

SEVEN KEYS TO SUCCESS

Int.

1. Aim: To discuss some key things we must do in order to be successful.
2. Joshua 1:7-8 - "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 hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go." v. 7 NKJV
 - a. V. 7 "that you may prosper." = have good success
 - b. V. 8 "and then you will have good success." - NKJV
3. Everyone wants to be a success in life:
 - a. Young people are making plans for their future so they will be successful
 - b. The older generation can tell about the things that led to their success or failure
4. Success - Defined as: "A favorable or desired outcome;" "to turn out well" "to attain a desired object or end"
 - a. Of course we must agree on the desired outcome or destiny !
 - b. Many think of financial and material prosperity as being successful
 - c. But we are thinking about success as God would define it. Heavenly Success
 - d. 1 Thes. 4:1 "Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more."
5. What are the keys to success for a person who is wanting to please God?
6. How do you spell success-Seven keys to success.

Discussion

I. S- SETTING GOALS:

A. Setting goals is Biblical thinking.

1. Phil. 3:13-14 asv "Brethren, I could not myself yet to have laid hold: but one thing [I do], forgetting the things which are behind, and stretching forward to the things which are before. I press on toward the goal unto the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."
 - a. Paul was reaching forward - looking to the future - forgetting the past
 - b. He had a goal - he was wanting to please God - press toward the mark
2. The nation of Israel said: We "can't" - Number 13 & 14
 - a. The 12 spies went into the land of Canaan
 - b. Ten came back saying that they could not take the land
 - c. But Joshua and Caleb said we can do it - let us go up and possess the land -
Numbers 13:30 and 14:8
3. Need to be like Joshua and Caleb-- "We Can"

B. Setting Goals means just that, set them, write them down, think about them.

C. Successful people are goal setters:

1. Men in business set goals - reach for them Conrad Hilton (more hotels and motels).
2. We have a goal of taking the gospel to all the world - we can do it
3. We must set goals - numbers represent souls - then go out and teach the lost
4. We have a goal of getting to heaven - must live faithfully ! We can do it.

D. If we are going to be successful we must set goals

II. U- USING YOUR TALENTS

- A. If you don't use them you will lose them - Matt. 25:28-30 "Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. 29 'For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. 30 'And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"
- B. The ones who used their talents were blessed with more than they started with.
1. Be faithful in using the opportunities for service which the Lord has given us
 2. Diligence is rewarded; negligence is punished
 3. God does not require me to be great, but he requires me to be faithful
 4. Quote: "Success is not measured by how you do compared to how somebody else does, but by how you do compared to what you could have done with what God gave you." - Zig Ziglar
- C. Giving of what you have is a two-way investment.
1. In this life- Luke 6:38 "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again."
 2. In the life to come- Matt. 6:19-21
- D. Successful people use their talents and abilities.

III. C- CONTROL-- SELF CONTROL.

- A. You must control yourself.
- B. One of the Christians virtues is "self-control." 2 Pet. 1:5-7
 - 1. Temperance - or self control - no one can control you except you - if you are out of control it is your fault - no one else is responsible.
 - 2. Elders and all leaders must have it.
 - 3. Joshua 1:1-8 key 7-8.
 - a. Turn not to the right or left
 - b. Do all that is written
 - c. They could control themselves to do these things - but only they could do it
- C. Success is possible for people who learn self control - self discipline.

IV. C- CHRIST FIRST.

- A. Jesus said put me first, and you would be a success.
 - 1. Matt. 6:33.
 - 2. Phil. 4:19 "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."
 - 3. Eph. 3:20 "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,"
 - 4. Mk. 9:23 "Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things [are] possible to him that believeth."
- B. Christ cannot be second and us still be a success

V. E- ENTHUSIASM, ONE MUST BE ENTHUSIASTIC.

- A. Eccl. 9:10 "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest."
1. Preaching, selling, playing in sports
 2. Small "spark"= flame that starts a big fire.
- B. Col. 3:23 "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;"

VI. S- STEWARDSHIP, WE MUST LEARN TO BE GOOD STEWARDS.

- A. Stewardship of many things that lead to success.
1. Time - redeeming the time - Eph. 5:16 "redeeming the time, because the days are evil."
 2. Money - 1 Tim. 6:6-10
 3. Energy - Body - Rom. 12:1-2
- B. 1 Cor. 4:2 "Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful."
1. Stewards are watching over things that belong to others
 2. Faithful = use it properly - trustful

VII. S- SALVATION, ARE YOU SAVED?

- A. If you are lost you have lost it all!
- B. You are a failure, if you are not a Christian.
 - 1. Matt. 16:26 "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"
 - 2. Are you saved?
- C. Have you obeyed the gospel of Christ?
 - 1. Hear - Rom. 10:17
 - 2. Believe- Jn. 8:24
 - 3. Repent- Lk. 13:3
 - 4. Confess- Matt. 10:32
 - 5. Baptism- Mk. 16:15-16

CONCLUSION:

- 1. Are you a success? Is this it? "Man . . . spends his life doing things he detests to make money he doesn't want to buy things he doesn't need to impress people he doesn't like." - Joe Aldrich, "Satisfaction," Multnomah Press, 1983
- 2. Illustration: What people associate with success
 - a. Today, just 25 percent of adults say "a lot of money" signifies success and accomplishment, down from 33 percent in 1996. What people most associate with success and accomplishment:
 - i. Satisfied with your life: 83
 - ii. In control of your life: 80
 - iii. Have a good marriage: 78
 - iv. Really good at your job : 69
 - v. Can afford what's important: 66
 - vi. Have successful children: 63
 - b. USA Today (1/19/98) research by Yankelovich Monitor 1997

3. Eccl. 12:13-14 is the real goal for success "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. 14 For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."
4. When are you going to get started?
5. Have you obeyed the Gospel? Are you living faithfully?
6. To be successful in God's work is to fall in line with His will and to do it His way. All that is pleasing to Him is a success !
7. Seven keys to success
 - (1) Setting Goals
 - (2) Using Your Talents
 - (3) Control - self Control
 - (4) Christ First
 - (5) Enthusiasm
 - (6) Stewardship
 - (7) Salvation