

The Pursuit and Acquisition of Success and True Happiness

(NKJV) Php 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.

9 The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

- I. God has promised us success if we will keep him first in our lives.
(NKJV) Mt 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

- A. What Things?

- 1. Food and Clothing

- B. God told Joshua the same thing.

(NKJV) Jos 1:1 After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, it came to pass that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying: 2 "Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them—the children of Israel. 3 Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses. 4 From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your territory.

Important to understand that God does not intend for his servants to be passive. We are not to sit and wait on God to act. We act with the confidence that God is with us.

It is the assurance of God's presence that should compel us to advance. Though there will be problems we will encounter in advancing we must remember we have not been given a spirit of fear. We have the Holy Spirit with us who is able to give us victory in every encounter.

Remember Jesus said, in the world we will have trouble but he has overcome the world.

We will always encounter difficulties! But we should never let difficulties cause us to be paralyzed. We must have faith in God and not look to our capabilities but to his!

In order to do this God instructs Joshua he needs a mind change.

5 No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you. 6 Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. 7 Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.

God instructs him on what he is to do. He is to be strong and courageous and he must do what the word of God tells him to do. He must not do what he thinks he should do or how he feels he should do and must do what God tells them to do. To do what God says requires a confidence in God.

Now God tells Joshua how to develop this confidence!

8 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.

This is the key to success! Meditation upon the word of God alters one's mindset and creates a radical transformation in the identity of the one meditating. Paul tells us this:

(NKJV) Ro 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Just as a seed planted in the ground grows on its own without a man's help so does the word of God grow in the life of a man to accomplish the purposes God has set for the man without the man's actions. Remember Jesus said this:

(NKJV) Mk 4:26 And He said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, 27 and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. 28 For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. 29 But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

We must not concern ourselves how God will bring to pass the things he says he will do. All we have to do is be aggressive and our actions in

serving him by meditating on his word and not being distracted by the works of the adversary!

Again, meditation is the key! Meditation on the word of God affects a man's mindset in such a way that his confidence is increased because of his closeness with God brought about by the word in his heart.

Jesus even said this:

(NKJV) Jn 15:7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. 8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. 9 "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. 10 If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. 11 "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.

Therefore, God encourages Joshua to be aggressive and arise and move forth!

9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."