

GOOD SUCCESS

JOSHUA 1

Text: Joshua 1:8

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⁸This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Introduction:

There is a difference in success and effectiveness. The world would have us to believe that success is everything.

But the world's idea of success is like cotton candy; it looks impressive, and taste great for awhile. But it's more form than substance and soon its gone, with nothing remaining but a bothersome residue.

Effectiveness on the other hand is measured in terms of impact. It is a matter of investing the resources of your life in a way that will accomplish goals carrying significant spiritual and human value.

A stick of dynamite can be detonated in an empty field. But strategically placed in a rock quarry, the detonation can be both successful and effective.

The key or secret to effectiveness in the life of a believer is “consistently spending time with the Lord in His Word each day.

Every area of our lives must be built on the Word of God, including our prayer life.

Notice:

1. THE WORD AND OUR CONSIDERATION

If we are going to be effective in prayer and every other area of our Christian life we must make the Word of God a priority.

Note:

Psalms 1:1-3

¹Blessed *is* the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. ²But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. ³And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

We also must saturate ourselves with the Word of God.

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2. THE WORD AND OUR CONVERSATION

Matthew 12:34

³⁴O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.

God instructed Joshua that his words should be filled with the Word of God.

If we give primary consideration to the Word of God, our conversation will be filled with the Word of God.

Our speech should be:

- A. Seasoned with God's Word
- B. Screened by the Word of God

3. THE WORD AND OUR CONDUCT

“Being precedes doing.”

What people “are” they ultimately “do”.

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A. Your behavior should be chosen on the basis of God’s Word.

This is why God reminded Joshua that he was to spend time in the Word, so he could observe to do.

God is saying if you want to be effective you must think about your conduct.

B. Your behavior must be consistent with the whole counsel of God’s Word.

God tells us to observe to do according to all that is written therein.

Time spent in the Word of God will prevent us from selectively following some biblical principles but ignoring other counsel that is equally important.

Note what Micah states:

Micah 6:7-8

⁷ Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, *or* with ten thousands of rivers of oil? shall I give my firstborn *for* my transgression, the fruit of my body *for* the sin of my soul? ⁸ He hath shewed thee, O man, what *is* good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

Only by spending time in the Word of God can we learn to behave in a manner that is consistent with His counsel.

Close:

God was concerned about Joshua's effectiveness as a leader.

No practice can take the place of spending time in the Word of God, and our prayer life will become cold, calculated, casual and cheap without this discipline.

Are you giving the right priority to God's Word?

Is your conversation seasoned and screened by the Word of God?

Are you submitting your life to the whole counsel of God, or just selectively obedient; remember partial obedience is complete disobedience.