

*October 9, 2016—Fall Quarter 2016—Sunday Morning Bible Class*

UNMERITED  
FAVOR

*Your supernatural advantage for a successful life*

JOSEPH PRINCE

## CHAPTER 3

# BECOMING SAFE FOR SUCCESS

**A**s much as we are interested in the Jesus-kind of results in our lives, it is of equal importance that we desire the Jesus-kind of success. God does not want us to have success that will crush us. I am sure that you have heard many stories of people who receive a sudden windfall when they come into a large inheritance or strike the first prize in a lottery. However, for some of these people, the sudden wealth did not give them a better life. Instead, in many instances, we know that it corrupted and destroyed their life.

Often, these people were not able to handle their so-called success, and ended up leaving their wives and allowing their families to break down before their eyes. Perhaps they bought all sorts of things and lived in huge houses. Yet, they still felt a chronic sense of loneliness, emptiness and dissatisfaction. The sad reality is that many of those who chanced upon such sudden wealth squandered it all away, and some even became bankrupt. Such results are clearly not the Jesus-kind of results, nor are they the Jesus-kind of success. Let me make it clear from the onset: God has no problem with you having money, but He does not want money to have you!

*"But Pastor Prince, how can you say that God has no problem with us having money? Doesn't the Bible say that money is the root of all evil?"*

Hold on a minute, that's not in the Bible. Let's be scripturally accurate. What the Bible says is this: "For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil..." (1 Timothy 6:10) Can you see the difference? Having money does not make you evil. It is the obsession with and intense love of money that lead to all kinds of evil. Just because a person has no money in his pocket does not mean that he is holy. He may well be thinking, dreaming and lusting after money all day long. You don't need to have a lot of money to have the love of money. If a person is always purchasing lottery tickets, going to the casinos and gambling in the stock market, this person clearly has a love for money. He is obsessed with getting more money.

*He wants to bless you so that you can be a blessing!*

When God called Abraham, He said to him, "...I will bless you ...and you shall be a blessing." (Genesis 12:2) You and I, who are new covenant believers in Christ, are called the seed of Abraham, (Galatians 3:29), and like Abraham, we are called to be a blessing. Now, how can we be a blessing if we are not blessed in the first place? How can we be a blessing to others when we are always flat on our backs with sickness, living from hand to mouth, never having enough for our own family and always having to borrow from others? No way, my friend. God wants you healthy and strong, and He wants you to

have more than enough financial resources so that you can be generous with your relatives, friends, community or anyone who needs help. How can you be in a position to help others if you need all the help you can get yourself? It's definitely not God's best for you if you barely have enough for yourself. He wants to bless you so that you can be a blessing!

## The Gospel Of Jesus Christ Brings Supernatural Healing And Provision

*"Oh, Pastor Prince, now I know that you are one of those health and wealth, prosperity gospel preachers!"*

There is no such thing as a "prosperity gospel." There is only one gospel and that is the gospel of Jesus Christ. Through Jesus' finished work on the cross, you can depend on Him for His resurrection life to pulsate and flow in your physical body from the crown of your head to the soles of your feet. Sickneses and diseases are not from God. On the cross, Jesus bore not just our sins, but also our sicknesses, diseases and infirmities, and "by His stripes we are healed!" (Isaiah 53:4)

That's not all, my friend. On the cross, Jesus bore the curse of poverty! This is what the Word of God declares: "For you know the grace [unmerited favor] of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich." (2 Corinthians 8:9) Read 2 Corinthians 8 for yourself The entire chapter is about money and being a blessing financially to those who are in need. So don't let anyone tell you that the verse is referring to "spiritual" riches.

One of the things that I always remind my church is this: Always read a verse in its context because when you take the "text" out of its "context," it becomes a con! Don't let anyone con you out of God's blessings in your life. Let me ask you again: How can you be a blessing to anyone when you are always sick and always borrowing from one person to repay another? My friend, it is the devil who wants you sick and poor, but the God I know has paid a heavy price to redeem you from the curse of sickness and poverty!

Let's understand how God deals with us from the point of relationship. As a parent, how would you teach your child character and patience? With sicknesses and diseases? Of course not! There are institutions where we put such parents! Again, as a parent, how would you teach your child humility? By cursing your child with poverty for the rest of his life? No way! Now, isn't it amazing how everything becomes crystal clear when we start thinking from the point of view of a parent, and put our own children in the picture?

