

# **SUCCEEDING IN LIFE**

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## 1. THE POWER OF CONCENTRATION

There are principles that are involved in achieving success in life. These principles are applicable both in the ministry and in the secular world. Some of these principles you may be aware of. But it is good for us to cover these that are in the word of God. Let me define success as being able to do what God tells us to do and bear fruit.

The fact that God says in Deut.28 that I want you to be the head and not the tail tells me that God wants His people to succeed in the secular world. When God says that you shall not borrow but you shall lend tells me that you shall never be in debt at all. Being in debt is not a sign of success. Debt is part of the curse of the law. Success does not necessarily only mean success as the world sees it that involves prosperity and abundance. God equates that in Deut. 28 He states that His people's obedience to the law will produce these results of prosperity and abundance. That does not mean that you take the contrary principle and say therefore those who are on the way are not successful. That would be taking God's word out of context. For example we do know that God wants us to be saved. The opposite of being saved would be being lost and going to hell. That doesn't mean that you condemn every one who has not be born again saying that they are surely going to hell. Some of them are sincere. They are seeking after God. The Holy Spirit could be dealing with them regarding their salvation and they could be on their way to being saved. So in the same way we must not have a one track-condemning mind that condemns people who are on the way and becomes negative in terms of evaluating others.

As you learn this principle don't run down on other people. Remember that everybody is on the way. We are all on the way on the road to success. It is God who ordains success both in the ministry and in the secular world. God told Joshua in Joshua 1:8 that He wants him to succeed. And you do all these things you shall have good success.

This morning we are going to touch on the first principle of success. And that is the principle of concentration. People who are successful have an ability to concentrate on the matter that they do, whether it is small or it is great. The opposite of concentration is distraction. Distraction is something that is inherent in fallen man. It is inherent in children. Children have to be taught to concentrate in order that when they grow up, they can succeed in life. But some people never grow up. All through their life they are distractible and they are distracted. They go from one to the other and they seem to be a failure over and over again. It is because they never learn this principle of concentration. They are always easily distracted, floating from one area to the other.

Have you noticed something about children? Children's ministry needs a special anointing and skill. It takes effort to get the attention of the children. And the attention spent on the children is such that you have to keep changing from one thing to another to help them to concentrate on one subject For example when you are teaching children you have to use a visual aid. When you talk about sin and how man fell. And when you teach on Genesis 3, you may have to bring a real tree and put a fruit there so that the attention is captured. Then take a fruit from there and let one of them to eat it. So they began to participate. There are five senses that are involved and it helps them to concentrate. Children inherently do not know how to concentrate.

The power of concentration is something that is learned, something that is acquired. And it also depends on your upbringing. If for example your parents never taught you to concentrate on a subject or an object, then you would grow up not correcting that trait of being distractible. You are going all over the place doing a lot of things but achieving nothing. Do you know that there are some adults who have grown physically but have never developed their souls? They go about doing a lot of things but never seemingly succeeding in anything. It is because they never learned the power of concentration.

The power of concentration involves three areas. In order to concentrate on doing an object, you first of all need a desire for what you are concentrating on. You have to develop a desire to achieve that which you have set for. The desire must be great for the concentration to be there. Those who are able to concentrate always have a tremendous desire in those areas. There is some motivation factor involved. Let's look at James 1:6-8 But let him ask in faith with no doubting. For he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord. He is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. It compares someone who is double minded as a person who is easily distracted. Not only will you fail in God's word, it says he is unstable in all his ways (verse 8). That means in the secular world he will also fail. Some people think that if they fail in the secular world then they can come into the ministry. I am sorry to tell you the ministry involves a lot of principles that are necessary to make you a success in the secular world. Many times those who failed in the secular world still fail in the ministry because they do not learn those basic principles of success that are required in this life.

In this life we are born into it is a world that is fallen and going on a negative stream. This world and everything that is going on in this world is like a stream. The bible calls it the cosmos or the world system. And the world system is flowing in a negative direction. When you are born into this world all you have to do is to do nothing and you will automatically be lost. All you have to do is to do nothing and you will never get saved. You will never find the truth. All you have to do is sit and do nothing and you become a failure. Surely there is something wrong in this world. To fail all you have to do is to do nothing. There is no effort to fail. All you have to do is quit and the stream carries you to that side. But in order to succeed is like a fish swimming up stream. You need to have life in you. You need to be able to move and wriggle your fins and your tail and go against the current.

At first when you begin to do the right things that will move you against the current of failure, do you know that there is a point where the force applied equals the force that is against you? At first you are being carried down stream. And then you begin to swim up stream. As you start applying the right principle and force there is a point where you slowly build up the force to go against the current. And there is a point where the force applied equals to the force against. At that point you are stationary. You are neither going up stream, you are neither going down stream. It seems to the world that you are not heading anywhere. That you are not succeeding. Do you know some people began to apply the principles of life and like the fish they began to wriggle their fins and wriggle their tail. And they began to start moving. But the force they are applying doesn't seem to work yet because they have just reached a point of

canceling and neutralizing the negative force. At that point many fishes look around and said nothing is happening. Why is it not succeeding yet?

They forget that they need to apply twice the amount of force.

The first force is to neutralize the negative force going against them. The second force is to go against it and start moving forward. For example if there is force and wind that come in this direction at thirty miles an hour. And supposedly that you are moving against the wind, do you know that you have to apply a force of thirty miles an hour in order to remain where you are? At that point many look around them and say why is my job still not successful. Why is my business not successful? Why is the ministry still not successful? They forget that they have to apply twice the equal force in order to even start moving, more than what is opposing them. Supposing they apply a force of forty miles an hour and the opposition is thirty miles an hour. Do you know that you only move at ten miles an hour?

Now all of us experienced a negative stream in different degrees. For some people when they are born into certain circumstances and certain situations, the negative stream of failure is pushing them perhaps at five miles an hour. For some others it could be seventy miles an hour. See when we were born into this world we were not all born in the same set of circumstances. Some of us are born into broken homes. Some are born into good homes. Now naturally the ones who are in the broken homes and the ones in the good homes, the ones in the good homes have more chance of success than the ones in the broken homes. But yet some people in the broken homes seem to come up better than those in the good homes. It is because they have to apply a greater pressure to overcome that failure than the other one who is much easier. But yet all things being equal those guys who are born in good homes, whose parents train them properly would have a better chance of succeeding. It is because if the negative wind going against them is only ten miles an hour and if they apply a force of twenty miles an hour they would start succeeding at ten miles an hour. The other guys over here may be facing a negative wind at forty miles an hour. And so if they apply the same force to succeed at twenty miles an hour, they would still be failing. So some of those people here have to apply tremendous pressure even to succeed. Even if they apply forty miles an hour, they will still just neutralize the negative wind on their life. They have to apply fifty miles an hour just to be at the same speed as the other guy.

Some children who have no opportunity in their homes to study properly may come from poor families and broken homes. They have a lot to do and they have only half an hour to study everyday. The other guy has about four hours. So the set of circumstances are unequal but the amount of pressure to succeed still needs to be applied. And what happen is this sometimes these people fail they give way. But when some of these succeed inside them is an ability to move at fifty miles an hour. And for this guy it takes only twenty miles an hour. Then as these two began to go into the same type of negative wind. The wind in your life changes. So sometimes in life they both began to face a wind of thirty miles an hour. This guy has only the ability to flow at twenty miles an hour. The other guy has developed an ability to exert a force of fifty miles an hour and it took him that to succeed. In school it looks like both of them are moving at ten miles an hour. From the outside it looks equal. But from the inside is not equal. This guy is developing more strength. Now they are both brought to face the same negative stream and suddenly this guy here overtakes the other guy. Because this guy still applies a force of fifty miles an hour while the other

guy is only used to twenty miles an hour. Suddenly this guy fails. So understand that there are different winds that blow against different people at different times.

Some of the winds are from the devil going against your life. Sometimes the devil gets a hint of what God is going to do in your life. He puts a greater pressure on your life. But something wonderful happens - God always gives grace to overcome. No temptation had overtaken you which is not common to man. In every temptation God has always provided us the grace of finding a way of escape. And the escape is not to bring you out but to bring you through. God does not necessarily save you out from the lion's den but He saves you through the lion's den because in the process you learn something. We are talking about the negative wind of failure that blow in life.

We need to develop a tremendous concentration power in order to succeed in life. Some people's concentration are so poor that if you put them together in the same class of people all things being equal, they will perform less than the others do. And the greater your concentration power is on an objective, the greater the possibility you would be able to succeed in life. It is one of the important principles to learn. It takes getting rid of childish behavior that will cause you to be distracted by every whim and fancy that comes along. Once in a while you want this, once in a while you want that. You are distracted on the left and on the right. And here you are on the road to heaven and on the road to success; the devil comes along and offers you a plastic carrot that looks like the real one. And you get distracted. And you keep going off the way.

It is just like the book written by John Bunyan "The Pilgrim Progress". It explains how you are supposed to progress in one direction towards the gates of salvation. But the devil always comes and distracts him. Bring him to a city here, a city there. Distraction comes along. We need to develop an ability of concentration.

