

## Joshua Part 2: Keys to Prosperity and Success

1. Review
  - a. Jordan River ready to cross, 40years, “**BOLDLY** going where no man has gone before.
  - b. Jordan River= Holy Spirit, Death, Leaving the old life for the new life.
  - c. Promise of the land was 400 years old!
2. Joshua 1:7-9 "*Only be strong and very courageous; be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success wherever you go. 8 "This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success. 9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."*
3. Verse 7: God tells the Israelites what the keys to success and prosperity.
  - a. “...*be(come) strong and very courageous, be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you, do not turn from it to the right or to the left, SO THAT you may have success wherever you go.*”
    - i. **SO THAT YOU MAY HAVE SUCCESS WHEREVER YOU GO.**
      1. I am sure all of us would like success in life. But God seems to define success a lot differently than we do. In the next two verses, we will find out a little better what God means by success. I have a definition given to me by a brother in Christ in Texas, “**Success is doing God’s will, God’s way, with God’s resources and timing.**”
      2. If you think very long on that...and if you have studied “Experiencing God” you know that this is really pretty accurate.
      3. We all want shortcuts to success, little detours to the right or the left, ways to get what we want without having to wait upon God for something. God’s ways aren’t our ways. He makes that clear here!
    - ii. Part of the formula for success that God gives the Israelites is to “be careful to DO all fo the law that Moses gave you,” And then he says, “do not turn from it to the right or to the left SO THAT you may have success wherever you go.”
      1. We might be able to surmise that “do not turn to the right or to the left” means don’t leave the middle of the path.
      2. The Christian life is about balance...we must avoid pendulum swings to either direction, in whatever we pursue.
      3. **When I read any Christian author or listen to a teacher, the number one thing I watch for is balance. If the person swings one way or the other too far on an issue, topic or belief, I have to act with extra caution.**
4. Verse 8: This is a key verse: “*This book of the law (word of God) shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night...*”
  - i. Meditation:
    1. “The Hebrew word translated “meditate” literally means, “mutter.” When one continually mutters God’s word to himself, he is constantly thinking about it” (Madvig, 257)
    2. The Greek word literally means to ruminate or chew on, like a cow chews his cud.
    3. **To meditate on God’s word is to slowly and reverently repeat God’s word to yourself.**
    4. It is not enough to read the word and then forget about it the rest of the day.
    5. Meditation “involves reflecting on God’s word and applying it to your life”
    6. Have you ever been obsessed with a hobby, a game or a television show, or maybe a person...such that they fill your thoughts more than usual...maybe even consumes your

thoughts? That is what is being communicated about meditation, thinking a lot about something, here.

ii. Matthew 6:31-33 GNT

1. *“So do not start worrying: Where will my food come from? or my drink? or my clothes? 32 These are the things the pagans are always concerned about. Your Father in heaven knows that you need all these things. 33 Instead, be concerned above everything else with the Kingdom of God and with what he requires of you, and he will provide you with all these other things.”*

- a. The word Epizeteo used for “concern” means to seek by thinking, meditating and craving.
- b. So you have two polar opposites of what to meditate upon. God’s word and will...and the things you want and need.

iii. Memorization is both a tool for meditation and a result of it:

1. John Piper says,
2. Memorizing Scripture makes meditation possible at times when I can’t be reading the Bible, and meditation is the pathway of deeper understanding.
3. Memorizing Scripture strengthens my faith because faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of Christ, and that happens when I am hearing the word in my head.
4. Memorizing Scripture shapes the way I view the world by conforming my mind to God’s viewpoint.
5. Memorizing Scripture makes God’s word more readily accessible for overcoming temptation to sin, because God’s warnings and promises are the way we conquer the deceitful promises of sin.
6. Memorizing Scripture guards my mind by making it easier to detect error—and the world is filled with error, since the god of this world is a liar.
7. Memorizing Scripture enables me to hit the devil in the face with a force he cannot resist, and so protect myself and my family from his assaults.
8. Memorizing Scripture provides the strongest and sweetest words for ministering to others in need.
9. Memorizing Scripture provides the matrix for fellowship with Jesus because he talks to me through his word, and I talk to him in prayer.”

b. V8b“...so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it;, for Then YOU WILL make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.”

