
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"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; But that thou shalt meditate there in 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 " Josh. 1:8.

Today, there are many ideas as to how to become a success. Colleges tell young people all their scholastic ideas for them to follow on the path of intellectual success. Now in this new Abamation we are urged into thinking the secret is to share the wealth, and depend on our government to supply our needs. Others would advocate that possessing great riches is the measure of success. Possessions themselves are not a measure of success. Genuine success begins with our relationship to God, and following the principles He has laid down. The God that made us is the true God, who wants great things for those who follow His instructions. What are these principles that must be met if we want true and lasting success? I find eight Biblical ones clearly given to us who sincerely desire to be a success. The first is **True Reverence:** "Wherefore we receiving a kingdom that cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably, with reverence and Godly fear" Hebrews 12:28. The world in its evil ways uses the name of God in every evil utterance and action. There is little respect for the creator of all mankind. Their whole make up has little to do with our true God. They do not fear God, and yet notice it is a part of reverence. Even we must come into His presence with holy fear and awe, as those of His own family. Success begins in the attitude of the heart. He is not our buddy, but our God. We must bow down in His presence now even

as we shall in the future. The respect and devotion we give Him will affect His blessings upon us. (2). **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. No amount of sacrifice in any way will please God if you are living a life of disobedience. Rebellion in any way is as evil as satanic worship, and all their evil practices. If you choose your way it is an act of self worshiping which will never bring success to you. God gives His best to those who follow Him closely; who follow a life in obedience to His Word. (3). **Discipline:** "Only 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. If we have listened in church, we have learned many things from God. They are not to be taken lightly and soon forgotten in the static of the world. We have seen God bless others and need to learn from their experience. Great pillars of success have been taught, and we must hang on to them. We must be a disciplined example ourselves, for our children to follow in like manner. Success always requires discipline of body and soul, seeking the Masters will, and best direction for your life. (4). **Honesty:** "Ye shall not steal, neither deal falsely, neither lie one to another" Lev. 19:11 You can go on line now and find out how to lie and steal and cheat to reach higher human goals. All this is hated by the God of truth. Num. 32:23 warns, "Be sure your sin will find you out." My mom told me so often that "honesty was the best policy." We live in a compromised, God hating world, that thinks anything justifies the means. This has never been so in God's dealing with man. Dishonesty in anything will hinder the success you hope for in life. (5). **Study:** "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth

not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" II Tim. 2:15. Ignorance is the quicksand of the devils' plan to limit and ruin your life. Study is essential to learning in every area. Know what you are getting into and study the requirements, which will allow God to grant you real success. Over and over we have been told to study the Bible. How much do we actually do it? You cannot be a success in anything, if you are ignorant of Gods plan. **(6). Purity:** *"Flee also youthful lusts; but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart"* II Tim. 2:22. Nothing ruins the success of a Christian like impurity. God will not use a dirty vessel to do His Holy Work. Sadly, many pastors have had to give up the ministry because of moments of careless sinning. Many a teen because of youthful immorality will never get to know success, as a servant of God. The one that God uses, has to be a cut above the lustful entertainment, careless about morals crowd. Oh be careful what TV programing you watch, the e mail sights you visit, and your relations morally with others. We are servants of the Master and our lives must be above reproach. Be cautious dating young people in your dating days, to maintain flawless standards. You can ruin your whole life in one night, one failure to keep pure and pleasing to God. Let me say again, God will not grant great success to those who besmirch their testimonies with sin. Remember the verse quoted earlier, *"Be sure your sin will find you out."* There is no place you can hide from moral failure. The King of Kings uses only Holy things. A pure life must be maintained to experience Gods' best. **(7). Service:** *"Therefore my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know your labor is not in vain in the Lord"* I Cor. 15:58. Almost anything gets better with use. Practice in a sport can be tiring, but will bring success in hitting or carrying the ball. If you do the right

thing in the right way, a number of times, you will get better at it. Acts of obedience in the life of a believer will bring happy hours of God honoring blessings. Every man of God will urge you to choose a good church be faithful without fail, and present in every service. Every worshipful meeting will hone you to be a success at serving God. Today, we tend to easily find reasons to skip worship. This injures our use by God. In one of my meetings a young boy came hopping and bouncing down the aisle. Someone grabbed him asking, what are you doing? He answered, "My teacher said always be bounding in the Lord. Well he had the idea. The more active you are in church, the more success you will find in serving Him. Lastly, **(8). Faith:** *"But without faith it is impossible to please Him; for he that cometh to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him"* Hebrews 11:6 God is very pleased to see those who have the kind of faith in Him that leads them to trust Him. Doing anything eternal takes faith. Many see the task so great that they do not even attempt it. Great things are accomplished by those who know they fall short but have a great trust in an amighty God. Do you ever wonder why some folks seem to get more from God than you? Be informed, the degree of faith always influences the power of God upon your life. Not only must we believe in God, but that He is a rewarder of those with great faith. Never hesitate to tackle things that seem hard to you. Phil. 4:13 says, *"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me"*. Now there is a promise in which you cannot fail. Again God and you are a majority. So lets remember these things which the Lord guarantees will bring you success. One great preacher said, "The world has yet to see what God can do with a totally surrendered man." Could that be you? Perhaps God is waiting for you to be that one. Don't miss Gods best, but be all He wants you to be.