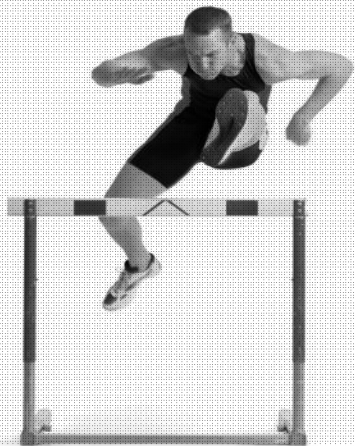


Bible Keys for Success



by Jason Peebles

SUCCESS is a subject that some Christians draw back from. *Why?* Well, I think it's because most people who desire to follow Christ realize there's a huge difference between the world's success and God's success. In the world, almost anything is justified for success. People will lie, steal, manipulate the law, mistreat others, and do anything for money. **But God's success is very different. God's success always starts on the "inside" of a person and works its way to the "outside."**

Even As Your Soul Prospers

3 John 2 says, "*Beloved, I wish above all things that you would prosper and be in health **EVEN AS YOUR SOUL PROSPERS.***" Notice two important keys: 1) First of all, it IS God's will for you to prosper, succeed, and be in health. It clearly says so. The apostle John says, "*I wish above ALL things that you would prosper and be in health.*" God loves you and wants to take care of you more

than you can possibly imagine! 2) Second, notice that God's success starts on the "inside." It says, "***EVEN AS thy soul prospers.***" Let that connection forever be established in your thinking – ***God wants you to prosper "EVEN AS your soul prospers."***

Spirit-led Success

Let's briefly compare self-centered success with Spirit-led success. James 4:13-17 warns against self-centered success. It says (paraphrasing), "*Some of you boast that you are going into a certain city to buy and sell and be successful. All such boasting is evil. You should be saying, 'If the Lord wills, we will do this or that.'*" **Thus, the central issue is LORDSHIP. Who will be directing your activities and your success? Is it "you" or is it Christ?** If you are seeking God's will and endeavoring to put Him first, then you can be sure that He will guide you. Perhaps He wants you to do business in the next city – or perhaps not. There may be a better opportunity in another city that you know nothing about – but He knows – and He can guide you there IF you put Him first and seek Him. Romans 8:14 says, "*For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.*"

For a moment, let's examine how Jesus operated. Obviously, Jesus understood Spirit-led success. The Bible says that He received His goals from the Father. In John 5:19-20 Jesus said, "*The Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son does in like manner. For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel.*" **Basically, Jesus was saying that His success totally depended on what the Father revealed to Him. And guess what? We are called to live in the same manner! That's what abiding in Christ is all about.** John 15:4-7 instructs us to abide in Him. If we do, we are promised "fruit" (success). John 15:7 says, "*If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you shall ask what you will and it shall be done unto you.*" In other words, you will successfully accomplish the plans and assignments that He has for you. I call it "*the love-walk.*" John 14:21 tells us that through our love-walk with Christ, He will "*manifest*

Himself" to us. Likewise, John 16:13 says that the Holy Spirit will "*show you things to come.*" **As believers, it's vital that our goal-setting flows from our love-walk with Christ and on the things that He leads us in. This is the foundation for true Spirit-led success.**

Matthew 16:26 says, "*For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?*" In this short verse, Jesus puts self-centered success in proper perspective. If it were possible for you to become the wealthiest person alive (beyond any business tycoon, sports star, musician, or world leader) but you never knew Christ or God's plan for your life – how tragic that would be! You would have "had it all" for a few short years but in the end lose your soul. From an eternal perspective, that's failure.

God's Formula for Success

Let's examine one of the most important verses in the Bible regarding authentic success. If you want God's success and blessing in your life then this verse is for you! Mark it in your Bible and commit it to memory. In Joshua 1:8 God gave Joshua the divine formula for success. God told Joshua to meditate in the Word day and night and observe to do it. If he would follow this admonition, then God promised success and blessing --

"This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in 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."