- i. Everyone wants to be successful and prosperous. Self help books are one of the largest sections in the book store. It seems the only person they are helping is the person who wrote them! I encourage you to see how many of them are on the clearance table! It tells you how successful they are!
- ii. John 15:7 *“If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.”* (in other words, you will have success!)
  1. “MY words abide (live) in you.”
    - a. You know there is a valid prosperity gospel. It isn’t called name it and claim it. But it is called “abide and thrive.”
    - b. When you diligently seek to please God and allow His words to be in your heart, God prospers your pathways. I am not saying you get rich in the worldly sense, but you will be prosperous.
    - c. **Prosperity (biblically speaking) is having more than you need.**
  2. **Prayer**...asking for “whatever you wish and it will be done for you”.
    - a. I have done a lot of thinking about this. A child doesn’t ask his daddy, “Daddy, please give me a bicycle...if it is your will.” “Daddy, can I have a new pair of shoes...if it is your will.”

- b. He is too closely tied in relationship with his Daddy to add that disclaimer.
    - c. In fact, a child has such simple faith...even when Daddy has said “no” every time they go through the grocery check out line when the child asks him for a pack of m&m’s, it doesn’t stop the child from boldly asking again.
    - d. I believe the bible says that God is pleased when we ask in faith, expecting Him to say “YES.” The bible says “faith pleases God” and that God is a “rewarder of faith.”
  - 3. Some folks say, (with regards to “if it is your will”)“well it was good enough for Jesus, so it is good enough for me.” But they fail to see that Jesus added it only **once** to one of His prayers. And that was because He was asking His Father to find another way other than to have to bear the entire weight of the world’s sins upon His body and to be separated from His Father...literally, to go to hell for you and I. It wasn’t as much an expression of not knowing the Father’s will, but rather BECAUSE He **did** know the Father’s will and was submitting to it.
  - 4. God wants us to “know His will” about His love for us. The bible says that “*He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?*” (Romans 8:32)
- 5. Verse 9: *Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.*
  - a. The closing is the same as the beginning. Be(come) strong and courageous. This is the **THIRD TIME IN THIS SECTION** (This week twice, last week once) that this has been said to Joshua. It is part of the reason I included the Star Trek mantra that doesn’t just say “going where no man has gone before” but “boldly going.’ That is what God calls us to!
  - b. Deflect your fear(s). **Because** the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.
    - i. That was big to the Israelites, because the pagan gods weren’t where you went. You had to go to their temple or high place to be with them.
    - ii. Because your God is with you, you can become strong and courageous.
    - iii. Secondly, **the PRESENCE OF GOD is the key to life and everything else.**
  - c. Prosperity and Success have keys to unlock them.
    - i. Meditation upon the Word of God (instead of the World)
    - ii. Doing God’s word.
    - iii. Be(coming) strong and courageous (trusting God)
    - iv. Pursue the Presence of God.
  - d. **Benefits of the Presence of God:**
    - i. When revival has broken out in history, do you know what has caused it? It is the very manifest Presence of God, tangibly felt, sensed, seen and experienced. We also call it “the glory of God” – as in the visible expression of the Presence of God.
      - 1. Most folks flock to moves of God to see the signs and wonders. And they come away a bit disappointed, because they didn’t go to see God...they went to see the magic show.
      - 2. Truth is, where the Presence of God is...the power follows. Folks, we need to seek the Presence of God above all else. The Presence of God satisfies and meets every need. Signs and miracles are temporary, if someone is healed from an illness, does it mean they will never get sick again? Of course not. But the Presence of God is lasting. He meets every need.
      - 3. Yes, I’d love to see signs and miracles. But I am learning that they exist to point me to God’s presence. When God heals someone, He is saying something about who He is. About His Presence and availability.
      - 4. Let’s seek His presence as we pray.