Jesus Christ said this in John 17 about His own life. In His prayer to the Father Jn. 17:19 and for their sake I sanctify myself that they may also may be sanctified by the truth. Jesus said for the sake of my disciples I separate Myself, I sanctify Myself, I dedicate Myself. Jesus lived for only one purpose and one goal and that is to produce fruits in the lives of man, to impart into the lives of men, to implant into them the word of truth. He said that the truth You have given Me I have given them. He was not distracted at all. There were many things that could have distracted Him. But He had the concentration power to the extend that He sanctified and dedicated Himself for that objective. That He will achieve that objective no matter what.

Some people asked me whether when Jesus was on this earth He said He could do anything and everything. Could Jesus invent the motor car? I went back and ask the Lord. And the Lord said that He could but that was not His objective for coming. If He spent His time inventing cars, He may not go to the cross to die. But when He came, He lived and died for one objective: to fulfill the plan of salvation. And He gave His whole objective to that. Do you notice in His days if you read the Jewish book like Flavius Josephus' book, in His days they had a lot of tourism going on also. In those days they got the ancient wonders of the world. These were great attractions here and there and great places to see. There were great things to discover in the land of Greece where the Roman Empire is based on. There were a lot of interesting things that could occupy the young intellectual person in those days.

Jesus never even left the borders and boundaries of Israel. He never seems to be interested in a lot of things that human beings were interested in. He lived and died for one purpose. That was His concentration power. That is why in thirty-three years He could finish all His work. Many people who reach the age of seventy only have their work half done. It is because their lives are filled with distracted detours; things that have nothing to do with their objective or their life.

We need to develop the power of concentration and it involves three areas. It involves a great desire for what your objective is. Your desire can be nurtured by seeing what is produced in other people's lives. For example your desire for healing can be increased by seeing the sick healed. Your desire for the gifts of the Holy Spirit will increase when you see others operate the gifts. Your desire for example in the secular world to be a great lawyer will increase when you see another great lawyer. Our desires are also influenced by what we see and what we hear. And God also can impart our desires. God guides us through His desire. But not all desires are necessarily from God. Some of your desires came from man. Some of your desires came from yourself. Some of your desires came from the devil. And some of your desires came from God. You have got to differentiate it. Parents in bringing up children have their own desires for the children that may be God's will or may not be God's will. Some children grow up with desires imposed on them by their parents.

Some of your desires could come from what people desire you to do. Your parents desire you to do or your friends desire that in you. Do you know that when friends mix with you they desire you to do something? And sometimes it is the devil that puts the desire in you. Especially if it is the wrong desire that is not in line with the word of God. So all your desires have to be screened by the word. If you have a great desire to be the greatest bank robber, something is wrong, repent. Some good desires can come from good influences. That is why it is good to associate with good people and right people, because they will instill the right desire into the lives of people. That is why it is good when you take a man of God home to stay in your place. Some of them began to inspire your children to godliness.

Desires come from the word of God, it comes from the will of God, and God's Holy Spirit placed in you. It comes from what you see demonstrated around you. Mk. 11:24 says whatsoever things you desire when you pray. Do you notice that the desire is great? I was reading a book by Frances Hunter. In one of her books called "Are You Tired" she spoke about her struggles in her life with diabetes and how finally the Lord healed her. Then she also had poor eyesight. Then she began to think the Lord healed her there. "How is it that my eyesight was never healed?" Then she asked the Lord. This was what the Lord said. She wore glasses. She could see reasonably. So the Lord said to her if you desire the healing for your eyes as much as your healing for your diabetes condition you would receive. So it was not dependent on the Lord. The Lord wants to heal. But her desire for healing is not as much because she could make do with glasses. It takes a tremendous desire to want a healing in a certain area. So much that you go for it like a bulldog. Do you know something strange about bulldog? When they bite you they don't let go. That is the character of a bulldog. Have the desire and faith of a bulldog. But don't look like a bulldog. If you have the character of a bulldog, desire will help you to concentrate.

In order to have the desire, you have to explore the benefits of what you are going to achieve. For example if you are called to be an evangelist, you want to have a great

desire to be one. Then you have to compile a lot of research where you could see the lives of evangelists. The more you see them the more a desire develops in your life. Or if you desire to be a great businessman for God, then you have to research and see what businessmen have done in the kingdom of God. It will inspire you. It will put desires in you. That is why God puts different ministries in the body of Christ. And have you noticed that usually that people who are sharing and speaking. The one that causes an inspiration to you are also those that sometimes have to do with those areas you like to do. For example if I invite anointed businessmen from the States who are tremendous people who spend time with God. Then you begin to watch their life and see how they are able to succeed in the Christian life and in the business. Then it inspires you. And there are some things that you want to do that nobody may have done. You get back to the word. And in prayer God will give you dreams and visions and desires. Things that nobody may have done. But God develops a desire in you by giving you dreams about it by giving you desires and visions about it. Not spectacular vision but normal vision.

Sometimes when I pray in the spirit seemingly without any effort all these things come to my inner vision about the work of the ministry. Some of them have never been done before. They just come and I know who brought that. It was the Holy Spirit. And I know why He brought that. It is to inspire a desire in me so that the more I began to see it the more I desire it. And the more I desire it, it goes to the second step. You will be willing to sacrifice to get it.

Concentration takes sacrifice. You will notice that Abraham had to sacrifice the luxuries and the ease of life with his kinsfolk. To go into a strange land where nobody knows. Do you know he came out better than them. And when Lot quarreled with his herdsman, Abraham said you take what you want. And he sacrificed what seemingly was the best. Lot took the best land. After Lot left him immediately God appeared to him and said look to the north, south, east, west, everywhere is yours. So if I want to be good in music and I have six hours free time and you have six hours free time. You may use five of your hours of free time to spend it on something else for example you love cooking. You want to be a fantastic cook. So you spent five of those hours researching that. And this guy wants to be a musician. You have equal time. In order to be musician this person may have to sacrifice the time that this person may use for something else. There has to be sacrifice involved in order to concentrate. In other word it could be time for your favorite TV program. Something that you just enjoy. And some of you may be watching the news or the newspapers. You may take an additional two or three hours of your life doing that. This guy here wants to achieve to be a musician. He gives up that time. This is a law of life. To achieve and be good at something, you have to give up some other things. So in order for us to be good at something you have to sacrifice other things. You have a choice in how you spend you time.

See the first step is desire. Desire will cause you to be willing to sacrifice.

Let me give an illustration in the natural. When I was a teenager I discovered chess. I found out that I could be quite good at it. But I wanted to be not only good at it; I wanted to be the best in it. And so what happened was while all the other teenagers are falling in love and going out on dates and movies I spent my time reading chess books. The result as long as I was there playing chess they could not topple me. But it takes sacrifice. I sacrificed the other part of my social life in order to be good at that.

In the same way when I come to the ministry I applied the same principle in life that I have learned. In order to be good at something, you have to sacrifice other things and concentrate on that. Time that people will waste you will make use of that time to concentrate on that area. And so you will notice that when it comes to the ministry I don't waste time.

Do you notice those who succeed either in the secular world or in the ministry, always have the ability to concentrate on doing what they want? They developed that. They have an ability to pull out from other areas. And I have met different type of people throughout these many years of ministry. And I have noticed this those Christians who could neither succeed in the secular world and neither succeed in the ministry are those who like to sit down, chitchat and waste time. They live a mediocre life. They lived and die without doing great things for God. And I want to inspire you. I want to instill in you to rise up to do great things for God. If your objective is to achieve something positive then you have to sacrifice and make a choice to give up something and go into something.

Lets turn to Galatians 1. I am trying to point to you some of the things why Paul succeeded. Verse 13 For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism. Paul was talking about the time before he was born again. When he was an enemy of Christ. It says here that you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism. How I persecuted the church of God beyond measures and tried to destroy it. Then in verse 14 And I advance in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers. Do you know why Paul succeeded in the ministry? Before he came into the ministry he learned some of the principles of life. He was a go-for-it man. If he was to be a road sweeper he will be the best road sweeper. There was something about that kind of character that will make you a success in the ministry. When he was a Pharisee he says he was the Pharisee of the Pharisees. If he was to be a bus driver, he would be the best bus driver. That is what it takes to succeed. And he had learned the power of concentration. When he does something he would do it with all his desire. And he will give up a lot of things. You have to give up a lot of things to be good at something. You can't be doing everything and learning nothing. Paul said among all those of my contemporaries I did better than them. Because inside him when he does something he will do it with all his heart. There was a zeal in his life. That is why when the Jews went to crucify and persecute the Christians, he was the best persecutor in town. It is interesting to see that people who are able to concentrate in the secular world when they are born again they come into the kingdom of God, they seem to grow faster than some of the lazy Christians. Why is that so? Because they put all their time and energy into achieving something in the same way as they did in the natural way. It is called a life principle that they have learned, the power of concentration. Why was he desirous? Because that is something in Paul that says he wants to serve God. That desire was instilled in him. He says I was called even while I was in the womb. And that is something we need to realize is the life principle.