Really, it's very simple! The key to God's kind of success is the Word of God. All that Joshua had to do was to regularly meditate in God's Word and follow it. If he did, then God promised GOOD SUCCESS! I like the Amplified version: "*For then you shall make your way prosperous and then you shall DEAL WISELY and have good success.*" God's kind of success requires that you deal wisely. *And how do you deal wisely?* You love God, walk with Him, and deal with others according to the principles of His Word.



Seven Bible Keys for Success

There are many Bible keys for success, but I want to give you seven of the most important ones. It doesn't matter if your vocation is to be a business person, a homemaker, or a missionary – these seven keys are critical if you want God's blessing in your life. Like road signs, these keys will guide you in the right path for God's kind of success in your life:

1. KEY #1 – MAKE ABIDING IN CHRIST YOUR FIRST PRIORITY EVERY DAY. When you wake up each day, make it a habit to whisper a prayer that basically says. *“Lord Jesus, my first goal today is to walk with you. Help me to do what you want done and respond like you would respond. Empower me by your Spirit to live in union and fellowship with you today.”* We all have a “To-Do” list each day that tends to keep us very busy. And, it's easy to get worn down as the day develops. If you become frustrated during the day, then submit yourself once again to His Lordship. If things don't go as planned, then develop the habit of committing your situations to Him right then and there. **Train yourself to live in a state of dependency, fellowship, and communion with your Savior. Remind yourself of the promises in God's Word throughout the day.** If you have the opportunity to be alone, lift your voice softly and do what Ephesians 5:19 says (paraphrasing) – *“worship in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.”*

Remember what Jesus said in John 15:5 – *“I am the vine and you are the branches; He that*

abides in Me, and I in him, the same brings forth much fruit; for without me you can do nothing.” For the believer, abiding in Christ is the first and foremost key to God's success.

2. KEY #2 – PRAY ABOUT EVERYTHING AND COMMIT YOUR DECISIONS TO GOD.

Prayer will help you live in a state of abiding in Christ as described above. Prayer must become as natural as breathing. Healthy people don't even think about breathing – they just do it. **Likewise, “healthy” Christians don't have to have someone else coach them to pray – they just do it. And what is prayer? Prayer is simply talking with God.** As you get ready each day, pray about your family and loved ones. Mention them by name. Ask God to bless them and help them. Pray over your business dealings. Pray about your goals. Ask God for His wisdom and guidance as you make decisions. **Ask Him to help you sense what you need to be involved in and conversely what you don't need to be involved in. Prayer builds spiritual “pipelines” through which God's influence flows.** Philippians 4:6,7 says, *“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”*

3. KEY #3 – LIKE JOSHUA, BUILD YOUR LIFE AROUND THE PROMISES AND PRINCIPLES OF GOD'S WORD.

Recall what God said in Joshua 1:8,9 (paraphrasing) – *“Joshua, study My Word, speak My Word, and do what it says. Doing this will help you stay strong and successful wherever you go.”* **As a committed believer, you need to make a decision that you're going to live by the Word of God.** For example, if the Word of God says to “forgive others” (and it does in many places, i.e. Mt 18:35) – then regardless of how you “feel” about someone you will forgive them if needed. Why? You will forgive them because God's Word tells you to. You see, God knows more than you. God knows that unforgiveness is like a cancer that can destroy your life.

If the Bible says that God will supply all your needs (and it does in many places, i.e. Phil 4:19) – then regardless of how bad things may seem, your heart is saying, *“Thank you Lord that*

you are my Source of Supply. This current lack that I'm experiencing is temporary. I WILL come out of this with your help!"