When you start to think along the lines of relationship, everything will converge and you will begin to see things from God's perspective. He is our Father who operates on the frequency of relationship, and through His unmerited favor in our lives, we learn character, patience and humility as we rest from our self-efforts and depend on Him. The more we know our

Father, the more we become like Him. This is how God causes us to grow from glory to glory in every area of our lives. It is simply by beholding Him! (2 Corinthians 3:18)

You know that as parents, we always seek the best things for our children. How much more would our Father in heaven want the best things for us, His precious children? In the same way that you want your children to be healthy, God wants you to enjoy His divine health. And in the same way that you want your children to always have more than enough, God wants you to enjoy His supernatural provision. When He provides, get ready for a net-breaking, boat-sinking load. (Luke 5:6-7) Get ready for 12 baskets full of leftovers! (John 6:13) The Bible puts things in perspective most clearly in Matthew 7:11—if you then, as imperfect parents "know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!"

*In the same way that you want your children to always have more than enough, God wants you to enjoy His supernatural provision.*

Now, take a walk with me to the intensive care unit of any hospital. Look at the people there gasping to draw their next breath and groaning in anguish despite the painkillers being pumped into their ravaged bodies. Look at the inconsolable woman, who has just lost her husband, crying hysterically in the corridor. Then, look me in the eye and tell me that you really think that this is the work of our loving Father.

Then, walk with me through the malaria-infested streets of any slum, and look at the children scavenging through mounds of rubbish and gratefully eating any scrap of discarded food that they can find. Look at the young girls forced into prostitution and the scarred bodies of desperate parents who had no choice but to sell their organs to make ends meet. Then, look me in the eye again, and tell me that you believe poverty is from our Father.

Come on! Even the world has more common sense than some Christians! Look at what people like Bill and Melinda Gates, Warren Buffett and Bono are doing. They are using their fame, resources and time to fight against sickness and poverty. And here, we have believers who are completely blinded by legalistic beliefs, telling us that sickness and poverty are from God. I hope that you are beginning to see how warped and embarrassing this is.

*God is not against you having money and material things. He is against money and things having you.*

My friend, get this right: God abhors sickness and He loathes poverty. He gave everything He had to annihilate sickness and poverty when He gave us His only Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for us. He placed all of humanity's sin, as well as the curse of sickness and poverty on the body of Jesus. Right now, humanity only has to respond to Jesus' finished work, and

their sins will be forgiven, their physical bodies will be healed and their poverty will indeed be history!

God wants you to be blessed spirit, soul and body. He is not against you having money and material things. But let me make it clear: He is against money and things having you. I often tell my church this: Use money and love people. Don't love money and use people. God wants you and your family completely blessed and having more than enough to be a blessing. But at the same time, He wants to be sure that success will not destroy you and cause your family to disintegrate. To be safe for success, keep your heart ablaze with passion for Jesus and His presence, rather than on empty materialistic things.

### Safe For Success-Keep Your Eyes On Jesus

The Word of God says, "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." (Matthew 6:33) Now, what is the kingdom of God? The apostle Paul tells us in Romans 14:17 that the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but "righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit."

When you keep your eyes fixed on Jesus and pursue the kingdom of God, which is Jesus' righteousness, His peace and His joy, God's Word promises that "all these things" will be added to you. "These things" refer to what you will eat, drink and wear. Jesus tells us that you do not have to be consumed by these concerns. If your Father feeds even the birds of the air, even though they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, how much more will He take care of you, who are of much more value to Him than the birds! (Matthew 6:25-32)

Beloved, just keep your eyes on Jesus and His finished work on the cross. Not only will He add the things that you need in this life to you, He will also cause you to become safe for success. Now, turn with me to the Book of Jeremiah to see what the Lord says about having riches, wisdom and might.

"Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord who exercises lovingkindness, justice, and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things," declares the Lord.—JEREMIAH 9:23-24,

NAS

Let us be a people who will not depend on our own wisdom, might and riches (in summary, our own merits), but rather, let our boasting (dependence) be in understanding and knowing Jesus. Know that He is gracious and full of unmerited favor toward us. Know that He executes justice against all injustices. Know that He Himself is righteousness and He

clothes us with His robes of righteousness. The more you focus on beholding Jesus in all His loveliness and the less you struggle to earn things by your own merits, the more you become safe for greater success in your life.