If you neglect to develop this you will never succeed whether in the ministry or in the secular world. You will be both useless in the world and in useless in the ministry of God. I am sorry to say this but it is a fact. It is something that must be faced and dealt with. And later when Paul was born again, he wants to be the top Christian. The moment he was born again he started preaching. Like a bulldog he went for it. He



went right to the extremes of the Christian life. He went to right to the apex, right to the top. And if Paul was called to be an apostle, he would go for it. He gives his life for it. If he was to know and study the word, he will give his life for it. That is the principle of concentration in life. Now you know why some people can not succeed in the ministry. That is why we do not want people who say I failed in the secular world. I think God call me to the ministry. They forget one thing. God may call them but when they failed outside is not because God call them. They failed because they never develop life principles. Don't blame your failures on God's call. God doesn't just call you because you are a failure somewhere. That is what my traditional parents use to think. When they heard I was going to the ministry, they said wait till you can not do anything then only you go in. That is what the world think. We need to send the cream of the crop inside. We don't want to send to the ministry those who have not developed life principles and are failures in the natural world. Let me tell you if God has a call in your life and you had not come out yet, you should be preparing yourself. If you can succeed in the secular world, you can be a success in the ministry. Success does not depend on whether God called you or not in the ministry. Success in the secular world does not depend on that. It depends on how you develop life principles. Which is No.1 the power of concentration, the ability to concentrate on something. If God did not call me into the ministry and I am still in the secular world, my goal was to be rich and famous. I wanted to be rich by being an accountant and I wanted to be famous by being the first grand master in Asia. The power of concentration is necessary to succeed.

The third part of the power of concentration is faithfulness. The third area on the power of concentration is faithfulness. Let me say this. Faithfulness, whether you are recognized or you are not recognized, faithfulness in private where nobody sees you as well as in public. Faithfulness in season and out of season. The only people who have developed that are those who have the power of concentration. They are faithful. Joseph was a faithful man. That is why he was promoted to the top servant in Potiphar's house. We know that he was promoted to the top. But how do we know it was that principle? You noticed that when Potiphar's wife and history tells us that she was quite a beautiful woman and Joseph was a handsome man. Potiphar's wife came to ask him to commit adultery. And Joseph said how could I sin against God? And the most marvelous thing is this. She came to him everyday. Everyday she came and tempted him. Just think about trying to be faithful. Some men will fall at the first time. But he was tempted everyday.

Look at Genesis 39:7 Now it came to pass after these things that his master's wife cast longing eyes on Joseph and she said, "Lie with me." Then in verse 10 so it was as she spoke to Joseph day by day that he did not heed her. Everyday the temptation was in the house. His master was not around. You have to be faithful privately and publicly. You have to be faithful when nobody sees you because let me tell you that there is always One who sees you. God whose eyes run to and fro on this earth, He sees you and He rewards faithfulness. But there is something developed in his character. He was faithful in small things and big things. If some of you are given mediocre jobs and you are not willing to be faithful even for some time, you will never get the best job. Some people are jobless. They are waiting for the best job to come. If you are not willing to be faithful as a road sweeper, you will never be faithful anywhere else. If you are given a job even if it is washing a toilet, if you can not be faithful there I can guarantee you will never be successful in the ministry. The life principle is this: If you

can not be faithful in small things, you will definitely never be successful when it comes to a bigger things. Joseph was faithful in the house. Later he was faithful in a bigger organization the prison. Then later he was faithful in the whole land of Egypt. Faithfulness to the people and to the Lord. Faithfulness in husbands to their wives. If you are faithful to your wives in your house, we will know that you will be faithful in the church ministry. If as a husband you can not be faithful to your wife, then if you can not take care of your whole household, how can you take care of the household of God? If you can not be faithful in small things don't talk about the bigger things. If you can not be faithful as a good wife you will never be faithful as an intercessor for God. Faithfulness in small things develops a power of concentration. It develops something in you. That is how the power of concentration is developed. It is not that straight away you can concentrate on a project that takes about six, seven hours. If you are able to concentrate on small things and finish it, don't leave it half done, then you will be able to do other greater things. It is so small but it develops something in you. If you are given a simple job and you can not finish it, I doubt you will be able to finish other things. Your habit of not finishing something will pass on and develop a characteristic in your life. You will probably live and die with your ministry half finished. The reason why we touch and share on this subject is because the people of God are to be the head and not the tail.

## 2. THE UNLIMITED MIND

Matt. 21:18 Now in the morning as He returned to the city, He was hungry and seeing a fig tree by the road. He came to it and found nothing on it but leaves and said to it, "Let no fruit grow on you ever again." And immediately the fig tree withered away. Now when the disciples saw it, they marveled saying, "How did the fig tree withered away so soon?" Actually in Mark 11 Jesus actually spoke to the fig tree and then went on to Bethany and the next day as they passed by the disciples noticed it. So actually one night has passed by according to Mark chapter eleven. But from the time Jesus spoke to the tree, the tree started withering from the roots. And it was only visible the next day. The disciples were surprised and asked Jesus how did the fig tree withered away so quickly. How can this be done? How is it possible? Jesus just spoke a sentence to the tree. And Jesus replied in verse 21. So Jesus answered and said to them, "Assuredly I say to you if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain be removed and be cast into the sea, it will be done. And all things whatever you ask in prayer believing you will receive. Jesus actually says that you disciples could also do this to the fig tree. Notice he mention in verse 21 if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what is done to this tree. See many times when Jesus was on this earth, people said He did those thing He did because He was the Son of God, because He was sinless. Jesus was speaking to His disciples who were not even born again. He was saying to them that if you have that quality faith that believes without any doubt and you would release your word the way I release it, Jesus said you could do it. There is nothing special. The disciples were shocked when they saw the fig tree withered. They thought it was something special. Jesus said it was nothing special. You can do the same thing too. And you can not only do it to the fig tree. You can do to this mountain. And where they were they could see the Mount of Olives. So He points to that and say you could do to this mountain too.

Jesus was pointing to the great possibility that is within a human being - when a human being would put their heart and mind into something. He was pointing to the great, unlimited possibilities that He has for his disciples. And we are touching on the law of success. In the last message we talked about the law of concentration. How we have to concentrate on a matter in order to pursue it with all our heart and not be distracted. In this message we are going to touch on the power of the unlimited mind. It is important for us to note that the mind that needs to be renewed is a mind that has been given by God. It was not supposed to be rejected. God gave you the mind. God is against intellectualism that produces ungodliness and sin. But God is for the renewal of the mind. The mind can be used for God. And no mater what you have in the spirit, it has to be released through your mind.

The book of third John verse 2 says Beloved I wish above all things that you may prosper as your soul prospers. In other word he is saying that you will prosper in proportion to your soul prosperity. Soul prosperity is different from body prosperity. When a person prospers bodily, they receive health and they receive wealth. But third John verse 2 is saying that your prosperity or your blessings in the natural realm will only prosper as your soul prospers. And your soul consists of your intellect, your mind, your will and your emotion. Part of the prosperity has to affect your soul, which involves your mind. Unless your mind enlarged in its thinking, unless your mind

begins to see possibilities where there impossibilities; God will not be able to work through your life to conquer that event or that mountain in your life.

Proverbs 23:7 As a man thinks in his heart so is he. In other words you are what you think. If you conceive of the idea that you would never rise up above your circumstances, you will never. If today you grasp hold of the principles that you can do more than what you have done, you will be able to do. God will never be able to do above what you think. He is limited to your thinking. He works in you. Before He does great things in you, He gives you great ideas. And usually it is never a financial problem. It is always an idea problem. It is not financial problem that you would have. It is idea problem. When Robert Schuller was building his famous glass cathedral, it cost him million of dollars. And he didn't even have a thousand dollars in the bank. But God called him to build that multimillion-dollar glass cathedral right in California. And every time he looks at it, it is like a big mountain. This was what God began to speak to him. God says His supply is unlimited provided Robert Schuller would not limit God. And so in his prayer closet he began to pray. And finally he came out with an idea. Remember he had a money problem but it was not really a money problem. It was an idea problem. And God gave him the idea. God sent him to his contractor, engineer and architect and asked them. How many panes of glass does this building have? And they said so many thousands. If there are so many thousands of glass, how much will each piece of glass cost? Then he began to share with the people. We can not do it by one person. But if every one of us would take the responsibility of taking care of one pane of glass, we all can do it together. And so finally he gave that to the people and people by the thousands began to give to him. And people began to hear about the big project. And before long they managed to finish every thing. Paid off the whole building and the cost actually ended up about nearly twice as much as it was projected. But they completed everything on cash. All because God gave an idea.

Remember when you have financial problem. It is not because you have financial problem. It is because you have run out of ideas of what to do. There are a lot of good ideas floating around. But there is none as best as what the Lord Almighty can give you. And God can never do beyond what your mind can conceive. Only when your mind conceives of the possibility can you begin to rise above the situation. As we look at life. All through life we have always been told what we can not do. We are trained in that manner. If you ask a person who is jobless. And you ask them why are you jobless. Because I can't get this job. Why can't you get this job? Because I don't have the qualification. Why can't you get the qualification? Because I am not good at my studies. Why are you not good at your studies? It is because I am not good at languages. Why are you not good at languages? It is because you are too lazy to learn. If you face every impossibility that you say it is an impossibility, then it becomes an impossibility to you.