Thus, you must make up your mind that the promises and principles of God's Word will become your standard. **Like the instrument panel in an airplane, the Word of God is YOUR instrument panel. Learn to fly your life by the instrument panel of God's Word.**

4. KEY #4 – START BELIEVING THAT IT IS GOD'S WILL FOR YOU TO SUCCEED. STOP SHORT-CIRCUITING YOUR POTENTIAL WITH DOUBT AND UNBELIEF. As you focus on abiding in Christ and living by His Word, you will start believing that it IS God's will for you to succeed. As one old saint said, *"God don't make failures! He teaches failures how to succeed."* Nothing can undercut your efforts more than doubt and unbelief. **If you buy into the twisted idea that God somehow gets glory when we fail, then you will be defeated before you ever start.** Jesus said, *"Herein is my Father glorified, that you bear MUCH FRUIT; so shall you be my disciples."* If you are endeavoring to do what Key #1 says (abiding in Christ), then you can be sure that God wants you to succeed in His assignments for your life. If you experience set-backs then He will help you recover. But in the end, God wants you to fulfill and succeed in His plan. Jesus said in Mark 11:22-23 says, *"Have faith in God. For verily I say to you, that whoever shall say unto this mountain, 'Be thou removed and be thou cast into the sea' and shall not doubt in his heart but shall believe that those things which he says shall come to pass, he shall have whatever he says."*

5. KEY #5 – DEVELOP THE HABIT OF SEEING YOURSELF AS A SUCCESS IN THE WILL OF GOD. Part of faith is learning to "see" with the eye of faith. This involves the realm of your heart and your imagination. In Ephesians 1:18 the apostle Paul mentions *"the eyes of your heart."* As you begin to gain an understanding of God's assignments for your life, you must learn to "see" yourself succeeding at it. "See" your business prosperous. "See" the new house that your family needs. **The Bible says that the Holy Spirit will "show" you things to come. The Holy Spirit will "speak" and he will "show" (Jn 16:13-14).** Let the Holy Spirit paint a picture in your heart of the

future that he has for you. Don't let fear and doubt paint your pictures – let faith flow onto the canvas of your heart.

6. KEY #6 – SPEAK IN LINE WITH GOD'S SUCCESS FOR YOUR LIFE. Following "seeing" is the principle of "saying." Authentic faith involves both. If you have real faith about something, then you will start speaking words of faith. Paul said, *"We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed and therefore have I spoken; we also believe and therefore speak."* Paul was recounting all the trials that his team had been through, yet in the midst of it all he said that he was confessing victory. **If you want to have strong faith, then you must learn to "see" and "speak" in line with God's plan for your life.** Stop complaining and whining and start speaking God's Word and God's possibilities (Eph 3:20).

7. KEY #7 – WALK IN THE LOVE OF GOD. BECOME A GENEROUS PERSON WHO LIFTS OTHERS UP INSTEAD OF PUSHING THEM DOWN. The last Key that I want to give you centers on what I call *"the love-walk."* We are called to emulate our heavenly Father. Let me ask you a couple of questions: *"Has your heavenly Father ever refused to forgive you or help you? Has he ever tried to hurt you or destroy you?"* On the contrary, He sent Jesus Christ to die for you! Romans 5:8 says, *"But God commends his love toward us, in that while we were sinners, Christ died for us."* What amazing love! In John 8:3 Jesus protected the woman caught in the very act of adultery. The religious leaders wanted to stone her, but Jesus lifted her up. In Luke 15:11 Jesus told the story of the Prodigal Son who returned home to a father with arms opened wide. **If you want to be a successful person, then make up your mind that you're going to be a generous person who lifts others up instead of pushing them down.** God will reward you for it. 1 John 4:8 says, *"He that loveth not knoweth not God, for God is love."*

Dear friend, my prayer is that you would grow in your love-walk with Christ, receive His assignments, and succeed in all you do.

■ -- Jason Peebles

Key Memory Verse:

“This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in 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 1:8

Prayer for God’s Success

“Father, thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for my sins. I accept His sacrifice and commit my life to Him. Strengthen me on the “inside” so that I can be strong on the “outside.” I want to walk in Spirit-led success and fulfill your assignments for my life. Thank you for your great love. In Jesus Name – Amen.”

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