

SUCCESS ACCORDING TO GOD

(Joshua 1:1-9)

God's standard of success is contrary to the world's measure of success. Success according to the world is defined in terms of luxury, wealth, possessions, achievements, beauty, brains and prestige. But godly success is measured and defined differently by God. Success according to God is being what God wants us to be and doing what God wants us to do. Success is accomplishing God's goals and purposes for our life. Success is receiving the commendation of God at the end of our race, and not His condemnation. In sum, success is knowing and doing the will of God according to the Word of God for the glory of God. Reflecting on God's commission to His servant Joshua, let's consider the three divine requirements for godly success.

- 1. Success requires faithfully fulfilling our _____.**
God's commission to Joshua is given in the context of mourning the death of Israel's great leader Moses (Joshua 1:1-4). But Moses's death does not mean the end of God's plan for His people. The Lord has prepared and called Joshua to lead the nation of Israel to cross the Jordan, enter Canaan, defeat their enemies and occupy the land that God has promised them. God gave good success to Joshua because he faithfully fulfilled the assignment and mission that the Lord has entrusted to him. And the Lord requires the same faithfulness from each one of us (1 Cor. 4:2; John 4:34). God has called us to make a spiritual and eternal impact in the lives of other people by pointing them to Jesus and His gospel and helping them to be committed followers of Christ (Matt. 28:19-20).
 - 2. Success requires firm confidence in the _____.**
In light of the huge task and the difficult assignment given to Joshua, it will be easy for him to shrink in the face of the challenges and obstacles, to look down on himself and say to God, "I'm not up for this task." Hence, the Lord gave Joshua the most reassuring promise – the promise of His abiding presence: "Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you" (Joshua 1:5-6). In other words, it's the presence of the Lord in our lives which make us a success. When we have the abiding presence of God, we will certainly be victorious and triumphant (Matt. 28:20; Heb. 13:5-6). You and I are champions in Christ Jesus who loved us and gave Himself for us (Rom. 8:37).
 - 3. Success requires full devotion to the _____.**
Given the nature of Joshua's mission, it's interesting to note that God's further directives to him are not about military strategies. Instead, the Lord instructs Joshua to give primacy and priority to the Word of God (Joshua 1:7-9). Success or failure in his life and mission hinges upon his allegiance to the Word of God. That's why God charges Joshua to be fully devoted to God's Word by practicing it (Joshua 1:7; James 1:22,25); by proclaiming God's Word (Joshua 1:8; Col. 3:16); and by pondering upon God's Word (Joshua 1:8; Matt. 4:1-11).
-