Remember that every thing that God has always asked a man to do has always been that which is impossible to that person. God told Noah to build a boat. God told Abraham come out of his land and he will give him a better place. God spoke to David to conquer his enemies. And Jesus Christ when He walked on this earth never knew impossibilities. There were many things that were never done before. But that was no problem to Him because He had a mind that has removed the word impossible. Say from this day forward I am going to remove the word impossible

from my thinking life. Nothing is impossible to the one who believes. I refused to allow natural circumstances to put a limit to my mind. You will notice that all the time it is the natural that limits man. For example if you ask a person why can't you buy that piece of property? They will say my finances are limited. Why are your finances limited? Because of these circumstances here. Why are those circumstances hindering you? When you begin to actually go into it, you will find that some way some place at some time a person has allowed impossibility to creep in. For example you meet people who are not successful. And you ask them why are you in that situation. Since I was small I had this thing which always hinder me and it is always been my incapability in life. That person has accepted that incapability. There are many people who are handicapped who do better than that guy. Because they have put their mind to say it can be done. There have been people who had gone through accidents, total wrecked who have won in the sport games. Because they set their minds to it. They said it can be done.

Remember the first guy who ran the four minutes mile. You know what is the actual barrier. It was in the mind of a human being. Before he conquered that four-minutes mile, running a mile in four minutes, tradition said that it was impossible. But the moment he broke it and he finished a mile in three minutes plus, the very next few days runners started to break the four minutes barrier. It was a mental block that was inside. We are conditioned to it. If you tell yourself you can not do it, your whole system starts functioning that way. Your whole system starts functioning and saying it can not be done. The moment you accept the fact that it is impossible as you began to run the four minutes mile your subconscious mind works against you. You have to convince yourself it can be done. Say all things are possible to him who believes.

A person is limited to only one idea. It is like the person who is lying on the pool of Bethesda and Jesus said do you want to be healed. And the man said nobody is around to help me get into the water. He only saw one possibility of healing. He only saw the way to be healed is to get into the water where the angel was stirring the water. But here are many other ways that it can be done. And God began to deal with his life through Jesus who said rise and be healed. He doesn't even have to get into the water. And he was healed in a different way than he expected. All things are possible to him who believes. But we have to battle with limitations that human beings set on us.

For example if we tell people that we are going to buy a piece of land to build a church. The first thing they say it is not possible in this city. Have you ever confronted this kind of thing? Every time you want to do something, somebody comes and say it is not possible. I remember Robert Schuller when he went to Tokyo. He said to the Christians, "Why don't you build a church?" And they said there is no land in Tokyo. And one day as he was driving along he saw that lake nearby. He said why not you all fill up the lake and then take the land. They said that it is not possible. Nobody has done it before. And many years later when he came by he felt very angry. Because the unbelievers had filled up that lake and build a Disney Land there. But the believers don't want to believe that it can be done.

There is no such thing as impossibility when you set your mind onto it. Impossibility exists in traditions and in the things around you as you look at them. You will realize that everywhere a person says I can not do this. Examine it. in your own life there are a lot of things that you said you can not do. You have limited yourself. I can not remember all these things. Why can't you remember all these things? Some other

people who have gone through handicapped and they have done it. But you with all your help, with all your normal functioning of your organ are saying I can not do it. The moment you say it your mind blocks out. The moment you accept impossibility that's it. And you accept that you have defect on your life. There are many other handicapped who could do better than you. Do not accept limitation. That is one of the things that caused people not to be successful. They accept the fact that it can not be done at some point in their life. Their parents may have told them that. They may have dreamed of being a pilot or something. The parents said can not be done. And so it could not be done. Or somewhere along the line, friends may have told them it can not be done. You will get used to it when you move around among Christians who are what I called impossibility thinkers. To them every thing is not possible. Why is it not possible? Nobody has done before. Why hasn't anybody done it before? Because it is just not possible. That is all they can say. But wherever or whatever God ask you to do, God expect that you discover it is possible.

The most amazing thing about Matthew 21 is this. Jesus had faith in the ability of His disciples. Think about them. One of them betrayed Him. One of them denied Him. Two of them were quarrelling to be on the right hand and left hand. These bunch of disciples. I am sure people are saying why do you choose these bunch. What can they do? Do you know what Jesus said? You can remove mountains. He told these very bunch of disciples, "You can remove mountains. You can do this to the fig tree as I have done." The only limits to the possibilities in your life are in your mind.

The first time Christopher Columbus wanted to sail across the world, people said it is dangerous. It has not been done. It can not be done. Because if you sail across the world right at the end you will fall over. That is what they believe. They believe the world was flat. They got their theory wrong. They believe the world was round and they believe the sun goes round the earth. Then came a guy named Copernicus. And he said the earth goes round the sun. Every body laughed at him. Every scientific discovery that we accept as a fact today was challenged as heresy by the scientists of earlier days. See human beings have a tendency to be complacent. It has never been done before. Don't rock the boat. We are O.K. here. Don't do anything adventurous. Just sit and go through life like us. But it is those people who want to change the world, who want to be the head and not the tail, who have to rise up in their thinking life. Their minds have to get rid of limitations and impossibilities and rise up above what has not been done before. You have to a concept of that in your heart and in your mind.

God never wants you to limit yourself. "Say God never wants me to limit myself." Jesus told His disciples what I do you can do also. Matthew 17 the disciples could not cast out a demon. In verse 19 the disciples came to Jesus privately and said why could we not cast him out? So Jesus said to them because of your unbelief. That is their only problem. Your minds were limited. Your minds start thinking why it can not be done. Do you notice when you tell people of some project, the first thing they tell you is why it can not be done. Very few people will tell you why it can be done. Think about any area in the natural. For example if you are going to start a business or something, the majority of people is going to come to you and say why it can not be done. The market condition, the recession, this and that. They give you one thousand reasons why it can not be done. If you want to be an eagle and not a sparrow, then you have to think above them. Those are the crows and the sparrows. The crows and the sparrows

can not go above where the eagle goes. Sometimes the crows and the sparrows look up at that majestic bird called the eagle flying above them. How did they do it? And sometimes some of you baby eaglet say I can reach that mountain. I can go right up there. You have visions of golden eagle. There is an instinct in you that say you can rise and be the head and not the tail. And as you began to stretch your wings to fly, the crows will come to you and tell you don't do it. And they will give you a thousand reasons. The crows and the sparrows will tell you one thousand times how it can not be done. Why it can not be done. All things are possible if you dare to believe. But it takes courage, it takes daring. That is why one of the things Joshua has to be told is be of good courage. It takes boldness to believe it can be done. It does not take anything to believe it can not be done. All you have to do is just be lazy. But it takes courage to believe it can be done. You can do it with God's help.

And Jesus made a statement in verse 20 Because of your unbelief for assuredly I say to you if you have faith as a mustard seed you will say to this mountain move from here to there and it will move and nothing will be impossible to you. I want you to get a grasp of the vision Jesus had. Jesus wants a group of soldiers in the army of God who move and say nothing is impossible. If you are the type of disciples Jesus wants to be, you would be someone who eradicate and remove the word impossible from your mind. If Jesus said nothing shall be impossible to you. Look at the type of disciples He wants. He wants the type of disciples who dream great dreams. See great visions daring to do great and mighty things for God that the world tells them they can not be done. Sometimes the crows and sparrows tell them it can not be done. The Pharisees tell them it can not be done. You have enough people telling you it can not be done. You need people to tell you it can be done. Whatever you want to achieve in life, it depends on your faith. And how much faith should it be - a mustard seed. You don't need a lorry load. Just that small tiny idea and vision that drops into your heart can bring you to. It can grow and grow.

I remember Cho Yonggi who is now the pastor of the world largest church with more than 800,000 members now. The Presbyterian church was one of the largest churches in Seoul, Korea. One day as a young man he took a ruler and went to the church and started measuring the church. And the Presbyterian elder came and asks, "What are you doing?" He said I am going to build a church bigger than this. They laughed. And he built one slightly a few feet bigger. One man dares to dream the impossible and do the incredible. If you go for ten thousand souls in life, you will probably live and die wining ten thousand souls. But another person can believe God for one million souls, and they will probably live and die wining a million souls. Who set the limit? You set the limit not God. If you believe that all you can do is to buy a tiny little flat just next to the slum area, you probably have that. I am not suggesting covetousness. But I am suggesting that you do not have a limited mind. God could do better if you would change your thinking life.

