

How to Succeed in the Christian Life Part I

Intro: Ben Sweetland once said, "Success is a journey, not a destination."

This journey called success, continually beckons us onward thru life. None of us want to die W/O feeling we have been successful at something.

In Joshua 1:8 we are given the basis for a successful journey and we are promised success if we build, properly upon it. Notice it says, *be careful to do according to all that is written in, and it's speaking here of (God's word)*

What is given in God's word are directions that can direct us on a successful journey through life if we do them. We do not have to get into a lot of rules, but that there are some general guidelines or principles, which if followed, will help us succeed in our Christian walk.

Lets begin with the **preliminary action**

Here we see that a person who wants lasting success must first be born again. There are a lot of people who are trying to live a successful Christian life yet they have never been born again.

They are good people who are really sincere, but the problem is, they are trying to succeed on their good merits W/O asking Jesus to save them. We cannot succeed until we first admit to God that we are utter failures and that we need Jesus to save us and help us on the journey.

Question: Have you personally confessed to God that although you have truly tried, you are still a failure and need to be saved? If you have not you will find some instructions at the bottom of the message. Be sure to read them and follow the instructions. You will be glad you did.

Once we are saved or have accepted Jesus as your way to heaven lets look at some necessary steps on the journey of success. First we need to

I. Rely on the HOLY SPIRIT

For direction John. 16:13 says, *when the Holy Spirit comes He will guide us into all truth.*

We often get a lot of advice and direction but the HOLY SPIRIT is the only one we can turn to, who will give us what is best for us as to the direction for our lives because He gives them are from perfect wisdom and love.

Then we need to rely on the HOLY SPIRIT

For power Acts 1:8 says *you shall receive power from the HOLY SPIRIT*

The word for power here is the word DYNAMIS, from which we get the English words dynamite.

These words suggest, according to Ralph Earl.

- Adequate power
- Personal power
- Perpetual or continuous power.

The HOLY SPIRIT gives us perpetual, adequate, personal power to be spiritual if we will rely on Him. If you have the Holy Spirit on the inside, you can stand any kind of battle from the outside.

Next we need to rely on Him

- **For comfort in distress.**

When God allows extraordinary trials, he gives extraordinary comfort. The comfort giver is the Holy Spirit, that person promised to us in John. 14

When distress tries to keep you from succeeding in the Chr. life, don't forget your helper, the HOLY SPIRIT

Secondly we need to

II. Confess and obey Jesus as Lord

How can we do that? How about this for starters? First

In our words - By our praise and witness

In our works- through our obedience.

Psalm 100:3 says, *know that the Lord Himself is God; It is He who has made us and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of his pasture. If we are the sheep of His pasture then we need to pay attention to our shepherd.*

One reason we may not experience lasting success is because, like Frank Sinatra, we do it our way. Our life's bumper sticker may read "God is my co-pilot" when it really should read (He is my Pilot)

Note: The word co-pilot suggests that we are still in control.

A third key to a successful walk is we are to

III. Pray without ceasing

I Thessalonians 5:17 says *pray W/O ceasing*

The tense of the word pray here means to do it with a continued or repeated action.

Some one said once, when praying do not give God instructions, instead report for duty. We will be more successful in our Christian lives when we simply start reporting for duty and let God take care of the rest.

But just who should we be praying for?

We need to pray for the **church**, and her corporate success because as the church succeeds so do those who make up her membership

We need to pray for the **world**. The world is in need of the Saviour.

The best way to influence people for God is to intercede with God for people

We need to pray for the **brethren**, because success comes hard. Acts 14:22 reminds us that *we have to undergo many hardships and trials in going into the Kingdom.*

Hardship and trials doesn't sound like success in the Christian life but as Someone said we will celebrate our victories in eternity; in life we must win them.

So in order for us to be successful we need to pray for one another. Pray that we will be reminded that we should be living for eternity.

Praying for strength to fight the battles and putting feet on our prayers to help one another thru this life.

God wants us to be successful because His name is at stake. It would be foolish for God to save us so we could serve Him and then not want us to be successful in our service.

We have seen today that for us to succeed we need to do three things

Rely on the HOLY SPIRIT
Confess and obey Christ as Lord
Pray without ceasing

May you have a most successful week my friends Success is sweet but it's secret is sweat.

Closing thoughts: Like I said earlier one can never succeed in the Christian life if they are not a Christian. To become one of God's children read, heed, and proceed with the following.

Realize you are a sinner Romans 3:23

Understand that the payday for sin is death or eternal conscious separation from God.
Romans 6:23a

Know that there is a way of escape for you. Romans 6:23b and John 1:12

Desire to escape and pray this or a similar prayer.

"Dear God, I know I am a sinner. I am truly sorry for my sins, and I confess them all to You [name them]. Lord Jesus, forgive all my sins and come into my heart as my Saviour and Lord. I receive You right now. Help me from this time forward to live for You. Thank You for hearing and answering my prayer. In Jesus' name. Amen."

On the _____ day of _____ I became a Christian by inviting Jesus Christ into my life to forgive my sin.

Signed: _____

If you have further questions or have chosen to do this, be sure to let us know so we can help you, pray for you and encourage you in your new life.

You can reach us at lapeerchurch@gmail.com Subject line: (Salvation)