

Achieving Success in Business by THE Book

(All Scripture is from the NIV ©1984 unless otherwise noted)

Introduction

Everybody has his or her own definition of what it means to be successful. As believers, we want to know what God means by success and follow His principles for achieving godly success.

Section 1 - Know the Word of God

We cannot honor, glorify or obey God if we don't know His Will. His Will and Word are one.

Joshua 1:8 Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

Proverbs 3:1-2

1 My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, 2 for they will prolong your life many years and bring you prosperity.

Section 2 - Put God first

We put God first by putting His Word first. Ps 138:2 says "you have exalted above all things your name and your word." We must do the same!

Deut 8:18 But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today.

Job 22:21-30

21 "Submit to God and be at peace with him; in this way prosperity will come to you.

Proverbs 3:3-4

3 Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. 4 Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.

Proverbs 3:5-6

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

Proverbs 16:3 Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.

Proverbs 21:3 To do what is right and just is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice.

Proverbs 21:21 He who pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity and honor.

Proverbs 28:25 A greedy man stirs up dissension, but he who trusts in the LORD will prosper.

Proverbs 29:25 Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

13 Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his

commandments, for this is the whole of man. 14 For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

Jer 29:11-13

11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. 12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. 13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

Matthew 6:33-34

33 But **seek first his kingdom and his righteousness**, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Matthew 16:24-27

24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 25 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. 26 What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? 27 For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done.

Matthew 20:26-28

26 Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever wants to be first must be your slave-- 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Matthew 23:11-12

11 The greatest among you will be your servant. 12 For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

Section 3 - Work hard

Sorry but there is no way around this one!

Proverbs 10:4 Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth.

Proverbs 10:5 He who gathers crops in summer is a wise son, but he who sleeps during harvest is a disgraceful son.

Proverbs 12:11 He who works his land will have abundant food, but he who chases fantasies lacks judgment. (This verse also speaks of sowing and reaping).

Proverbs 12:24 Diligent hands will rule, but laziness ends in slave labor.

Proverbs 12:27 The lazy man does not roast his game, but the diligent man prizes his possessions.

Proverbs 13:11 Dishonest money dwindles away, but he who gathers money little by little makes it grow.

Proverbs 14:23 All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty.

Proverbs 16:26 The laborer's appetite works for him; his hunger drives him on.

Proverbs 18:9 One who is slack in his work is brother to one who destroys.

Proverbs 20:4 A sluggard does not plow in season; so at harvest time he looks but finds nothing.

Proverbs 20:17 Food gained by fraud tastes sweet to a man, but he ends up with a mouth full of gravel.

Proverbs 21:25 The sluggard's craving will be the death of him, because his hands refuse to work.

Proverbs 27:7 He who is full loathes honey, but to the hungry even what is bitter tastes sweet.

Proverbs 27:18 He who tends a fig tree will eat its fruit, and he who looks after his master will be honored.

Proverbs 27:23-24

23 Be sure you know the condition of your flocks, give careful attention to your herds; 24 for riches do not endure forever, and a crown is not secure for all generations.

Proverbs 28:19 He who works his land will have abundant food, but the one who chases fantasies will have his fill of poverty.

Ecclesiastes 10:10 If the ax is dull and its edge unsharpened, more strength is needed but skill will bring success.

Ecclesiastes 10:18 If a man is lazy, the rafters sag; if his hands are idle, the house leaks.

Section 4 - The power of words

Proverbs 10:19 When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise.

Proverbs 11:9 With his mouth the godless destroys his neighbor, but through knowledge the righteous escape.

Proverbs 11:12 A man who lacks judgment derides his neighbor, but a man of understanding holds his tongue.

Proverbs 12:13 An evil man is trapped by his sinful talk, but a righteous man escapes trouble.

Proverbs 12:14 From the fruit of his lips a man is filled with good things as surely as the work of his hands rewards him.