What did God said to the Israelite nation? You shall be the head and not the tail. But that is one thing you notice among those who lived in the slums have a slum thinking. The people you mixed with tend to give you the same kind of limitation type of thinking. When you mixed with people who are unsuccessful they will always talk about unsuccessful things. Did you notice that those who want to be successful, mixed with people who have been successful in order to get that same kind of thinking and the way they talk and the way they think are different. The successful think and talk

differently. The unsuccessful think and talk in a certain way. It depends on your thinking. And Cho Yonggi said this that he noticed that unsuccessful pastors tend to group together. And successful pastors tend to group together in a conference. One group talks about the impossible. The other group talks about great possibility. That is also the same in the spiritual realm. Without any bias I attend pastors conference whether it is big or small. So sometimes when they organize a local pastors conference. And a lot of them come from small churches that are struggling. When I mixed with them I noticed the speakers they bring in talk small. For example they will stress on discipleship. And just completely neglect the growth of the church. They will share messages that will make you complacent and make you be satisfied with what you have. They always say quality. But they forget quality always produce quantity. Quality disciples always are fruitful. You can not have quality without quantity. Sometimes I encourage these pastors and say don't limit yourself to these kind of conferences. Go to conferences where the churches are growing. They inspire you; they tell you what you can do. And you come out of it knowing what you can do. Instead of going to a conference that tells you what you can't do. You talk to people who are struggling, they will tell you the difficulties involved. But the funny thing is that there is another person facing the same difficulties and are overcoming it. So one guy is blaming it on his circumstances. The other guy is not affected by the same circumstances. What is wrong? The mind of a person was wrong. It was a limited mind against an unlimited mind.

To have an unlimited mind there are three areas you got to fight. The first area is doubt and unbelief. Doubt is what you experienced when you have no knowledge yet. Doubt and unbelief I put them differently. Doubt is what you have not seen yet. You have no knowledge about. And doubt produces fear. For example a small child growing up. For some unknown reason you tell them about a place they have never been or a dark place. And you say go there. They have an unknown fear. A fear of the unknown. Why because they have no knowledge of it. It is something dark out there. They have no knowledge of that place. But the moment they have knowledge, they will look at it and they will go inside there and they switch on the light themselves. Because they know the place. They are not fearsome any more. For example some of the city folks and city children don't know the forests. So you put a city child there. They dare not to venture about. But those children who are growing in the villages in the jungles, they are used to walk jungle path like nothings. Why because they have knowledge of the place. Lack of knowledge produces doubt. When you have no information you have doubt.

When those people said to Christopher Columbus it can not be done. It is because they have no knowledge. So no knowledge produces doubt, produces fear of the unknown. We have to get knowledge to remove doubt. And knowledge that is received that is not acted upon is an area of unbelief. Unbelief is by free choice. Doubt is by ignorance. You doubt because you are ignorant. But after you received knowledge it is no more doubt. It is unbelief. Unbelief is an act of your will. You choose not to believe even though you have the facts. Christopher Columbus can come back with the gold and with all those things he brought back from the new world. And you look at it and say I still don't believe. It is your choice. It takes the first person to apply the information into life for others to follow. You are the head and not the tail. The head always breaks new borders and new boundaries. The head always rises up to areas where others had not done before.



When Copernicus said that the earth revolves round the sun, everybody laughed at him. They almost killed him. But one day they discovered that all their calculation of astronomy will not tally unless they accept the fact that the earth revolves round the sun. For example if you want to send an astronaut to the moon, you have calculate the rotation of the earth. You have to calculate the path of the rocket and you have to know the path of the moon. And you have to know the path of the sun. Otherwise the rocket will go off but missed and go the other side. That is why they need huge computers to calculate. And that is why they have the countdown because it must be the exact second. At the most they got a small percentage of error which they can adjust. The mathematical calculation is enormous. But it is all based on the fact that they must accept that the moon goes in a certain way. The sun goes in a certain way and the earth goes in a certain way. If they get their facts wrong, their calculations will all be out. And so what happened was those people who begin to travel in the sea. They begin to say when we accept the fact that the earth goes round the sun, we can understand and interpret the movement of the stars. And by the stars we can travel to great distances. We can tell north, south, east, and west without a compass. And so the fact and the truth became practical. It became practical for people to accept the fact that the earth goes round the sun. More people accepted because it means gold and silver and prosperity. It means that we can navigate the ship properly. It means that it can bring in great prosperity to the nation. It becomes practical. It affects people right where they lived. So if you have a fact and truth that does not change the way you live, then you are living in unbelief. The truth of God should change you.

For example I discovered that healing is in the bible. That Jesus took my sickness and diseases. And I have lived without medicine. It is a fact with me. If it is not true in my life I can not preach it because it has not been made practical in my life. It will only change another person's life when you know it is true. It is something that works. Something that makes you healthier. So it affects lives. Then it is beneficial. So I encourage you the only way to remove doubt and unbelief is by information and acting on the information and it comes from God's word. If you want required information, look for the right type. For example if you want to do something said I want to be a successful businessman in a certain area. There will be enough people telling you how it can not be done. But because you believe it can be done. Your mind acts in a funny way. See our mind is the slave of our spirit. Your mind will tell you how it can be done. It depends on your gear. You switch your gear to it can not be done. Your mind tells you it can not be done. You switch your gear to it can be done. Your mind will find way for it to be done. It is a peculiar phenomenon that you will discover. When you set your mind to say it can be done, your mind seems to be able to find ways to do it. It is something strange about this mind that we have. It operates based on your choice of thinking. I do not encourage covetousness. I encourage people to be good stewards. I want to encourage people's thinking to move beyond what they can not do before. To switch their thinking to the level where it can be done. It is possible to do this. It is possible to do that. All things you see it as possible. The only question in your life is this, whether it is the will of God. The question should not be can it be done or can not be done. People set their minds to say it is not the will of God only when it can not be done. I think that is wrong.

Let me give you an example, sometimes people they are sick. So they go and see a doctor. The doctor said this is a very difficult case. I recommend you to a specialist. And the specialist says this needs a special hospital. So they spend more money and

they travel to another country with all the facilities there. Finally they reached the best in the whole world. And the person says it can not be done. Then they come out and say it is not the will of God to heal me. Only when they reached a point it can not be done, they say it is not God's will to heal me. Do you know what these people are actually doing? They are deciding God's will by circumstances. They are actually contradicting the bible principle. We never decide God's will by circumstances. You decide God's will by your communion with God.

David was able to build the temple. David had the ability. He had the gold, the silver. He prepared the architectural plan. But it was not the will of God. The only reason why you didn't want to do is because it is not the will of God, not because it is not possible. The mind that God has given you is the mind that is capable of large capacity. The only reason I am not in the business is because it is not the will of God, not because I can not do it. That is where we say in the second point in this area. The only limitation you have on your life is two things, the word of God and the will of God. Don't do some things that are not the will of God for you. Do it only when it is the will of God.

Sometimes I hear full time people talk this way, "If it is God's will for me to go to Africa, God will send me the money." You know what they are saying. I decide God's will by circumstances. Whether you have or you have not it is decided by your communion with God. In other words if you don't have the cash to go, you should still move in that direction if it is God's will. And somehow either God will translate you there as you walk in that direction without the money. You see people who say it are limiting God by their circumstances. People who talk like that are people with limited minds. They don't see ways like God sees.

It is possible to get a piece of land right in the city to build a church. The moment you say it is possible, you began to look for it. The moment you say it is not possible. You will never see it. Say all things are possible to him who believe. It is only decided by the will of God. Don't do things that are not God's will. And don't stop doing thing just because it is not possible. You stop yourself from doing things only because it is not the will of God.

Do you remember God told the Israelites in Deuteronomy? He says that the nations you face are greater and mightier than you. If they ever look at their possibilities they are finished. What does it say? That goes to No.3 the unlimited mind believes in miracles. Say I believe in miracles. That is what the world doesn't believe. The difference between the world and us is we believe in miracles. We believe that one can chase a thousand. Two can chase ten thousands. We believe that. When Joshua fought with all these inhabitants in the land of Canaan, God sent hailstones. God has His army working for you. If they were to stand and look across the Jordan River with their legs shivering and say it can not be done, they would die there. They must step into the land. And then God said I give you every place your foot step on.

Train your mind to always say it can be done. There is no such thing, as it can not be done. All things are possible to him who believes. Which is the third area we say it can be done because we the miracle factor. The world may have a recession but John Osteen built his church in the recession. The world tells you now is not the time to start a business. If God told you to go ahead, it can be done. In this third area let me tell you this. Miracles are dependant on needs and not on want. Sometimes people

start claiming things because they want it not because they need it. God will supply not only your needs but also your wants. Ps.23 says the Lord is my Shepherd I shall not want. Listen very carefully. This is usually what happens. The time of the supply comes at the time of your need. You may be a school kid. Or you may be a young adult just starting off in life. You don't have much saving. You have completely nothing. But you believe God for a car. At the moment your needs are sufficient. You could go by with it. But you are going out with a lovely girl who is about to be married that very year. And in two years time you are going to have two kids. And all these needs will be ahead of you in three, four years time. And that time is not so convenient to travel by bus. As you are claiming and you are walking and believing God and you are faithful in your finance. God began to supply a motorbike. And as you keep visualizing and believing that your family is going big. You get a van. But the van comes when you need it. Some of the things you believe you don't need it yet. And that is why God never send it to you yet. But believe for it comes to you when you need it. I encourage you to believe for the impossible thing. And some of the things that you want to achieve and believe God for are probably what you will need in the future. When the need is ripe it will drop on you.

