

Sermon Notes

Success - Gen 12:1-3

March 14, 2021

I. Introduction

- a. one word to describe video... almost messed up on title of message... was originally *failure*... not gonna focus on death... focus on life and success...
Deut 29:9... “observe words of covenant... succeed in everything you do...”
Josh 1:7-9... “study book of instruction continually... succeed in all you do...”
Psa 69:3... “wary from crying... my eyes fail, looking for God...”
Psa 73:26... “health may fail, spirit grow weak... but God is strength of my heart...”
- b. failure opposite of success... devil wants you to fail... God wants you to succeed...
John 10:10... “devil steals, kills, destroys... Jesus gives life abundantly...”
- c. fear of failure can prevent us from being transformed... must be super careful what you’re exposed to (thoughts, feelings, actions)... God told Abram to leave his family... not necessarily people... but beliefs, attitudes, words... holding him back... pray...
Gen 12:1-3... “get out of country... away from relatives and family... bless you...”
Prov 23:7... “as a man thinks in his heart... so is he...”

II. Success

- a. have to break mentality of failure to succeed... some of us are *so close*... but negative people, beliefs, words pull us back... change mentality, get results...
- b. Self-Preservation
fear what God promised won’t come true... *we* have to do it... denies Jesus as our source... rely on self-effort rather than grace... fear causes this... always leads to failure... depending more on education, medicine, gov’t, job than God... if God can’t do it, do we honestly think we can... certain things we can’t do...
Jer 17:5... “cursed are those who trust in humans... who rely on human strength...”
Matt 16:24-26 MSG... “anyone who comes to me has to let me lead... you’re not in the driver’s seat, I am... follow me, I’ll show you... self-help is no help at all...”
2Cor 1:20... “all God’s promises are Yes and Amen... in Christ to His glory...”
2Cor 3:5... “nothing of lasting value on our own... only success from God...”
Eph 2:8-10... “by grace you are saved... not of yourselves... it is a gift of God...”
Heb 6:18... “it is impossible for God to lie...”
- c. Poverty
not about money... about not having enough money, time, friends, wisdom... giving is difficult... actually identity issue... being defined by resources and possessions... not about what we possess, but who possesses us... base actions on what we have, instead of faith... way out is to find identity in the Father... trust Him to provide...
Psa 23... “Lord is my shepherd... I shall not want... goodness, mercy pursue...”
Prov 3:5-10... “trust in the Lord... honor with wealth, then barns filled...”
Rom 8:17-32... “heirs of God... co-heirs of Christ... freely given all things...”
2Cor 8:9... “He was rich... became poor... by His poverty, you become rich...”
Eph 3:8... “grace was given... to preach incalculable riches of Christ...”

- d. Comparison
easiest way to fall into failure... many think God won’t have enough for them if someone else gets blessed... never celebrate, always jealous... get discouraged when you look at others... focus on Jesus, not people... when we compare what we have to others it discredits what God has done for us... don’t compare...
Comparison is the thief of joy. Teddy Roosevelt
Isa 2:22... “stop regarding man... of what account is he...”
Mark 9:33-37... “arguing about who was greatest... took little child in His arms...”
2Cor 10:12... “we dare not compare... comparing yourself is not wise...”
Gal 6:4... “pay attention to your work... won’t need to compare to anyone...”
- e. Consumer
meant to be producers, not consumers... all these mentalities lead to failure... add value, not subtract... givers, not takers... when God is source, we bring forth resources, not consume... bless, not curse... remain connected to Him...
Leave it better than it was before you used it. Gary Blakemore
John 15:5-8... “remain in Me... produce much fruit... apart from Me, nothing...”
1Cor 3:9-15... “we are God’s fellow workers... God’s field, God’s building...”
2Cor 8:9... “in extreme poverty... begged for privilege of sharing... gave first...”
Phil 2:4... “don’t look only to your interests... but also the interests of others...”
- f. Inferiority
sense of inadequacy, feeling powerless, unimportant, never good enough... why do we feel that way... sin makes us inferior to what God intended... you can’t defeat inferiority mentality... but Jesus already has... took care of sin... restored us to perfection in Christ... you are enough... know and believe, defeat inferiority...
Rom 3:23... “all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God...”
John 1:29... “the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world...”
Rom 3:24... “but, they are justified freely by grace thru redemption in Christ...”
Acts 10:43... “everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins...”
2Cor 5:17-21... “you are a new creation in Christ... old is gone, new has come...”
Heb 10:10-18... “sanctified thru Christ... perfected forever those sanctified...”
1Pet 5:10... “God Himself will restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you...”
- g. Fear of Risk
many people avoid failure by not taking risks... new job, fun, relationships... staying home is a risk... leaving home is a risk (*possibility of suffering harm, loss*)... imagine what God will put on your heart when you are free from fear of risk... teach kids, lead bible study, share good news, give, pray, be bold...
Fear knocked at the door. Faith answered. And no one was there.
Psa 31:20... “You hide them in shelter of Your presence... keep them safe...”
Psa 91... “protection of Most High... shadow of Almighty... not fear disease... evil will not touch you... no harm will come to you or your home...”
Psa 143:9... “rescue me... I come to You for protection...”
- h. how do we get free of mentality of failure... get out of world and into Word... deepen relationship with Jesus... did you think I’d say anything else... pray...
Gen 26:24... “do not be afraid, for I am with you...”
Josh 1:7-9... “do not be afraid... the Lord is with you wherever you go...”
Psa 56... “when I am afraid, I trust in you... I praise your Word... not be afraid...”
Rom 8:15... “did not receive spirit of slavery to fall back into fear... cry Abba...”
2Tim 1:7... “God has not given us a spirit of fear... but power, love, self-control...”
1John 4... “this is real love... God loved us... perfect love drives out fear...”
2Pet 1:1-3... “everything required for life... comes thru knowledge of Him...”

