

Human Success; Divine Success!



#2881 0927 20A

VIRTUAL

Human success can be achieved if we decide to *study diligently, work hard, practice daily*, and be *determined* to succeed—but we must always give the glory to God for all success achieved. It was *God* who inspired us to take up the study, and it was *He* who gave the success. *How* success is obtained is the vital issue.

There are two kinds—*human success* and *divine success*, but only *divine success* is good and lasting. Human success leaves God *out* of our plans and leads to *problems* later on. If there is no repentance or conviction of heart, *human success* can lead to the lake of fire. It is not God's *will* that we meet with defeat or lack anything—He *created* us to be *successful* in the Christian life.

1 Peter 5:5-6 “*Be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.*” We are *not* to complain when offensive things are said to us; or some unkind thing is done to us. We endure such things *patiently*—meeting them *scripturally*—as God “*resists the proud and gives grace to the humble.*”

God's *mercy* is shown to those who are wronged, but we must be willing to take it *patiently* for His sake. Those who are snubbed, treated rudely, or offended by someone, but still do *not* complain or get upset, become part of God's family—and He does everything He can for them. However, God is *against* those who complain and get upset over things.

When we do not meet things scripturally, Satan is able to hinder spiritual progress. Satan can make life unpleasant when we are proud and rebellious—and wanting to go our *own* way. The devil can bring all kinds of trouble, problems, and difficulties into our life if we do not follow 1 Peter 5:6 “*Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.*”

Everything that happens to us—no matter how unpleasant or disappointing—like money issues; work problems; conflict in the home; or discouraging situations—can be *used* by God to remove the last bit of *self* in us and lead us to success in our Christian walk.

Not many people realize that God's plan of *success* is to go *down* first; to be considered *nothing*—a zero. Being considered a *nobody* by anybody is more spiritually *valuable* than it first appears—but God can use it to *exalt* us in His time and to give us success. When we are willing to take the *lowest* place in true *humility*, everything can change.

The wisest man said Proverbs 22:4 “*By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honour, and life.*” Everyone wants to have *riches, honor, and life*; and that is what God *wants* us to have. When *God* gives us success, there is *no* sorrow connected. Proverbs 10:22 “*The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.*”

Human success can make someone rich, but there can also be *sorrow* attached to it—and eventually leading to *never-ending* sorrow. God wants us to be *successful; prosperous; and contented*, but according to *His* divine plan—which is walking in *His* way of humility—1 Peter 5:7 “*Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.*”

Bible examples show that God *cares* for His children—Israel approached the Promised Land, and they were about to see God's promise fulfilled—the promise He made to Abraham. Moses

reminded the people of the path that *led* to this place of victory and blessing. 1 Corinthians 10:11 “*All these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.*”

Moses said Deuteronomy 8:2 “*Thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee.*” Being *compelled* to trust *God* each day for *supplies* that day, is a *humbling* process—but very *valuable* spiritually. To be short of *money* and being *compelled* to depend on *God* for the next meal, is very *humbling*. God *did* so to Deuteronomy 8:2 “*To prove [test] thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no.*”

It was a *testing* and *searching* process so that God could take *out* any *wrong* ways or attitudes that may be in their hearts—and put His *right* ways and attitudes *in*. Deuteronomy 8:3 “*And he humbled thee, and suffered [allowed] thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.*”

God described the land He was giving them—a land of *milk, honey, and prosperity*. The reason He dealt with them in that way, and through all those years, was so He could lead them to *success*. All the hardship and *humbling* was experienced so they might eventually be *exalted* and *successful*. Even their clothing lasted—Deuteronomy 8:4 “*Your garments did not wear out on you.*”

God said they were going into a *good* land where they would lack nothing. Everything they could *desire* and everything they could *need* would be given—without cost—all provided by God. He was just teaching them as a father teaches his son.

