

## Your thinking makes all the difference.

### Success and ambition

According to the world system success is determined by how quickly you make your way to the top.

- This success often comes at the high price of compromising your morality and integrity.
- Others may often have to pick up the tab for your progress. Dog-eat-dog processes of stepping on and climbing over whoever are in the way or on the way – chasing after the same goals you are.
- You may have experienced this as others make their way to the top and you pay the price for their ambitions.

GOD'S measure of success, however, is vastly different from the reality of the "rat-race". HE measures success at the way we make it to the top.

- The nature of our progress.
- Our ambassadorship (of CHRIST and our Heavenly home).

HE is interested in the small gestures of kindness and the joy we take in the promotions HE gives us and increase received by HIS Hand.

There is a huge difference between working harder and serving harder.

- Working harder means more hours at work = less hours with your family.
- Serving harder means to, like CHRIST, be completely committed to where you are when you are there. The Bible tells us to do all things as unto the LORD. See a need, meet a need is what HE is about.

Hebr.10:24 And let us consider and give attentive, continuous care to watching over one another, studying how we may stir up (stimulate and incite) to love and helpful deeds and noble activities.

Never underestimate your ability to help. Ever heard the expression "now all we can do is pray..."

- Prayer is the most powerful thing you can do for anyone.
- If you have no money to give to the poor, if you do not have a ministry to take them in, pray for them, but never only give money or only take people in. If you did these without prayer, you will not be successful at making a difference in people's lives – seeing them saved and worshipping the LORD with thanksgiving.
- Prayer on it's own is powerful; deeds on their own are not.

I have had the privilege of seeing GOD'S favour on people. I have experienced it on my own life over the past 15 years in ministry as well.

- I have seen promotion come by the Hand of GOD and I have seen "temporal" promotion come by the hand of man.
- It seems we have it all wrong. We get the principle of "making it happen" so wrong at times.
- The Bible tells us to make our salvation in the LORD with fear and trembling (being mindful of the LORD and HIS approval) and sometimes we think it means we must just "make our salvation" (any way we can).

- This does not mean that we have to passively sit and wait for things to happen, only that whatever we do we have to do it by the direction of the HOLY SPIRIT – GOD’S will HIS way.

Php 2:12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, cultivate your own salvation with fear and trembling.

When we dive deep into the LORD – to the place HE calls us to – we position ourselves in the place where HE pours out HIS favour upon us.

Psa 42:7 Deep calls to deep at the noise of YOUR waterfalls; all YOUR waves and YOUR billows have gone over me.

- HIS favour which is only poured out in the place of HIS perfect love, not the place of being ruthless, not the place of stepping over others, not the place of being so goal orientated that we don’t see the need of those around us but the place where we find balance – the place where we are all ministers of GOD 24/7.
- This is the place where we love and are kind to those around us. Where we instead of judging and criticizing we choose to believe the best of our loved-ones. Where we take time to listen and where we reach out to those GOD entrusted to us. This is that place where we hear the soft, still Voice of the HOLY SPIRIT saying “ this is the way, walk in it...”

Isa 30:21 And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, This is the way, walk in it, when you turn to the right hand and when you turn to the left.

What would our families look like if we watched what we think even more than what we say? When we do not allow critical and judgmental thoughts to plague our views of those closest to us?

- The change has to start somewhere – with you and me – if we are going to see change. We may not all think the same way about many things – what to wear, what to eat and where to go, but when it comes to the WORD of GOD, HE is very clear in HIS expectations of us.
- Even if those around you do not change immediately, you have to keep sowing your seeds of love and servant hood until you see them render the fruit you are trusting GOD for.

Offence is such an ugly thing. It festers and pollute or relationships for many years after the actual offence-causing incident.

- It takes us captive and limits us from seeing the good and the Hand of GOD in each other’s lives.
- It refuses to give credit and breeds on slander, gossip and criticism. When those around you criticize someone else (even if you agree) find something positive to say instead of joining in turn conversation into an opportunity for GOD and if you can find absolutely nothing positive to say ... pray!

How many of the people that frequent your home would have to stay away if you put a huge sign with your house rules at the front door...

- No gossiping
- No slandering
- No judging
- ...

2Ti 3:1 But know this, that in the last days grievous times shall come.

2Ti 3:2 For men shall be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, haughty, railers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

2Ti 3:3 without natural affection, implacable, slanderers, without self-control, fierce, no lovers of good,

2Ti 3:4 traitors, headstrong, puffed up, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of GOD;

2Ti 3:5 holding a form of godliness, but having denied the power thereof: from these also turn away.

2Ti 3:6 For of these are they that creep into houses, and take captive silly women laden with sins, led away by divers lusts,

2Ti 3:7 ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Strangely I have found, but wonderfully so, that if this is my attitude in life, I become more aware of GOD'S grace in my life. I find myself in constant thanksgiving, seeing the LORD'S Hand in everything. With a deep sense of appreciation I find that even if I took no time that day to pray, I have still been praying, thanking and praising GOD the entire day!

1Th 5:14 And we exhort you, brethren, admonish the disorderly, encourage the fainthearted, support the weak, be longsuffering toward all.

1Th 5:15 See that none render unto any one evil for evil; but always follow after that which is good, one toward another, and toward all.

1Th 5:16 Rejoice always;

**1Th 5:17** pray without ceasing;

1Th 5:18 in everything give thanks: for this is the will of GOD in CHRIST JESUS to you-ward.

1Th 5:19 Quench not the SPIRIT;

When the enemy comes – and he will – with thoughts of negativity about yourself and others, my heart rejects them and I am quickly filled with believing the best and before I know it I am going into thanksgiving all over again! Deut 28: 2

Deu 28:1 And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the Voice of JEHOVAH thy GOD, to observe to do all HIS commandments which I command thee this day, that JEHOVAH thy GOD will set thee on high above all the nations of the earth:

Deu 28:2 and all these blessings shall come upon thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of JEHOVAH thy GOD.

Truth is, we all have to decide who and what we are going to be in life. We are going to go through this on our way to heaven, we can just as well enjoy the journey.

Deu 30:19 I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that I have set before thee life and death, the blessing and the curse: therefore choose life, that thou mayest live, thou and thy seed;

Thanksgiving is the perfect will of GOD for our lives. I often asked the LORD to help me give thanks with the same passion, even urgency, as when I pray for what I need. I find my flesh to be so fickle. As soon as the need is met, the fire for prayer seems to be quenched.

**1Th 5:18 in everything give thanks: for this is the will of GOD in CHRIST JESUS**

I believe from GOD'S WORD and my own experience that this Word is key to urgent thanksgiving!

We have to understand that this has to do with our success as Children of GOD in this world. When we commit to this, there is no giving up or giving in. This is a choice you make before the Throne of GOD. This has to do with you and GOD – it has nothing to do with you and other people (friends, family, colleagues at work, or that difficult person you work for...) whether they deserve your kindness or not.

This does not make you blind to what is wrong. It does not make your stance against sin less firm. It does not cause you to approve of what is wrong, but this enables you to see GOD'S way out of every situation. GOD'S way of leadership, GOD'S way of thinking, GOD'S way of doing, GOD'S way of speaking.

The Bible tells us to be peacemakers not peacekeepers.

**Mat 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called sons of GOD.**

Be true to the WORD of GOD and simply do HIS will.

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