

Our God Made Us Winners

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

A. What makes us successful?

1. Is it who one is, what one has, or how well one is known?
2. Or is it what he believes in and lives for and the price he is willing to pay for it?
3. Most people dream of becoming great at something in life. Some even desire it. Few who desire it pursue it; desire is proven by the pursuit. Of those who pursue it, very few do it lawfully; character is proven by the manner of the pursuit.
4. What few seem to understand is that God designed and equipped us to succeed at what is most important in life

I. FIVE FACTS FROM OUR CREATION

A. No one is created to be a failure - Gen. 1:26-28

1. It does not really matter what condition you are in now, or what the opinions of people are concerning you, you were not created to fail.
2. You may have failed a test before, or in business, or in relationship, but it does not make you a failure.
3. There is a difference between you and something that happened to you
4. Your present condition is not your final status; everyone has the same opportunity to change their lives and enter heaven as children of God

B. There is no such thing as luck - Ecc. 9:10-11

1. People who succeed do so, not by luck or by accident, but by putting to work the principles of success.
 - a. They believe in what they are doing - Faith
 - b. They invest time, money, and effort - Work
 - c. They waited for opportunities or fruition - Patience
 - d. They continued steadfastly in it - Persistence
 - e. God set up these rules in the Creation

C. No one can make you fail without your consent - Gal. 2:4-5

1. Blaming others will never take the place of success
2. It will never undo lost opportunity
3. It will never gain for one admission into heaven
4. Excuses have universally been known as the trademarks of failures. Instead of looking for someone to blame, take charge of your life.
5. No one can make you feel inferior without your permission, and no one can make you fail without your permission. To believe that someone has the power to determine the outcome of your life is a choice you make; it gives too much power to others.

D. Your desire to succeed is a proof that you can - Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10

1. It is not true that everyone wants to succeed, because if they really wanted to, they would.

2. Many surround themselves with a strong faith in their own mediocrity and ignorance, or take refuge in their limits and weaknesses, or build a barrier of imagined opposition and insurmountable obstacles - Phil. 4:13
- E. Success is not for those who wish it but those who work for it - James 1:22-24
 1. "If wishes were horses, beggars will ride." Life is not all about dreaming and wishful thinking
 2. Newton's first law of motion (inertia) states: "An object will remain at rest until a force is applied," so also will every life remain in the same state until they do something about it.
 3. If we don't move it, it won't change. No matter how powerful one's dream may be, he has to wake up and work to make it become a reality

II. GOD DESIGNED US TO SUCCEED

- A. God wants to bless us - Jer. 29:11; Psalm 35:27, 84:11, 115:14
- B. Jesus came to give abundant life, not abundant lack - John 10:10; 2Cor. 8:9
- C. God blesses us to facilitate our sharing the Gospel with the lost, and sharing blessings with the poor - Deut. 8:18; 2Cor. 8:15; Ex. 16:18; Prov. 19:17
- D. God wants us to honor Him through our success - Prov. 3:9-10; 1Peter 2:12

III. GOD'S MEASURES OF SUCCESS

- A. Do not let success go to your head - Deut. 8:10-18
- B. Understand that the greatest and only significant success is in the Lord
 1. Ecc. 12:13-14