

Success

Objectives

To learn what it means to be successful and about ways of achieving success through examples from Scripture.

References

- ❖ “I pray that you may prosper and be in health” by St. George church - Alexandria
- ❖ The Curriculum of the Youth Bishopric for high school

Scriptural Verse

- ❖ “Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers” (3 John 1: 2)

Lesson Outlines

What is Success?

- ❖ Success is everybody's wish and struggle to achieve in a specific loved field (study, money, beauty, etc. or spiritual achievement).
- ❖ Success is a temporary, peak experience, not a life style. Anyone can succeed if allowed to set the standard himself.
- ❖ True success leads to real happiness and everlasting peace: Joseph was a successful servant while Ahab the king was sad and couldn't sleep (1 Kings 21: 4).
- ❖ Success is overcoming all obstacles (Time, lusts, poverty...). It is the believer's way of life to break Satan's snares through the Cross of the Lord (Philippians 4: 13).
- ❖ Worldly success is about achievement but biblical success is about how to finish.
- ❖ Success is a gift of God to those who struggle and work hard (Nehemiah 2: 20).
- ❖ Success is the fruit of knowing the Lord and accepting Him a king in our hearts.

How did the men of God succeed?

- ❖ Lived by the verse: “The God of heaven, He will prosper us; therefore we His servants will arise and build” (Nehemiah 2: 20).
- ❖ Had faith in the word of God: Joshua obeyed and they turned around Jericho seven times and the walls of Jericho fell down – Moses said: The Lord will fight for you and you shall hold your peace and they crossed the sea (Exodus 14: 14).
- ❖ Lived under God's protection: The Lord was with Joseph and he was prosperous and his master saw that the Lord is with him and in all what he did God gave him success (Genesis 29: 2-3) and Saint Paul said: “If God is for us, who can be against us?” (Romans 8: 31).
- ❖ Felt the presence of God: Joseph said: “How can I do this great evil and sin to the Lord?” (Genesis 29:9) and Elijah said to the king: “As the Lord God of Israel lives, before whom I stand” (1 King 17:1).
- ❖ Loved even their enemies: Moses loved his brothers and said to the Lord: “Yet now, if You will forgive their sin, but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written.” (Exodus 32:32.); St. Stephen loved and prayed for his killers (Acts 7: 59-60).

- ❖ Were faithful to the end: St. John the Baptist was faithful to the truth knowing that it will cost him his life (Mathew 14: 3-5); David was very faithful to Saul despite Saul's hatred because he saw in him the anointed of the Lord.
- ❖ Had good relationship with others: Abraham found favor in front of the sons of Heth and they wanted to give him a land for free (Genesis 23: 5-6). Through Godly wisdom, Joseph was loved by everyone and also by the evil people who were imprisoned.
- ❖ Loved purity: this was the key of success in the life of Joseph. St. Paul said: "Flee sexual immorality" (1 Corinthians 6: 18) and David loved purity so he repented bitterly after his fall.
- ❖ Served others: Jesus said: "The Son of man did not come to be served, but to serve" (Matthew 20:28) and said after washing His disciples feet "I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you" (John 13:15).

How can we live a life of success?

- ❖ Feel the invitation of the Lord to live in light: "You are a chosen generation Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light" (1 Peter 2: 9).
- ❖ Love your brothers: "He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now" (1 John 2: 9).
- ❖ Have the Bible as your weapon: "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night...then you will have good success" (Josh. 1:8).
- ❖ Feel the friendship of the Lord: "I will dwell in them and walk among them" (2 Corinthians 6:16)
- ❖ Take your time to pray and think before acting. Do not rush decisions (Esther fasted 3 days before asking the king – her husband) and Nehemiah prayed before answering the King's question (Nehemiah 2: 4- 5).
- ❖ Repentance and confession is the door and entrance to success.
- ❖ Put a goal: Earthly goals do not satisfy but still are better than no goals. Jesus came to set the goal; He holds your hand, calms the storms and guides you to reach the goal.
- ❖ Set your goal beyond success: Keep your eyes on the Lord Jesus Christ and be faithful to the end. "God will deliver us... If not; we do not serve your gods" (Daniel 3: 17-18).

Conclusion

Success is good but our highest goal as Christians is Faithfulness "Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life" (Revelation 2: 10)

Mother Teresa was once asked if she ever became discouraged in her service. She replied "no, because Jesus called us to be faithful, not successful".

Activities/Discussion Points

1. Think of St. Paul as an example

Paul had an interesting perspective on success. He was among the social elite of his day, a Hebrew of Hebrews (Philippians 3: 5) then he met with the risen Christ and this meeting

redefined his goals. Fast-forward several years, Paul sits alone in a prison cell. **Was Paul a success?**

As a man who was given the best of everything; he was a testimony to wasted potential.

As a gifted preacher; his life was a tragedy of missed opportunity

Did Paul consider himself a failure? Not at all; Refer to (2 Corinthians 6: 8-10) and (2 Timothy 4: 7-8)

2. What is your life dream? What is your view of success? How will you know when you have finally made it in life?

Within the limits of our abilities, we can pursue almost any kind of success we want. But

- 1- Will the pursuit of success satisfy us?
- 2- Will it allow us to leave a meaningful mark on our world?
- 3- What is the guarantee that this success will not be a failure at the end?