Good Success is in Your Mouth

Josh 1:8... *this Book shall not depart from your mouth...*

Do you know that the Jews read the Torah (first 5 books of Moses) out loud? The reason they do that is found in **Joshua 1:8**... *this book of instruction must not depart from your mouth... you are to recite it day and night (meditate on Him)... so that you may carefully observe everything written in it... for then you will prosper and succeed in whatever you do.*

The word *meditate* in English means to ponder. But, in Hebrew... it is the word **hagah**... which means to utter, mutter, murmur, or speak under your breath. In other words... when you meditate on God's Word... you speak forth... or confess His Word instead of just giving it intellectual and mental agreement.

When you need a breakthrough... when you need results... start by **confessing God's word** (*hagah*) in your area of need. If you are in need of financial help... try **Prov 3:9-10**... *honor the Lord with your possessions and with the first fruits of all your increase, so your barns may be filled with plenty.*

Many Christians are waiting for God to prosper them. The bible doesn't say it works that way. It says you **make your way prosperous** when you **hagah** God's word. So, speak forth verses in the areas where you want to see results... plant the seeds for the harvest you want to see... and expect good success.

Some people have success that destroys them... you don't see them in church anymore and their families don't get to see them very much either... or sometimes their success even destroys their family. That is bad success. But when you **hagah** God's word... you will have **good success** that does not destroy you.

Confessing God's Word does not move God to do things for you. It is not a formula. Don't make it into a law. God has already moved for you when He gave up His Son on the cross to die for you. However, when you confess His Word... it moves you from a **position of doubt to a position of faith**. It moves your heart from a position of *is it true*... to... **I believe**. When that happens... you will make your way prosperous and you will have good success!!

Pastor Joseph Prince

Sermon Study

Success - Gen 12:1-3 - March 14, 2021

1. Do you tend to focus more on **failure or success**? Why? Read **Deut 29:9**... **Josh 1:7-9**... **Psa 69:3**... **Psa 73:26**... **John 10:10**. What do you **think God wants** you to have?
2. Read **Gen 12:1-3** and **Prov 23:7**. What thoughts, beliefs, words, attitudes does God want you to **get away from**?
3. Do you rely **more on self-effort** than grace (*self-preservation*)? Why do people have a tendency to **rely more on man** than God? Read **Jer 17:5**... **Matt 16:24-26** MSG... **2Cor 3:5**... **Heb 6:18**.
4. Is your **identity** in your resources or the Father? Read **Psa 23**... **Prov 3:5-10**... **Rom 8:17-32**... **2Cor 8:9**... **Eph 3:8**. Do you have a tendency to **believe God won't provide** for you?
5. *Comparison is the thief of joy*. Has your **joy been stolen**? Why do you think we have the **tendency to compare** to others? Read **Isa 2:22**... **Mark 9:33-37**... **2Cor 10:12**... **Gal 6:4**.
6. Do you ever **feel inferior**? It causes us to think we're not enough. Ultimately, **where** does that come from? What is our **answer**? Read **Rom 3:23-24**... **John 1:29**... **Acts 10:43**... **2Cor 5:17-21**.
7. Are you a **risk-taker**? Should you be? How does not taking risks lead to failure? Read **Psa 31:20**... **Psa 91**... **Psa 143:9**.
8. How do we **defeat** the various **mentalities of failure**? Read **Gen 26:24**... **Psa 56**... **Rom 8:15**... **2Tim 1:7**... **1John 4**.

If the Lord be with us, we have no cause of fear. His eye is upon us, His arm over us, His ear open to us. His grace is sufficient, His promise unchangeable. John Newton