

FINDING YOUR GOD INTENDED PURPOSE IN LIFE

“GOD’S SECRET OF SUCCESS”

In our last lecture we looked at God’s call to a ministry, the promises given for that ministry and the area and limitations of that ministry. We saw it illustrated in the life of Joshua. Today we want to look at the recipe for success as given by God. It is the same recipe that he gives each one of us for our own ministries, no matter how big or how small they are. Each one of us has a ministry, an intended purpose that God has for us. Let’s carry on in the book of Joshua chapter 1 verses six to nine.

V 6) “Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them.”

Joshua was going to be used of God to bring the people of Israel into the Land God had promised them, that was his ministry. God has people he wants you to bring into the promises he has for them. People you can influence for God. God has already chosen the people he wants you to be a blessing to. So be strong and of a good courage to do it.

V 7) “Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you.; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go.”

Notice here there is a condition for success. He had to be strong, courageous and careful. To be strong and courageous you have to disregard your feelings and go ahead and do the right thing you have to do. You go ahead believing God is with you, because he promised. If you give into your fears you will never fulfil the purposes God has for you. But it will be hard to go forward if you have a bad conscience, it will be hard to believe if you have a bad conscience, because he said to be careful to obey all the law Moses gave. What Moses gave was the written word of God. In other words, he was to live right and not turn aside to things that would turn his heart away from God. All God’s promises then would be fulfilled in him as he worked in the area of ministry God had given him.

V 8) “Do not let this book of the law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.”

The book of the law would have been the first five books of the Bible, Genesis to Deuteronomy all written by Moses under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. That’s all the Bible Joshua had, the rest was still to be written over many years to come.

The Bible, the Word of God, was to play a major part in Joshua's life and ministry. It is the same with us in our life and ministry. He was not to let it depart from his mouth. In other words he was to constantly speak it to himself, memorize and quote it to himself day and night. The more we keep reminding ourselves of things written in his word the less likely we will go astray. He was to be careful to "do" everything in it. To be careful to do everything means everything that is relevant to his life and ministry. The same with us we read and meditate on the bible not to get our heads full of knowledge but to do what we read that is relevant to us. For example we read in the OT people were to offer animal sacrifices, it was something they were to do for the forgiveness of sins. But though that is in the bible it is not something we have to do. But it also says in the OT honour your father and mother this was relevant to them just as much as it is relevant to us today. To obey the bible is the secret of success as far as God is concerned.

V 9) "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

To fulfil the ministry God gives you, whether big or small, he commands us to be strong and courageous. When God gives you a work to do that doesn't mean you won't have problems and difficulties, face scary situations, have discouragements and be tempted to give up and say to yourself, "God's plan for me is too hard, I'll go back to just doing my own thing." But God is saying to us, "Be strong! Be courageous! Don't be terrified! Don't be discouraged! Go forward!"

You may ask, "How can I do that?" God tells us how we can do it when he says, "For the Lord your God will be with you." You are not alone he is "with" you! You can find yourself doing amazing things when you know he is "with" you. He is not only with you but he "works together" with you. This is what Joshua found and we each one can find it too.

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**"WITH HIM WITH ME
I CAN DO IT !"**

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