



PLANNING FOR SUCCESS

Lesson 8 for
February 25, 2023



“And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ”

(Colossians 3:23-24)

Success is a relative concept. Modern societies tend to define success as the accumulation of money, fame, or power.

What is success for God? Let's find the answer to this question in Psalm 15.

True success is to become exemplary citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven. God has given us advice in the Bible to achieve this success. Sometimes worldly success is incompatible with it.



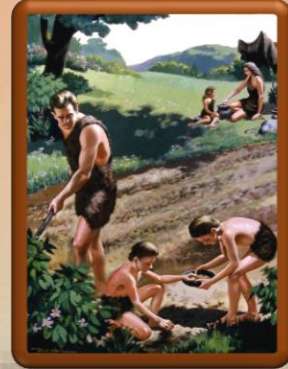
- ➡ **Planning for success**
- ➡ **A successful marriage**
- ➡ **Successful families**
- ➡ **Working successfully**
- ➡ **Advice on achieving success**

PLANNING FOR SUCCESS

"Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might;" (Ecclesiastes 9:10)



If you want to be successful in this life and be ready for eternal life, follow this piece of advice: don't stand idly by (Pr. 6:9-11; 13:4; 20:4).



Times of leisure and rest are necessary, but God made us to be active (Gn. 2:15). He didn't want us to be burdened by work, but to work joyfully.



Adults and young adults should work on something (either paid or not). Children and teenagers must develop their physical and mental skills by studying and learning.



Even the elderly are blessed when being active, according to their faculties.



A SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE

"Then Isaac called Jacob and blessed him, and charged him, and said to him: 'You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan.'" (Genesis 28:1)

"Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth" (Ecl. 12:1).



This is a very special piece of advice that can be applied to all the areas of our lives. That includes our education, and how we make a living to fulfill our basic needs like food, clothing, and a roof over our heads. It's also useful a when planning a marriage.



How should our Creator be involved when choosing a life partner?

First, imitate Him by caring more about the inside than the outside (1S. 16:7; Pr. 31:30). Also make sure you can share your whole life—including your spiritual life—with your partner (Ex. 34:15-16; Dt. 7:3-4; 2Co. 6:14).



SUCCESSFUL FAMILIES

"But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever." (1 Timothy 5:8)



In an ideal setting, the husband would be the main economic provider of the family. This way the wife can educate their children so that they become independent people eventually and they are ready to consciously accept eternal life.



The modern lifestyle or some exceptional circumstances may make sharing those responsibilities or swapping them a must. According to the Bible, every Christian family must take care of their children and...



**Provide them with
a Christian setting
at home**

**Teach them to have a
good attitude
towards work**

**Ensure that they
get a good
education**

“All should find something to do that will be beneficial to themselves and helpful to others. God appointed work as a blessing, and only the diligent worker finds the true glory and joy of life. The approval of God rests with loving assurance upon children and youth who cheerfully take their part in the duties of the household, sharing the burdens of father and mother. Such children will go out from the home to be useful members of society.”

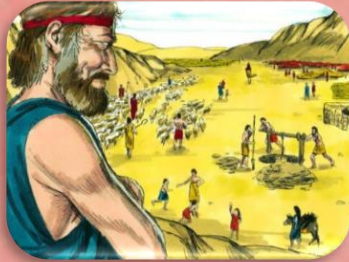
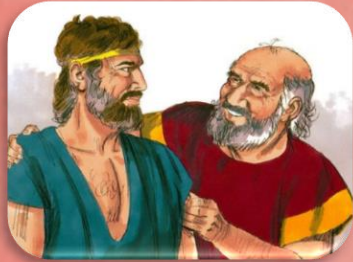
E. G. W. (The Desire of Ages, cp. 7, p. 72)



WORKING SUCCESSFULLY

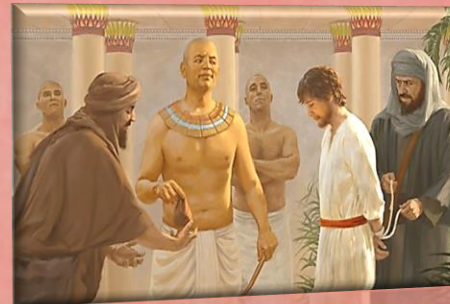
"And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men," (Colossians 3:23)

Paul advised us to always do our job well, "not only to win their favor when their eye is on you" (Eph. 6:6 NLT). We're called to work with integrity and to please God always, instead of pleasing our managers or clients before God (Col. 3:23).



Many employers will be blessed by upright workers, like Laban was blessed by Jacob's faithful work (Gn. 30:27).

Joseph's story is another example. He began as a low-level slave but became the manager of his master's house eventually. Potiphar appreciated the integrity of Joseph and God's blessings through him (Gn. 39:1-5).



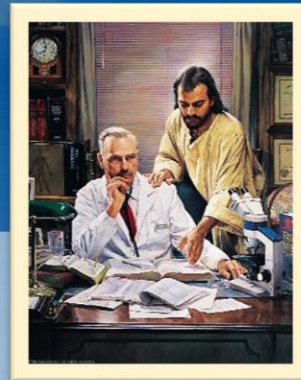
“There is honor in any class of work that is essential to be done. Let the law of God be made the standard of action, and it ennobles and sanctifies all labor. Faithfulness in the discharge of every duty makes the work noble, and reveals a character that God can approve.”

E. G. W. (Life Sketches of Ellen G. White, cp. 51, p. 353)

ADVICE ON ACHIEVING SUCCESS

"He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper."
(Psalm 1:3)

The main Biblical piece of advice on achieving success is to avoid evil and to make the law of God our delight (Ps. 1:1-2). Other pieces of advice in the Bible are:



Pr. 3:5. Don't lean on your own understanding but seek God's advice



Pr. 27:23-24. Keep track of your income and your expenses



Pr. 15:16. Live within your means, spend less than you earn



Pr. 6:6-8. Save part of your income



Pr. 22:7. Avoid debt like COVID-19



Pr. 13:4. Be a diligent worker



Mal. 3:10. Be faithful by giving back your tithe and offerings to God



Mt. 25:14-21. Keep eternal life in mind as you live this life

“Our business or calling is a part of God's great plan, and, so long as it is conducted in accordance with His will, He Himself is responsible for the results. ‘Laborers together with God’ (1 Corinthians 3:9), our part is faithful compliance with His directions. Thus there is no place for anxious care. Diligence, fidelity, caretaking, thrift, and discretion are called for. Every faculty is to be exercised to its highest capacity. But the dependence will be, not on the successful outcome of our efforts, but on the promise of God.”

E. G. W. (Education, cp. 15, p. 138)