### 3. RIGHT RELATIONSHIPS

If there is success I would call these fourteen verses the key to having a successful life and lies in obeying the will of God. Lets look at Deut. 28:1-14. Now it shall come to pass if you diligently obey the voice of your God, to observe carefully all his commandments which I have commands you today, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you because you obeyed the voice of the Lord your God. Blessed shall you be in the city. And blessed shall you be in the country. Blessed shall be the fruit of your body, the produce of your ground and the increase of your herd, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flock. Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed when you go out. The Lord will cause your enemies to rise against you and to be defeated before your face. They shall come against you one way and flee before you seven ways. The Lord will send a blessing on your barns and on everything you put your hand to. The Lord your God will bless you in the land He is giving you. The Lord will establish you as His holy people, as He promised you on oath, if you keep the commands of the Lord your God and walk in His ways. Then all the peoples on earth will see that you are called by the name of the Lord, and they will fear you. The Lord will grant you abundant prosperity in the fruit of your womb; the young of your livestock and the crops of your ground in the land He swore to our forefathers to give you. The Lord will open the heavens, the storehouse of His bounty to send rain on your land in season and to bless all the work of your hands. You will lend to many nations but will borrow from none. The Lord will make you the head and not the tail. If you pay attention to the command of the Lord your God that I give you this day and carefully follow them, you will always be at the top, never at the bottom. Do not turn away from any of the commands I give you today, to the right or to the left, following the other gods and serving them.

We see here in these fourteen verses that God stipulates very clearly the blessedness of being part of His people. Say it is the will of God for me to prosper, to be in health, to have success in life. It is not God's will that I be in want, that I be in sickness, that I be a failure. But it is the will of God that I be the head and not the tail. Now here is a passage that talks about success. And the key verses involved are in verse one and in verse fourteen. All the blessings are sandwiched between these two verses. Verse one speaks very clearly and tells us that all these shall come to pass if you were to obey the voice of the Lord your God and to observe carefully all His commandments. In other words you have to follow His commandments and His voice. Following the voice of God speaks about being led by the Spirit. Following His commandments speaks about being conformed and obedient to His words. And verse fourteen reminds us again to observe these commandments which He has commanded us to do.

Now in the Old Testament following the commandments means keeping the moral law, keeping the ordinances, keeping the ceremonial laws and keeping all the various laws of sacrifices. The laws of sacrifices have been done away in Christ. And the moral laws still stand today. And the law of ordinances have been revised and renewed in our days. No matter how many laws are involved, all these laws can be summarized into two commandments. And they are very clearly stated by the Lord Jesus Christ that thou shall love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, all thy soul and all thy strength. The second commandment is thou shall love thy neighbor as thyself.

So when we keep these two commandments, we literally keep all the commandments of God. So if the bible tells us here that keeping the commandments of God brings all the blessings in Deut. 28:1-14. Then if the bible tells us that keeping love is keeping the commandment of God. Then when I seek to love God with all my heart, soul and strength and I seek to love my neighbor as myself, it will bring forth the blessings of God. If "A" = "B" and "B" = "C" then "A" = "C" if keeping the commandments of the Lord "A" equals to "B" the blessings of God. And if the commandments of God equal to love, then love equals to the blessings of God. You may not realize it but the blessings of Deut. 28:1-14 depends on the love of God in your life. How much you love God and how much you love your neighbor as yourself.

And this morning I want to emphasize on the third law of success that is right relationship. Rom.13 summarize that all law can be summed up in one word, love. Love thy neighbor. And loving thy neighbor means loving those around you and loving everyone who comes into the circle of your life. In other words your husband, your wife, your family, your brother, your sisters, your father, your mother, our children and all those who are around you in your circle of life, whom ever you know and whom ever you meet. When you love them you keep the commandments of God. We have to form right relationships. Right relationships are essential to the law of success in our life. You can not succeed without forming relationship with your fellow human beings. And I speak of both the Christians and the non-Christians. We have to have a right relationship. It is important for us to see where our relationship is.

For example my wife use to pray for this nation and she is always praying and concerned about persecution. And she prays for the government and she prays for all the people in this land. And so one day she was talking with me and I said the government is not your enemy it is your friend. The people that you are praying for are your friends. But what happens is that many Christians visualize them as enemies. Every one who is called a human being is your friend. Your only enemy is the devil. So many times Christians have bad relationship with unbelievers. Those non-believers are not our enemies. They are our friends. When you see them as friends, you will visualize them as friends. Jesus saw the sinners as friends. He hates sins. But He saw the sinners as people to love. See every one you know as people to love including the nasty boss who always scolds you. Your image you always see them as enemies. So when you see them every time you react against them thinking that they are the devil. But they are not. They are human beings. They may have yielded to the devil but they are not the devil. You are supposed to love them.

The commandment you shall love your neighbor as yourself includes the non-believers and the non-Christians. We are to love them. We are to show the love of God unto them. Jesus showed His love to us before we were believers. He did not show His love to us after we know Him. The key to soul winning and witnessing is to be a friend. Even in the natural world if there are two salesmen going to sell you the same product. If one salesman is your friend whom you know and the other is a stranger. I will say if all things being equal, you would probably buy it from the one who is your friend. There is a difference if someone who is your friend shares a message with you, a truth with you. Now besides that the Holy Spirit can lead you to a stranger. In that category you can be led by the Spirit. But other wise all the time you let the love of God and the character of the love of Jesus flow from you. You become friends with people. You don't come to a stranger unnecessarily unless the Holy Spirit

leads you and said are you going to hell or heaven. You don't necessarily do that unless the Holy Spirit leads you.

It is just like the laws of healing. The Holy Spirit can give you the gift of healing. And under the gift of healing you can bring the healing gift to people without them asking. But besides the law of healing there is what we call the claiming of healing by faith, by the atonement of Jesus Christ. Then you have to get into the word and have the knowledge of what the Lord says to claim your healing. Healing can come by the gift or it can come by the preaching of the word. So soul winning is the same. You can be led by the Spirit of God to some people to tell them the Good News. But besides that the normal way is for you to show yourself friendly to every one who is called a human being. And one of the important laws of success is to reach out and form as relationship. Because no one can succeed by himself. I am not talking about forming relationship for the sake of pulling strings. That is not a real relationship. You don't want someone to befriend you just because of what they can get out of you. And if you don't want that to happen to you, don't do it onto others. But if you really show forth friendliness and seek to reach out your right hand to have as friendly relationship, to form right relationship with other, I can guarantee you that at certain point in your life, you will begin to experience success in all that you do.

The reason some people never get their promotion and always get demotion is because they show themselves unfriendly. But when you show yourself friendly, you will begin to see people not as devil but as friend. And you began to reach out and form a relationship with them, all things being equal if you know the boss and you have a proper relationship with boss not just for promotion sake, but just because you enjoy other human beings. You enjoy being friends with other human beings whether they are up in the social ladder or down in the social ladder. It makes no difference to you. You are no respecter of person. And if there is a position where the boss has to choose between you and another person, but all things being equal probably the boss will promote the one whom they know as friendly. On the sale side, it is the same. The customer who buys things from you will probably buy from you because you are friendly. In fact today those people in the world the sale managers are discovering all these principles that are actually in the bible. One of the principles they teach salesman is that the customer wants you more to be friendly than for you to promote an aggressive sale. It is different from the old sales tactic that when salesmanship first started in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. But the modern ones are beginning to learn all these principles that the old ones have not learned.

So we are talking about forming right relationship to be a success. You have to have in your heart a genuine love for humanity. You just love humans as they are. Whether the human being is your boss or your employee you just have a love for human kind. You just want to form relationship with them. And unless your relationship is right, no matter where you go the success will evade you. If you have an improper relationship with one individual, it will affect your relationship with all other individuals you meet. For example if brother James here is my blood and flesh brother. We live in the same home. We grow up together. But somehow along the way we have plenty of quarrels and plenty of fights. And I grew up to be bitter against him. That bitterness seeps in my life. When that is in my heart I may leave the house and go somewhere else to stay and to work. Then I may meet other people in my life. That bitterness is still seeping inside me. Then when I try to reach out my hand to

another individual, something seems to hold me back. Because I did not relate to one individual I can not relate to all the others properly. I am fearful, I am withdrawn, I am cautious and I react easily. Sometime I do it unknowingly or sub-consciously, all because my relationship was not built in the right way. And we have found that when people can not relate to their parents well, when they go out they also have problem succeeding in life because they can not relate to other who are older than them. Can you see that if you do not form right relationship in any area whether in the home or outside, it will affect every area of your life?

There has been a survey done by psychologists to find out why some people turn out the way they are, like criminals and cheats etc. They found out that 99% of these people all have a broken home. Isn't it strange? These people have not learned to relate to their parents who are symbols of authority in their homes. They have not related well with their parents. When they come out they find it difficult to relate to authority. Whether the authority is represented by the police or by their employer, they are rebellious wherever they go. They go against things that society deems to be right. Because of their inability to develop a right relationship, there is a scar that hinders their relationship with all of mankind. Don't despair, God can heal that. God will deal with your life until you build a relationship properly. Sometimes you may have to go all the way back.