Proverbs 12:18 Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

Proverbs 12:25 An anxious heart weighs a man down, but a kind word cheers him up.

Proverbs 13:3 He who guards his lips guards his life, but he who speaks rashly will come to ruin.

Proverbs 15:1 A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

Proverbs 15:23 A man finds joy in giving an apt reply-- and how good is a timely word!

Proverbs 15:30 A cheerful look brings joy to the heart, and good news gives health to the bones.

Proverbs 16:21 The wise in heart are called discerning, and pleasant words promote instruction.

Proverbs 17:27 A man of knowledge uses words with restraint, and a man of understanding is even-tempered.

Proverbs 17:28 Even a fool is thought wise if he keeps silent, and discerning if he holds his tongue.

Proverbs 18:21 The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

Proverbs 20:15 Gold there is, and rubies in abundance, but lips that speak knowledge are a rare jewel.

Proverbs 21:23 He who guards his mouth and his tongue keeps himself from calamity.

Proverbs 25:11 A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver.

Proverbs 25:15 Through patience a ruler can be persuaded, and a gentle tongue can break a bone.

Proverbs 25:23 As a north wind brings rain, so a sly tongue brings angry looks.

Proverbs 25:25 Like cold water to a weary soul is good news from a distant land.

Proverbs 26:28 A lying tongue hates those it hurts, and a flattering mouth works ruin.

Proverbs 27:5 Better is open rebuke than hidden love.

Proverbs 27:14 If a man loudly blesses his neighbor early in the morning, it will be taken as a curse.

Proverbs 29:5 Whoever flatters his neighbor is spreading a net for his feet.

Ecclesiastes 7:21-22

21 Do not pay attention to every word people say, or you may hear your servant cursing you--
22 for you know in your heart that many times you yourself have cursed others.

Section 5 - Sowing and Reaping

Proverbs 11:18 The wicked man earns deceptive wages, but he who sows righteousness reaps a sure reward.

Ecclesiastes 11:1 Cast your bread upon the waters, for after many days you will find it again.

Ecclesiastes 11:4 Whoever watches the wind will not plant; whoever looks at the clouds will not reap.

Ecclesiastes 11:6 Sow your seed in the morning, and at evening let not your hands be idle, for you do not know which will succeed, whether this or that, or whether both will do equally well.

2 Cor 9:6-11

6 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 7 Each man should give what he has decided in his heart

to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. 9 As it is written: "He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." 10 Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. 11 You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

Gal 6:7-9

7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. 8 The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. 9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

Section 6 - Generosity

Proverbs 11:24 One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. (This verse also speaks of sowing and reaping).

Proverbs 11:17 A kind man benefits himself, but a cruel man brings trouble on himself.

Proverbs 11:25 A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.

Proverbs 14:31 He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God.

Proverbs 28:22 A stingy man is eager to get rich and is unaware that poverty awaits him.

Proverbs 28:27 He who gives to the poor will lack nothing, but he who closes his eyes to them receives many curses.

Section 7 - Discipline

Proverbs 11:2 When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.

Proverbs 12:1 Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates correction is stupid.

Proverbs 13:10 Pride only breeds quarrels, but wisdom is found in those who take advice.

Proverbs 13:13 He who scorns instruction will pay for it, but he who respects a command is rewarded.

Proverbs 13:18 He who ignores discipline comes to poverty and shame, but whoever heeds correction is honored.

Proverbs 14:8 The wisdom of the prudent is to give thought to their ways, but the folly of fools is deception.

Proverbs 15:5 A fool spurns his father's discipline, but whoever heeds correction shows prudence.

Proverbs 15:22 Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.

Proverbs 15:31 He who listens to a life-giving rebuke will be at home among the wise.

Proverbs 15:32 He who ignores discipline despises himself, but whoever heeds correction gains understanding.

Proverbs 15:33 The fear of the LORD teaches a man wisdom, and humility comes before honor.

Proverbs 16:18 Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.