*The more you focus on beholding Jesus in all His loveliness and the less you struggle to earn things by your own merits, the more you become safe for greater success in your life.*

Let's continue our study on the life of Joseph. There are still many precious gems hidden in his life that we have not touched on, and I want you to see what it means when a man is safe for success. In the previous chapter, we saw how the Lord's manifested presence in his life made all that Joseph did to prosper. The results that Joseph produced were so spectacular that even Potiphar, an unbeliever with no spiritual discernment, could visibly see that the Lord was with Joseph. Potiphar was no fool. When he saw that whatever Joseph touched flourished in his hand, Joseph "found favor in his sight" and Potiphar quickly promoted Joseph to become the overseer of his house, putting "all that he had" under Joseph's authority. Then, the Bible records that the Lord blessed Potiphar's house "for Joseph's sake," and the blessing of the Lord was on all that Potiphar had in the house and in the field. (Genesis 39:4-5)

My friend, the unmerited favor that you have with the Lord will overflow and lead to favor with the people around you. In your career, when Jesus causes everything that your hand touches to prosper, you will receive favor from your boss, and that will lead to accelerated increase and promotion. Believe that because *you*, child of God, are in the organization, your organization will thrive and be blessed. The Lord will bless the organization that you are in for your sake.

### The Difference Between God's Unmerited Favor And Favoritism

We have seen that Joseph was a successful man because the Lord was with him, and because he depended on unmerited favor from God. It is also important for you to recognize that there is a significant difference between God's unmerited favor and favoritism.

God's unmerited favor is based entirely on Jesus' merit, and we received it through His finished work at the cross. We did nothing to deserve His favor. It is completely unmerited. Favoritism, however, stinks of self-effort. Individuals who rely on favoritism for promotion have to resort to apple polishing, office politics, manipulative tactics, backstabbing and all kinds of compromises just to get what they want. They use all their efforts to open doors for themselves, and in the process, they lose themselves.

God has a higher and better way for you. It hurts Him to see His own precious children groveling like sycophants just to get ahead in life. If a door closes, so be it! Believe with full confidence that God has a better way

for you. You do *not* have to depend on favoritism to keep opportunities open for yourself when you have God's unmerited favor on your side!

That was how Joseph operated. He depended on the Lord for his success, and not on favoritism, which would have required him to compromise his beliefs. When Potiphar's wife kept trying to seduce Joseph to sleep with her, Joseph stood his ground on the firm foundation of unmerited favor. By the way, I believe that Joseph faced a real temptation. Don't forget that Potiphar was a high-ranking officer. He was the captain of the guard, and a man of position, influence and wealth. As a man of the world, he would not have married an ugly woman for her inner beauty and would certainly not have married an 80-year-old grandmother! He would definitely have chosen a young, beautiful woman to be his wife, and she was possibly one of the most beautiful women in the land.

So there is no doubt that she was a real temptation to Joseph, and that is why Joseph had to run! This woman didn't just tempt Joseph once. The Bible tells us that "she spoke to Joseph day by day," enticing him to lie with her. (Genesis 39:10) But Joseph refused, saying, "There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he [Potiphar] kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" (Genesis 39:9)

From his words, it is clear that Joseph knew the source of his success, favor and blessings. He did not see giving in to Potiphar's wife as a great wickedness and sin against *Potiphar* alone, but against *God* too. He knew that every blessing that he had experienced was a result of the Lord's favor on him. He knew that it was not Potiphar who promoted him from a lowly slave to become the overseer of Potiphar's entire estate. It was the Lord!

### Have A Living Relationship With Jesus And Walk In His Ways

Now, this is really beautiful. People sometimes ask me, "Pastor Prince, if you don't teach the Ten Commandments to your church, what is going to govern them?" My friend, the Lord Himself will govern them! Look at the life of Joseph. He lived many years before the Ten Commandments were given to Moses on Mount Sinai. Yet, he could look at Potiphar's beautiful wife, who was throwing herself at him, and say, "How...can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?"

All this took place long before there was a commandment that said, "Thou shalt not commit adultery." (Exodus 20:14 NIV) The question is, who taught Joseph? Who taught him that adultery was a great wickedness against God? Think about it. He was a young, red-blooded man who was far away from home, and he knew that sleeping with Potiphar's wife would have given him many other perks, if he wanted to depend on favoritism. He could have been bitter with God and with his brothers, who had betrayed him. He could have

chosen to take full advantage of the situation that was presenting itself to him, since it appeared as if he had been abandoned by the only people that he cared about. Nobody was around and nobody would know. But guess what? Joseph had a relationship with God. He had a relationship with the King of kings. He knew that the Lord was with him every step of the way and that the Lord had not forsaken him.

