

Kingdom Success Principles for 2009

LWCF

January 3, 2009

Introduction

Success is ...

Knowing your purpose
Fulfilling your potential
Serving other people
As walking in the presence

You can see by this definition why success is a journey rather than a destination.

Einstein...If A is success in life, then A equals x plus y plus z. Work is x; y is play; and z is keeping your mouth shut.

The Hindrances to Success

1. Pride
2. Panic or Fear
3. Lack of perspective
4. Lack of perseverance.
5. Pessimism.
6. Lack of Purpose and vision
7. The Prison of Unforgiveness

Characteristics of Successful People

1. They **prioritize** the advancement of God's Kingdom and His righteousness (Mat t 6:31-34)

(Mat 6:31-34) So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' {32} For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. {33} But **seek first** his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. {34} Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

- Seek = Zeto 1) to seek in order to find... to Crave
- Be a person of Godly Priorities... Live by God first, others second, me third
- Prioritize intimacy with God
- Recommit to building faith by daily consuming the Word of God

(Rom 10:17) , faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

(Heb 4:12) For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

2. They discover and pursue their life **purpose** (Psa 37:4) (Psa 37:5-6)

Each of us has a purpose for which we were created...Our responsibility—and our greatest joy—is to identify it...

Here are some questions to ask yourself to help you identify your purpose:

- a. For what am I searching?
- b. Why was I created?
- c. What are your desires and delights...

(Psa 37:4) Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart.

(Psa 37:5-6) Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this: {6} He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun.

Establish a personal mission plan (vision statement, core values, and goals)

3. They adjust and maintain divine **perspective** in life's situations (2 Cor 4:18)

(2 Cor 4:18) So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

What you see is essential... it determines your **direction** & **perception** and therefore your **reception**

- Three times to the prophet Jeremiah (what do you see?)
- Twice to the Prophet Amos... (What do you see?)
- Twice to Prophet Zechariah (What do you see?)

President Theodore Roosevelt, "Do what you can, with what you have, where you are." If you do that with your eyes fixed on your life purpose, what else can be expected of you?

Question...Where is your focus?

- On Problems or solutions
- On what you lack... or what you have
- On your trials or your blessings
- Successful people see **solutions in the face of problems.**
- Crises are God's opportunities...

4. They know what they **believe** and why they believe it (Heb 4:12) (2 Tim 3:16)

- The saying is that you can **achieve** what you **believe**.
- Ask yourself what kinds of beliefs you hold.
- You are a product of what you believe
- You are where you are because of beliefs

(Heb 4:12) for the word of God is living and active.

(2 Tim 3:16) All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

5. They are **faithful** in friendships and relationships (Rom 12:9-10)

(Rom 12:9-10) Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. {10} Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.

Some advice...

- Be quick to forgive and let go, Treat people right no matter how they treat you.
- Don't return emails when you're angry.
- You cannot control another person's behavior. Only God can do that...
- Honor your parents
- Consider others better than yourself
- Be completely honest
- Be a person of your word

6. They **hear** and **obey** the voice of God (John 10:27-28) (James 1:5-7)

(John 10:27-28) My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. {28} I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.

(James 1:5-7) If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. {6} But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. {7} That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord;

7. They replace fear and worry with **faith** and **action** (Phil 4:6-7)

(Phil 4:6-7) Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. {7} And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

8. They understand the power of life and death is through **confession** (Prov 18:21)

(Prov 18:21) The tongue has the power of life and death,

9. They organize, plan, and schedule that which is **vital** (Eph 5:15-17) (Psa 90:12)

- The word *vital* means "that which gives life."

(Eph 5:15-17) Be very careful, then, how you live--not as unwise but as wise, {16} making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. {17} Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

(Psa 90:12) Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

Questions to Ask at the Start of a New Year

The beginning of a new year is an ideal time to stop, look up, and get our bearings. To that end, here are some questions to ask prayerfully in the presence of God.

1. What's one thing you could do this year to increase your enjoyment of God?
2. What's the most humanly impossible thing you will ask God to do this year?
3. What's the single most important thing you could do to improve the quality of your family life this year?
4. What is the single biggest time-waster in your life, and what will you do about it this year?
5. What is the most helpful new way you could strengthen your church?

6. For whose salvation will you pray most fervently this year?
7. What's the most important way you will, by God's grace, try to make this year different from last year?
8. What one thing could you do to improve your prayer life this year?
9. What area of your life most needs simplifying, and what's one way you could simplify in that area?
10. What's the most important need you feel burdened to meet this year?

11. What habit would you most like to establish this year?
12. What is your most important financial goal this year, and what is the most important step you can take toward achieving it?
13. What's the single most important thing you could do to improve the quality of your work life this year?
14. What's one thing you could do this year to enrich the spiritual legacy you will leave to your children and grandchildren?

15. What one thing do you most regret about last year, and what will you do about it this year?
16. What single blessing from God do you want to seek most earnestly this year?
17. What skill do you most want to learn or improve this year?
18. What one biblical doctrine do you most want to understand better this year, and what will you do about it?
19. If those who know you best gave you one piece of advice, what would they say? Would they be right? What will you do about it?