Proverbs 16:32 Better a patient man than a warrior, a man who controls his temper than one who takes a city.

Proverbs 17:10 A rebuke impresses a man of discernment more than a hundred lashes a fool.

Proverbs 17:16 Of what use is money in the hand of a fool, since he has no desire to get wisdom?

Proverbs 17:24 A discerning man keeps wisdom in view, but a fool's eyes wander to the ends of the earth.

Proverbs 18:2 A fool finds no pleasure in understanding but delights in airing his own opinions.

Proverbs 18:13 He who answers before listening-- that is his folly and his shame.

Proverbs 19:2 It is not good to have zeal without knowledge, nor to be hasty and miss the way.

Proverbs 19:8 He who gets wisdom loves his own soul; he who cherishes understanding prospers.

Proverbs 19:16 He who obeys instructions guards his life, but he who is contemptuous of his ways will die.

Proverbs 19:20 Listen to advice and accept instruction, and in the end you will be wise.

Proverbs 19:27 Stop listening to instruction, my son, and you will stray from the words of knowledge.

Proverbs 21:5 The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty.

Proverbs 25:4 Remove the dross from the silver, and out comes material for the silversmith;

Proverbs 26:10 Like an archer who wounds at random is he who hires a fool or any passer-by.

Proverbs 27:6 Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.

Proverbs 27:12 The prudent see danger and take refuge, but the simple keep going and suffer for it.

Proverbs 27:17 As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.

Proverbs 28:23 He who rebukes a man will in the end gain more favor than he who has a flattering tongue.

Proverbs 28:26 He who trusts in himself is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom is kept safe.

Proverbs 29:1 A man who remains stiff-necked after many rebukes will suddenly be destroyed-- without remedy.

Proverbs 29:19 A servant cannot be corrected by mere words; though he understands, he will not respond.

Ecclesiastes 4:13 Better a poor but wise youth than an old but foolish king who no longer knows how to take warning.

Heb 12:11-13

11 No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. 12 Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. 13 "Make level paths for your feet," so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed.

Section 8 - Self-control

Proverbs 12:16 A fool shows his annoyance at once, but a prudent man overlooks an insult.

Proverbs 19:11 A man's wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense.

Proverbs 21:17 He who loves pleasure will become poor; whoever loves wine and oil will never be rich.

Proverbs 25:17 Seldom set foot in your neighbor's house-- too much of you, and he will hate you.

Proverbs 25:28 Like a city whose walls are broken down is a man who lacks self-control.

Proverbs 28:20 A faithful man will be richly blessed, but one eager to get rich will not go unpunished.

Proverbs 29:11 A fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise man keeps himself under control.

Proverbs 29:20 Do you see a man who speaks in haste? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

Ecclesiastes 10:4 If a ruler's anger rises against you, do not leave your post; calmness can lay great errors to rest.

Gal 5:22-23

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Section 9 - Honesty

Proverbs 21:6 A fortune made by a lying tongue is a fleeting vapor and a deadly snare.

Isa 33:15-17

15 He who walks righteously and speaks what is right, who rejects gain from extortion and keeps his hand from accepting bribes, who stops his ears against plots of murder and shuts his eyes against contemplating evil-- 16 this is the man who will dwell on the heights, whose refuge will be the mountain fortress. His bread will be supplied, and water will not fail him. 17 Your eyes will see the king in his beauty and view a land that stretches afar.

2 Cor 8:21 For we are taking pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of men.

Section 10 - Partnership

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

9 Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: 10 If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!

Section 11 - Don't love money

Ecclesiastes 5:10 Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless.

Ecclesiastes 5:15 Naked a man comes from his mother's womb, and as he comes, so he departs. He takes nothing from his labor that he can carry in his hand.

Ecclesiastes 10:19 A feast is made for laughter, and wine makes life merry, but money is the answer for everything.

Matthew 6:19-21

19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:24 "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.

1 Tim 6:10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

Heb 13:5 Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."