Deuteronomy 8:7 “For the LORD thy God bringeth thee into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills; 8 A land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of oil olive, and honey; 9 A land wherein thou shalt eat bread without scarceness, thou shalt not lack any thing in it; a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills thou mayest dig brass.”

Even though being hungry, thirsty, humiliated, and proven, they eventually came to success—a place of prosperity—God’s gift. That is always the *divine path* to *divine success, blessing, and victory* in the Christian life. It is the *only* kind worth having. Philippians 2:5 “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.”

It is humbling to lose our reputation and have people think the worst. Self wants to have a good reputation and have people think the best of them—but Jesus 7 “Made himself of no reputation.” The Lord of Heaven became a servant on earth, dressed in common clothing, and was close friends with the poor.

Jesus was God in the flesh Philippians 2:8 “And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.” Jesus was willing to meet all situations in God’s way—even if it meant losing his life. It always led to success.

He did *not* fight His own battles, nor follow human plans for success. He did *not* try to overcome His enemies, nor deliver Himself out of the trouble He was in, but followed the *divine plan* for *divine success*. He did *not* complain nor murmur; He did *not* retaliate or try to get even when they lashed and beat Him. He treated His *worst enemies* as if they were His *best friends*.

Philippians 2:9-11 “Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and

things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Jesus did not *try* to deliver Himself; and He never *changed* His attitude toward anyone—that is what gives *divine success*. When we have made our *last complaint* and given the matter over to God, He will exalt us in His time. We will have a heaven to go to Heaven in—that is God’s plan for success!

Many will envy the prosperity of the world—and millions *seem* to be prosperous, but they are not to be envied—considering their fate if there is no repentance. Psalm 73:3 Asaph “Was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. 5 They are not in trouble as other men; neither are they plagued like other men. 7 They have more than heart could wish.”

Asaph then says Psalm 73:16-19 “When I thought how to understand this, It was too painful for me—Until I went into the sanctuary of God; Then I understood their end. Surely You set them in slippery places; You cast them down to destruction. Oh, how they are brought to desolation, as in a moment! They are utterly consumed with terrors.”

God’s prosperity is always by the way of *humility* and meeting things *scripturally*. From a *human* standpoint, financial battles are unpleasant and humiliating; but from a *divine* viewpoint they are valuable and spiritually beneficial. *Persecutions* and *trials* are always on the road to *exaltation* and *divine prosperity*.

We can think all is *lost* with *no hope* for the future. Our life can *seem* like a desert—God has *forgotten* us, we think; but God can turn it all around—it is what *He* is anxious to *do* for anyone who will give Him the opportunity.

Deep in Joseph’s heart was a limit to his trust on God. When he thought there was no use to keep trusting God to get him out of the prison, he

used a *human* plan to get out—asking the butler to speak for him—like; would he talk with the Pharaoh, use his influence, and maybe obtain his release. It was a *human* plan—not the *divine* way to success.

The butler forgot all about it—and how fortunate for Joseph that he did, because it could have landed him in the lake of fire—if the butler had followed through with the favor. After two years, Joseph *knew* that his cell-mate had forgotten the favor; he realized that his only hope was to follow the *divine* plan and trust God for His mercy and grace.

When he decided to trust God, things happened quickly. He was *released* from prison and *promoted* to the second highest position in Egypt—he was *exalted* by God—spiritually, socially, financially, and had everything a person could possibly want. It all happened overnight! In a few hours, Joseph went from a *prison* to a *palace*!

God is waiting to do that for anyone *else* who will learn the lesson of *humility*; of trust on God alone; and keeping their faith in Him for *divine* success! That is the theme of the message—1 Peter 5:5-6 “Be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.”

Divine success the *right* way—the *only* way to be *exalted* by God!



www.fcgchurch.org

*Be on our free mailing list—contact:

PO Box 24283

Philadelphia, PA 19120

info@fcgchurch.org

#2881 0927 20A

VIRTUAL