I may even have for example have a bad relationship with my parents. Then what happens is that when I relate to authority I react in the same way I react to my parents. As a result I never get promotion. I never get favor. I never find grace and favor with people. One day I seek the Lord and ask the Lord, "Why am I a failure?" God begin to deal with my unforgiveness. And God sends me back to my good old long lost brother. Then I said I am sorry all those years I have been bashing you up. And we prayed. Something is released in my life. Then I go to the parents and say forgive me. When I go back to the town about a hundred miles away, something is different. As I relate to my employer, he said something had happened to my employee. Suddenly the employee becomes more obedient. And they could form a relationship where they could not do so before. And then they find favor with the boss. And the boss promotes them.

Success comes when right relationships are formed. You don't form right relationship for the purpose of promotion. But it must be in your heart all the time. Anyway people can sense whether you are a fake, whether you are just using them as a stepping-stone or you are genuinely have a relationship with them. In other words you are a friend not in prosperity but you are a true friend indeed. You are not a friend because of what you can get. You are a friend because you just want to form a relationship with people. As long as we are individual human beings and if we refuse to form a relationship we will always confront failure wherever we turn.

Remember Jesus emphasize how important forgiveness is our life. He says that whatsoever things your desire when you pray, you believe that you receive and you shall have them (Mk.11:24). But it says in verse 25 when you pray forgive. Unforgiveness is bad relationship basically. Unforgiveness develops because you have no relationship or bad relationship with people. Bad relationship will hinder the power of faith that moves mountain. And you are wondering why you can not move that mountain. Because you have not build your relationship with people. You have nurtured unforgiveness. We have classified differently. Instead of classifying it as

forgiveness, it is more than that. To forgive is one but to forgive and than build a relationship brings it deeper. Which is why we have chosen a title building relationship.

There are a few bible examples like Jacob. Jacob grew up exactly in the same situation. He and his brother never got along. He was a cheat. Even when they started coming out from the womb, when Esau came out Jacob was holding Esau by the leg. That was how aggressive he was. After that they kept on having a series of bad relationship. You remember how Jacob cheated his brother over that bowl of red bean soup and exchanged it for the birthright. Late on when Isaac his father was old, he cheated his father to get the blessings of Esau. So he was a cheat all the time. Later he went to another different country. Remember he ran away from Esau because Esau threatened to kill him. When he worked for Laban he fell in love the first thing he got was he got cheated. He worked for seven years for Rachel. And you remember the story it says behold it was Leah. Can you imagine waking up after the wedding night and say this is the wrong sister. He went back to Laban and say how can you cheat me. And Laban said you work another seven years and I will give you Rachel. And then after that he worked another six years. He worked twenty years under Laban. And in those twenty years ten times Laban tried to cheat him. You shall reap what you sow. He could never relate well in his home. He thought that he has moved out of that situation. Let me tell you the law of reaping what you sow still works no matter where you run. If you are a cheat and a con man and you try to abscond from this country, you will go to another country, you will reap what you sow that side too. You can not get away from what you sow. The laws will fall upon you.

Look at Gen.31:38 These twenty years I have been with you. Your ewe and your female goats have not miscarried their young. I have not eaten the rams of your flock. That which was torn by beasts I did not bring to you. I bore the loss of it. You require it from my hand, whether stolen by day or stolen by night. Verse 40 there I was in the day the drought consume me. And the frost by night and my sleep departed from my eye. Thus I have been in your house twenty years. I served you fourteen years for your two daughters and six years for your flock. And you have changed my wages ten times. He was a cheat and he got cheated. Now Jacob seems to be more prosperous now. He has two wives and that was not the perfect will of God. That is why constantly he has problems. It seems to be a success. But look at what he says in verse 40 in the day the drought consume me. And the frost by night and my sleep depart form my eye. Doesn't that sound like as modern businessman. A lot of assets and they go into their twenty rooms bungalow house and every night they lay on their bed they toss and turn like a bird. They could not sleep. All their success could not buy them of one good night sleep.

One guy I know has seven cars and drives one car a day. Why must he do that? Because every night he travels back the thieves are looking for him. So he changes cars every now and then. He is not free. He is in prison. Jacob seems to have prosperity and success but he did not have total success. He had no good night rest and no sleep. Things seem to go against him. Could you imagine those who work so hard and has plenty of money; as they sit on the table to enjoy all the luxurious food, they could not because they have stomach ulcer. Then half of their body is dying of cancer. And all their money went to pay the hospital bill. They could not enjoy the food. Could not enjoy the sleep. Could not enjoy their daily life. I wouldn't call that



success. True success comes when you build relationship. And all these things are added onto you. You will enjoy your food better and at the same time you have everything you need. God supplies all your needs. And you have a good relationship with your wife. You have formed good relationship everywhere you go.

Jacob only started having the true success and blessings when he decided to make it right with his brother Esau. The very next chapter tells us. He wrestled all night and the angel said your name is Israel. The very next day Jacob met his brother and in chapter 33:3 when he crosses over before them. He bowed himself to the ground seven times until he came near to his brother. Esau ran to meet him and embraced him. And they wept. Do you know what happened? Jacob sought to build a right relationship with Esau. Before he came he sent the cattle. Remember he sent his servants ahead all with the presents as gifts ahead of him. He sought to build a relationship. He gives of his assets. That is his cattle, his goats. Jacob was reaching with the right hand of fellowship. And when Jacob forms a right relationship with Esau could he begin to enjoy success. His name became Israel and God spoke to him about building an altar after in Bethel. Success comes through right relationship. It is a misery if you have a poor relationship.

Many of those who are rich, who are wealthy, end up unfaithful to families. And they end up with many houses but they could not enjoy them because every one of them haunts them. Their conscience troubles them. And they know that what they do to their children is wrong. They missed their children but they can not come back. They are with their mistress. They need to repent and form a right relationship again. Start now forming right relationship with people. Don't hide in a hole by yourself. Don't form only with those who are your peers. Form with those who are younger than you. Form with those who are older than you. God will deal with your life until you get over that area.

I remember when I was in my seminary in the first year I was seeking to get a closer walk with God. I wanted the power of God to work in my life. I didn't know much about the baptism of the Spirit but I was sincere. I wanted revival. I wanted more power. I didn't understand that was the anointing I was asking for. But I was seeking more from God. And one day as I was praying God said what about those books you took while you were in the school library. I took those books when I was Form Three. See you have to form right relationship. I don't know where the books are right now. And I wrote a letter to the school headmaster and said I took these books. I don't know how much they cost. And I worked out that this is how much it will cost. And I ask that I be forgiven for that and I am sending the money to pay for those books. One thing I didn't know until I got home for my holidays was that I learned from some of my old friends still in that school that the headmaster read my letter in front of the assembly. And he pinned up my letter in the school library. Then they said because of that letter we were interested in Christianity. Only Christianity can make a person that way. Who else but the Holy Ghost can get you to return three library books? I found right relationship and I found greater release in my life.

And in my second year of my seminary, God dealt with my life and said I had never had a proper relationship with my father. We were typical oriental. Children should be seen and not heard. He never said he love me. He did a lot of nice things for me. And I know he loves me. But he never said it with his mouth. Neither did I ever said that to him. We were related physically but we never form a real relationship. And the Holy

Spirit dealt with my life. Before that every time I was in the church I found it difficult to relate to those board members because they were much more elderly than me. And during one of those quiet times when I was at home, I went back to my father and stood next to his chair and said I want to tell you something. He said, “hum”. I said I want you to know that I appreciate you and love you. He said, “hum”. That was all I got but when I did it, something began to form in my life. I had a right relationship with my parents. Then when I went back into my ministry, I found I could easier form relationship with others. And it was a source of help in the ministry. Form right relationship and God will promote you. Success comes to you.

Joseph in the bible was promoted because of a character in his life where he reached out to form relationship with people. He had no intention for his own promotion. He just loves people, a genuine love for people. You read about Joseph in one day from prisoner he became a Prime Minister. But there was one key factor involved. That was the interpretation of the butler's dream. But before he had the opportunity to exercise the interpretation of dream, he had a care for people. Genesis chapter 39 and 40. In chapter 39 we see how Joseph was in Potiphar's house and constantly Potiphar's wife came after him. What did Joseph do? Joseph chose not to form the wrong relationship. The book of Proverbs tells us that if a man goes into morality he will be brought to poverty. In choosing to form the right relationship and not wrong relationship he got imprisoned. But there is some one whose eyes saw him, God. It says God was with Joseph even in the prison. In chapter 40:5 something happened to the butler and the baker was thrown in the prison and they both dreamt dreams. Verse six Joseph was already head of the prison came in the morning and he looked at them and saw they were sad. He could have just walked away. But he was someone who cares for another human being, who is concerned when somebody else is sad. He reached out his hands and makes a relationship and he says why do you look so sad? It was a question of a man who is concerned for others. He doesn't have to concern himself. It was none of his business. When he reached out and began to ask people why are you sad, it tells us the character of his being. He was a man who forms right relationship. Probably because of this quality in his life he was promoted in Potiphar's house and in the prison. When he was thrown into prison he must have been someone who cared for other prisoners. And the chief jailer must have seen him and slowly use him because he was helpful. It has to come from inside you. It can not be faked when you have a genuine love for others to reach out and form relationship to what I called care. Joseph cared for them. He cared why they were sad. Because of that one incident he had the opportunity to exercise the gift of the Spirit interpretation of dreams. And it was because of the interpretation of dreams that the butler remembered him when Pharaoh had dreams. Imagine what would have happened if he ignored the butler and the baker. Joseph may never get out of prison.