***Knowing that Jesus is your success makes you safe for success!***

You see, we cannot have a relationship with the law, with two cold tablets of stone, but we can have a living relationship with Jesus, and He will put His laws upon our minds and write them on our hearts, (Hebrews 8:10 causing us to walk in His ways that lead to life. Joseph had no Ten Commandments governing him. All he had was a living relationship with the Lord. He knew that Jesus was His success, and that made him safe for success!

### **HOMEWORK:**

1. Review recently on chapter 2: What are the 'Jesus-kind of results' in your life?
2. Y N NS: Are you interesting in the 'Jesus-kind of results'?
3. Can you describe what are **not** the 'Jesus-kind of results with the 'Jesus-kind of success'?
4. From the onset (beginning): "God has no problem with you having money, but He does not want money to have you!" or "God is not against you having money and material things. He is against money and things having you." Discuss and explain what does 'quote' means to you?

**1 Timothy 6:10 VOC:** "For the love of money—and what it can buy—it the root of all sorts of evil. Some already have wandered away from the true faith because they craved what it had to offer; but when reaching for the prize, they found their hands and hearts pierced with many sorrows."

5. T F: Having money does make you evil.
6. It (having money) is the \_\_\_\_\_ with and \_\_\_\_\_ love of money that lead to all kinds of evil.

7. Y N NS: Does God want to bless you so that you can be a blessing?
8. Name a first person God called and said, "I will bless you and you shall be a blessing"? \_\_\_\_\_

**Galatians 3:29 ERV says, "You belong to Christ, so you are Abraham's descendants (family). You get all of God's blessings because of the promise that God made to Abraham."**

9. Y N NS: Are you a new covenant believer in Christ, are called the seed (family) of Abraham?

**Galatians 3:14 ERV says, "Because of what Jesus Christ did, the blessing God promised to Abraham was given to all people. Christ died so that by believing in Him we could have the Holy Spirit that God promise."**

10. Y N NS: Are you called to be a blessing?
11. Name two things the Gospel of Jesus brings?
12. T F: Sickneses and diseases come from God.

13. Next time when you not feel good, what should you do? Turn away from your symptom and focus on Jesus Christ and His finished work on the Cross, start to say, I believe and trust in Him for His resurrection life (power) to \_\_\_\_\_ (to vibrate, quiver) and \_\_\_\_\_ into your physical body from the crown (top) of your head to the soles (bottom) of your feet.

14. Y N NS: On the cross, Jesus bore (carried) your sins?
15. Y N NS: On the cross, Jesus bore your sicknesses, diseases and infirmities (weaknesses)?
16. Y N NS: On the cross, Jesus bore the curse of poverty?

**2 Corinthians 8:9 TLB says, "You know how full of love and kindness our Lord Jesus was: though He was so very rich, yet to help you He became so very poor, so that by being poor He could make you rich."**

17. Joseph Prince said, "Always read a verse in its context because when you take the 'text' out of its 'context', it become a \_\_\_\_\_ (to swindle, trick)! Don't let anyone ' \_\_\_\_\_ ' (to swindle or trick) you out of God's blessings in your life.
18. Who wants you sick and poor? \_\_\_\_\_
19. Who has paid a heavy price to redeem you from the curse of sickness and poverty? \_\_\_\_\_
20. Y N NS: Does God want you to enjoy His divine health?

21. Y N NS: Does God want you to enjoy His supernatural provision?
22. We have believers who are completely blinded by \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, telling us that sickness and poverty are from God.
23. T F: God loves sickness and poverty!
24. God gave everything He had to \_\_\_\_\_ sickness and poverty when He gave us His only Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the Cross for us.
- ☞ God placed all of humanity's sin, as well as the curse of sickness and poverty on what? \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☞ Who only has to respond to Jesus' finished work, and whose sins will be forgiven, whose physical body will be healed and whose poverty will indeed be history (finished)? \_\_\_\_\_
  - ☞ Name three substances God wants you to be blessed?
25. God wants to be sure that success will \_\_\_\_\_ destroy you and cause your family to \_\_\_\_\_ (to break up).
- ☞ God wants (you) to be \_\_\_\_\_ for success,
    - keep your heart ablaze and passion for \_\_\_\_\_ and His \_\_\_\_\_, rather than on empty materialistic things.
26. "SAFE FOR SUCCESS" means what?
- ☞ When you keep your eyes fixed on Jesus and pursue the Kingdom of God, which is Jesus' righteousness, His peace, and His joy, God's Word promises that "all these things" will be \_\_\_\_\_ to you.
  - ☞ What are 'all these things' refer to?
  - ☞ Y N NS: Do you trust God who takes care of you?
  - ☞ Keep your eyes on Jesus and His finished work on the Cross, He also will cause you to become \_\_\_\_\_ for success.
27. Relate with Jeremiah 9:23-24,
- ☞ Choice:
    - you depend on your own wisdom, might, and riches
    - or
    - your boasting (depending) be in understanding and knowing Jesus
  - ☞ You \_\_\_\_\_ that God is gracious and full of unmerited favor toward you.
  - ☞ You \_\_\_\_\_ that God executes justice against all injustices.

