

Ambition and Success – Part 1

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I. Introduction.

A. Ambition and success can be rooted in greed. (Ecclesiastes 4:4; Jeremiah 45:5)

II. What is success?

A. Success is the progressive realization of a person's predetermined worthwhile goals.

B. Success is being right with God, winning victories, getting along with others and achieving the most with what God has given you.

C. To be successful you need to know about yourself as an individual and your individual goals.

D. Success is being the person God wants me to be and achieving the goals God wants me to achieve.

III. How do Christians look at success?

A. Failure may cause a person to do nothing.

B. Failure causes others to hide.

C. Success does not have to do with...

1. Money. (Luke 12:15)

2. A person's job.

D. God can give us a variety of gifts, but there is a difference between gifts and abilities. (1 Corinthians 12; 4:7)

IV. How does God look at success?

A. God does not want his most successful of creations to be mediocre.

B. Concepts for excitement.

1. God is interested in our success provided our definition of success is right.

2. God knows more about success than anyone.

3. God put man into the world to succeed and not fail.

4. God is interested in goals and helping us formulate them.

5. God has written a book and shares within it principles on success.

6. God knows more about motivating men than any other authority in the field.

C. God has a plan on how success is to come. (Exodus 20:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:11; 2 Thessalonians 3:5)

V. Excuses for failure and mediocrity.

A. These are the toughest times any have lived in. These are tremendous times for opportunity.

B. I do not have any motivation. The best motivation is from within.

C. God made me this way. Jesus emphasized the necessity of producing increase—the one who does not is wicked.

D. There are more important things than success.

E. Some have no ambition.

F. Misunderstanding Bible verses about contentment.

VI. Characteristics to develop toward success.

A. What we think today we will be tomorrow. (Proverbs 4:23)

1. Know Christ lives in you.

2. Know God's power with you will give you the drive and gifts necessary for success regardless of how it looks to you.

3. Know God has your interests in his heart. (Jeremiah 29:11)

4. Know God knows what is best for you. (Ephesians 1:8)

B. Motivation: the love of Christ; the necessity of the gospel; the necessity of speaking for God. (1 Corinthians 9:16; Jeremiah 20:9)

C. Excitement.

1. The excitement of your purpose on earth.

2. The excitement of being useable. (2 Timothy 2:21; 3:17; Luke 19:10; Romans 1:16)

a. The useable man has one great purpose.

b. The useable man has removed every hindrance from his life.

c. The useable man has placed himself at God's disposal.

d. The useable man has learned how to prevail in prayer.

e. The useable man is a student in the Word of God.

f. The useable man has a Bible message for the lost world.

g. The useable man is man of faith who expects results.

h. The useable man works under the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

3. The excitement of being on the winning team. (Philippians 2:10)

4. The excitement of the greater than concept. (1 John 4:4; Psalm 27:1; 1 Corinthians 15:57; Romans 8:37; Ephesians 3:20; Psalm 23:1; 2 Corinthians 9:8)

VII. Hindrances to success.

VIII. The sky is the limit.

Application questions:

1. How can failure debilitate a person?

2. What excuses for success do you fall into the easiest?

3. What is your plan for success?
