

Am I A Success, and If So, By who's Standards

Bible Study – Pastor Charles A. Hall – December 16, 2021

As the conclusion of every year comes around, I usually take some personal time away from everyone else to do what I call soul searching. There is one question that I have always asked myself just to help determine whether or not I am on the right track, or am I working the plan I laid out for myself, so that I would be where I believed I should be at certain intervals in my life. Most people call what I have just described as career planning, or goal setting. I believe if you don't set some goals or objectives in your life, you most likely will not progress much in your life' journey as well. As the song goes when I look back over my life, I ask myself what I have accomplished or what have I done with the talents and gifts that were given to me by God. As we grow more spiritual we should try to align our plan up with the plan that God has for each one of us, that was determined long before we even know what a plan was! Sometime we confuse career or vocation with the plan God has set for us. The only way that we can truly know what God's plan is for us, is to ask him, and if we asked Him we can only hear Him if we are born again or regenerated by His spirit. Since the natural, none spirit filled man cannot comprehend the things that are of God.

- Jeremiah 29:11
- John 3:3-7
- 1Corinthians 2:14

Too many people are overly concerned about how they are perceived as being successful or not successful by other people, and by the world's standards. We have the tendency to align our goals and objectives up with what other people, society and this world says is a success. We forget that this world is out of alignment with the standards of God, so why would we desire to seek after the things of this world at a higher priority than the things of God! Please do not misunderstand the above, God wants us to have the good things in this world, and to enjoy our time here on earth while we as believers are on our way home to be with Him. In fact the word of God tells us that God is the one that give us all good and prefect gifts. However, God does not want His people to be enslaved to the things of this world, in other words God does not want us to treat our careers, positions, accumulation of earthly wealth as our God. The word of God tells us that if we seek God first in our life then those other things that we desire will be given unto us , if it is God will for our life.

- Ecclesiastes 2:24
- Matthew 6:33
- James 1:17
- Matthew 6:24

As we grow in Christ and our understanding of what God requires of us is enlightened, we then began to realize that real success is a direct result of our obedience to God's commandments and His teaching, no matter what our career goals, position or earthly wealth may be.

- 1Kings 2:3

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As a follow on from the prior paragraph, please notice that King David in his instructions to his son Solomon, David did not tell him to build up his kingdom with great armies, or to gather wealth from other lands, or to defeat his enemies in battle to be successful in life. Instead, his formula for success was to follow God and obey Him. When Solomon became king, he did not ask the Lord for wealth and power, but for wisdom and discernment in order to lead God's people. God was pleased by this request and granted it, giving Solomon a wise and understanding heart, more than any man had ever had before. He also gave Solomon the things he did not ask for—riches and honor among men. This serves as confirmation, that if we seek God first in our life then the other things that we desire will be given to us if it is God's will for us.

- 1King 3:1-14

King Solomon was a man that love God, however he was like each of us, not a perfect man, but most of his reign as King he took his father's advice to heart and, reflected on it in his writing in the book of Proverbs. Solomon's writings remind us that if we trust God, obey Him, and allow Him to guide us as we journey through this life, we will be successful in His eyes!

- Proverbs 3:1-4