- ☞ You \_\_\_\_\_ that God Himself is righteousness and His clothes you with His robes of righteousness.
- ☞ The more you \_\_\_\_\_ on beholding Jesus in all His loveliness and the \_\_\_\_\_ you struggle to earn things by your own merits, the \_\_\_\_\_ you become safe for greater success in your life.

### THE LIFE OF JOSEPH, THE SON OF JACOB:

28. In previous chapter, we saw how the Lord's manifested presence in Joseph's life made all that Joseph did to prosper. The results that Joseph produced were so spectacular (given to an impressive, large-scale display) that even Potiphar, a believer with spiritual discernment or an unbeliever with no spiritual discernment, could visibly \_\_\_\_\_ that the Lord was with Joseph.

- ☞ When Potiphar saw that whatever Joseph touched \_\_\_\_\_ in his hand, Joseph "found favor in his (God's or Potiphar's) sight" and Potiphar quickly \_\_\_\_\_ Joseph to become the overseer of his house, putting "all that he (God's or Potiphar's) had" under Joseph's authority.
- ☞ Interesting: The Lord blessed Potiphar's house (a believer or an unbeliever) for Joseph's sake, and the blessing of the Lord was on few or some or all that Potiphar had in the house and in the field.

### DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GOD'S UNMERITED FAVOR & FAVORITISM:

29. God's Unmerited Favor is based entirely (100%) on who?

- ☞ You received God's Unmerited Favor through what?
- ☞ **CHOICE:** You did to deserve or You did nothing to deserve His favor.
- ☞ His favor is completely: merited or unmerited

30. Favoritism, HOWEVER, stinks of what? \_\_\_\_\_

- ☞ Individuals who rely on favoritism for promotion have to resort (to go) to:
  - \_\_\_\_\_,
  - \_\_\_\_\_,
  - \_\_\_\_\_,
  - \_\_\_\_\_ and all kinds of \_\_\_\_\_
    - just to get what they \_\_\_\_\_.
    - They use all their \_\_\_\_\_ to open doors for themselves, and in the process, they \_\_\_\_\_ themselves.

31. Y N NS: Has God a higher and better way for you?
32. If a door closes, \_\_\_\_\_! You believe with \_\_\_\_\_ confidence that God has a better way for you.
33. You **do** or **do not** have to depend on favoritism to keep opportunities open for yourself when you **have** or **have not** God's unmerited favor on your side!
34. That was how Joseph operated: for his success Joseph depended on:  
a) favoritism b) the Lord c) both d) ?
35. Which would have required Joseph to compromise his \_\_\_\_\_, Joseph stood his ground on the firm foundation of unmerited favor, when he faced a what? \_\_\_\_\_
36. T F: Joseph lived many years after the 10 Commandments were given to Moses on Mount Sinai.
37. You have a relationship with:  
a) Jesus who puts His laws upon your minds and write them on your heart, causing you to walk in His ways that lead to \_\_\_\_\_.
- OR**
- b) the law, with two cold tablets of stone, causing you to walk in its ways that lead to \_\_\_\_\_. (see 2 Corinthians 3:6-7)
38. Y N NS: Do you have a relationship with your King of kings and know that Jesus is the Lord who is with you every step of way and you know that Jesus had not forsaken you?

**PRAY DAILY:** Father, Thank You for wanting to bless me with more than enough, so that I can be a blessing to others, especially those in need. Give me 'the Jesus-kind of success' that will not crush me, but be a testimony of Your goodness and grace. I thank You that You can and want to promote me beyond my educational qualifications, natural abilities and work experience. As You only want me to have good success, I ask that You open door of opportunities that are good for me and shut those doors that are bad for me. Help me to always keep my eyes on Jesus so that promotions and success do not get the better of me. Father, make me safe for greater success. I want to know more about the loveliness of Jesus and the perfection of Your love for me, so that I will learn not to depend on my wisdom and power, but to depend on Jesus and Jesus alone. Please give me a greater revelation of Jesus' righteousness, peace, and joy that will help guard my heart from worry and fears and make me safe for greater success in Jesus' name. Amen.