

"Spiritual Success"

Dear friend,

Let me share with you something I learned long ago. Spiritual success is different from the world's idea of success. God's goal is that we be spiritually successful, but sometimes we are too busy pursuing our own personal goals to notice we may be climbing the world's ladder of success rather than God's.

It is hard for us to accurately evaluate spiritual success because early evidence is easier to see. From a human perspective, Jesus could have seemed like a failure. He did not change the culture for the better by erasing poverty, slavery, and injustice. He ended His life with only a small group of followers and many enemies. But in His Father's eyes, Jesus' ministry was a complete success because He fully obeyed the will of the Father, even to the point of death on the cross.

You don't have to feel like a failure simply because you aren't measuring up to the culture's standards of success. Christians live according to divine standards and divine truths.

If you want to live a truly successful life, read Psalm 1, it explains God's path to a fruitful life. Watch for these three things as you read.

- 1) The Psalmist gives a warning in verse 1:

"Blessed *is* the man
Who walks not in the counsel of the ^(a)ungodly,
Nor stands in the path of sinners,
Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;"

The content is of increasing toleration and comfort with sin. The downward slide begins by listening to ungodly ideas and counsel. Many appear very successful, but ultimately without Christ all their achievements will be blown away like chaff when they stand before God. (Psalm 1:4)

- 2) The Lord calls His people to a higher path in verse 2:
"But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD,
And in His law he ^{is}meditates day and night."

Genuine success is determined by our attitude toward scripture. One of the best ways to know the Lord is through His word. Let God's word shape your thinking, attitude, emotions, words, and actions.

- 3) The result of staying on God's path is a fruitful life. (Verse 3)
"He shall be like a tree
Planted by the ^{is}rivers of water,
That brings forth its fruit in its season,
Whose leaf also shall not wither;
And whatever he does shall prosper."

The picture is that of a stable life that stands firm in times of adversity because it's deeply rooted in biblical truth and is sustained by Christ. So, stand firm in God's word and you will have a productive and prosperous outcome in all that you do. The Lord will stand by His word in Psalm 1.

In His Service,

Pastor Mike
Proverbs 3:5-6