

True Success!

How do we define success? Is success simply having all the money you want? Is success merely getting the spouse you want? Is success determined by the house you live in? What if we succeed in our financial dreams only to die early due to poor health? Would that be called success? What if we succeed in our ministry only to lose our family? Would that be called success? What if you are proven 'right' time after time but lose all your friends in the process? Would that be called success? What if you would gain the whole world but forfeit your soul? Would that be called success?

God gives us seven steps in the Book of Joshua which, if we follow them, God said,

"Then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success." Joshua 1:8

These seven steps will cause you to find success. It will give you the necessary mindset to live life to the fullest! God wants you to *"prosper and have good success."* God wants to fill you with more and more ... not more stuff, but more of Himself! Could that be what success looks like? I think so! Because if you are full of the Spirit, not just a word game, not just a posturing of yourself to look important, but ... if you are truly full of the Spirit then all things are possible! Jesus said, *"I am come to give life and that life more abundantly!"* An empty vessel, that is who we are apart from Christ, but God fills our lives! For what purpose? That we may pour out His Life upon others through us! But if you never give your life away, of what value is it?

Could success be defined as genuine giving and receiving? Could success be defined as being satisfied by God and God alone? Jesus said:

"Narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it." Matthew 7:14

God spoke to Joshua three times in chapter one, *"Be strong and of a good courage."* Could He be talking about the same thing? It takes great courage to walk this difficult way. It takes even more courage to take those first steps through that narrow gate! That's where we stand today. But success lies on the other side of that gate! Courage comes out of your vision, it comes out of your hope. It is a part of faith. You can be part of the few that find it!

There is one common enemy to success that we all face. What is the opposite of courage? **Dis-couragement!** Discouragement rises up and lies to you! Do not let your courage be taken from you today! The Holy Spirit comes to encourage us, to equip us, to help us fulfill these seven steps into success. So today, be full of courage, be en-couraged!

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