You never know those you form relationship with. Everyone of them you meet in your life, you impart something to them and they impart something to you. Everyone you meet in life could be people who lift you up. And you need everyone. You can not live alone. You can not promote yourself alone. Hiding yourself in a room and confessing all the prosperity principles will not work unless you come out and form relationship with people. Joseph formed relationship and he got promoted.

Do you remember Paul and Barnabas. In Acts chapter nine no one recognized Paul and Barnabas. Acts 9:26 When Saul had come to Jerusalem he tried to join the

disciples. But they were all afraid of him. They did not believe that he was a disciple. Barnabas took him brought him to the apostles and declared to them how he had seen the Lord. From that day onwards Paul and Barnabas had a good relationship. Many years later, actually it was precisely about nine years later. Act 11 Paul had gone to his hometown, Barnabas was continuing in his ministry. And in Acts 11 he was sent to Antioch. In Antioch he saw a great need. And of all people he remembered Paul. So in Acts 11 Barnabas went to take Paul to Antioch to start a ministry. That was the beginning of Paul's ministry. Imagine Paul's ministry came out because he built right relationship. If you were in the ministry and you want to come up, build right relationship with other ministers. Don't condemn them. Don't criticize them. If you were in the secular world ridiculing people and running down others wouldn't promote you. Keep a positive attitude. Build relationship with people. When you do so wherever you are in the secular world or in the ministry. You will always go up. People love to promote you and people love to help you and lift you up.

Paul formed the right relationship and many years later he needed Barnabas. There was one time when Paul and Barnabas quarrel in Acts 15. And their quarrel was over Mark. And the quarrel was so strong that Paul and Barnabas separated different ways. And Barnabas took Mark and Paul took Silas in Acts 15:40. The question is did Paul later form a right relationship back? He did. I believe they prayed and forgave each other before they were parted. But many years later when Paul was at his end of his ministry, in his last years in second Timothy 4:11 Paul said only Luke is with me get Mark and bring him with me for he is useful to me for ministry. That tells me that Mark must have formed a relationship with Paul and Paul must have formed relationship with Mark even though there was a misunderstanding earlier in their ministry. Don't ever let a misunderstanding breed, tackle it, solve it and remove it. If there is anybody in the church whom you can not relate to properly, you must relate to properly. It will be a hindrance to your own life. God will not promote you unless you relate properly. If there is anybody in your working life that you are not relating properly, you have to start relating properly. I don't know how you are going to do it. But God will show you how to start relating properly. Maybe the one who is always scolding you and upsetting you, try remembering his or her birthday. He or she may be an unbeliever and you purposely buy a birthday present and say I still like you. The Holy Spirit will help you how to build a relationship. When you do it even your working place will be transformed. And get ready because promotion comes up. Success comes to those who build a right relationship.

Maybe it is in your home between you and your wife. You have to solve it. You have to build right relationship. Don't go through life having a hurt relationship behind you. It is your responsibility to forgive and go to them and ask for forgiveness. When you released it there is something released in you. All these things are like tying you down. You may have the power to keep moving at twenty miles an hour but if you are carrying tons of bad relationship, you are going to move maybe one mile an hour. The moment you release that, your life begins to excel. That is the reason why some people wonder why success seems to fail. Because they have too many bad relationships behind them. Cast off those bad relationships. You have to go to them and establish them properly. Don't wait for them to come. Whether they forgive you is between God and them. You got to forgive them and you got to release them in your life. And God will bring success to you.

So I conclude by reading Matt.7:12 Therefore whatever you would others do to you, do also to them, for this is law and the prophets. Whatever you want man to do to you do to them first. That is Jesus' positive way. I remember the Chinese Confucius saying. Don't do to others what you don't want others do to you. He got it backwards. That can make you so passive that I don't do anything. But Jesus wants you to be active. He wants you to do something to others what you want them to do onto you because you reap what you sow. Proverbs 18:24 tells us that he who has friends must show himself friendly. And there is a friend that is stickier than a brother. Now that is a prophecy about Jesus but it is also telling us about life situation.

When you form friends in a real relationship, do you know not only you help them but also they help you? Now lets turn to Lk. 6:38 Give, and it will be given to you, a good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, shall men give onto your bosom. God uses men. Now tell me if you are having bad relationship with every human being you meet, you make enemies everywhere you go, tell me how are you going to have success. No matter how skillful you are. No matter how educated you are. You can have a string of PhDs. You can have tremendous potential but you have a bad relationship everywhere you go, I can assure you, you will still be a failure. You have broken that law of success, which is having right relationship. It is right relationship that brings success in your life. Here in Lk. 6:38 said men will give it to you. When you have right relationships, God can touch more avenues of blessings into your life. But the marvelous thing is verse 37 judge not and you shall not be judged. In Matt. 7:1-2 he says judge not for with the same measure you judge, it will be measured to you. Not only does it apply to the law of offering where give and it is given to you, but here it says judge not that you may not be judged. Condemn not and you shall not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven. Then only He says give and it shall be given to you. The law of offering will not work for you if you have a bad relationship with people. You can be a fantastic person who gives offering but you don't keep the law of love, how can it work for you? You may have a tremendous potential to confess what you possess, to have faith to move mountain. Let me tell you if you do not forgive how can the faith that moves mountain work in your life? No wonder some people say, "I give my tithe, I give my offering but I never receive blessings." Why because you make every body your enemy. You have bad relationship. You sow bad relationship. Everywhere you go you find fault with people and then on the other hand you say God bless me please. How can God bless you? You try to keep one law by breaking another law. Remember God's blessings are involved in a total law. For this law to work for you is also dependent on the other law.

## 4. HARVESTING FROM LIFE

We are going to consider another factor about the life that we are in. In this present life that we are all going up-stream. The world is flowing down-stream. In order to fail all you have to do is to do nothing and failure will come. But in order to succeed, we need to paddle up-stream. We need to do something about it. So we are going to focus on that point. In this life that we live, if you want anything out of this life, you have to get it. It will not come to you. It will not just drop on you. What happens is very often Christians have what I called a infant mentality. See when a baby comes into this planet earth, the baby receives the parental care, receive milk and receive food. So the baby is on the receiving end. But babies do not know that somebody has to do the getting. Somebody has to reach out and get something for them. So sometimes when the child grows up, that infant mentality is still inside.

And so we expect life to give us something. We expect this life to give us some return without us reaching out to take it. As we grow up in life we realize that this life is not going to give you anything. If you want anything out of this life you have to reach out to take it. Even when God created the Garden of Eden and placed all the lovely trees and fruits and plants and animals in the garden for Adam, God did not spoon fed Adam. He just creates Adam as he was. And Adam has to reach out and take what ever he wants. He made a man to till this earth and to reach out and take what ever he wants God has placed there. This life will not give it to you. You have to reach out to take what ever you want from this life. And we have only one life. We have to know exactly what we want out of this life. You have to ask yourself what do you want to get out of this life. It is a decision that you have to make. We have to grow up from infant stage.

Sometimes our bodies grow up but our souls did not grow up. We have to grow up to realize that a time will come when we can not depend on our parents. We can not depend on somebody else. We ourselves have to reach out and take from life what we want. What do you want on this life depends on you. I do not believe in fatalism. I do not believe that every one is fated and there is nothing you can do about it. Fatalism is not scriptural. The bible shows that you are in control of your life. The destiny of your life rests upon your hands. If fatalism is true then there should not be a judgment. Because I have what is fated of me, there should not have been a judgment. But because it is false and we are responsible for what we do, therefore there is a judgment. We are judged and accountable for what we do with this life. So this life is not going to give it to you. This life is not just a bed of roses. The roses had thorns too.

This life is not just a simple river. On the river there are whirlpools. There is quicksand near the river base. So this life is full of that. We need to know what we want to get out of this life and be determined. Say I am determined to take from this life what I want. I am determined to make my life and not just wait for it to come. We have to reach out to do something about this life. I remember when I was young; I had a talk with my elder brother. And we were just discussing about life. Then I told him a statement that I myself have never forgotten. I said that there was some people who are satisfied to just live this life. They just go to work and come back. Have a natural job; their lives needs, food, clothing and shelter are met. And they are satisfied. But there are some other people who like to make an impact on this life. They want to

contribute to this life. They want to do something in this life that will affect the way their fellow human beings lived. And I said I am determined to be in the second category. I am not going to just live a life, just eat, work, and sleep and lived a biological life. Even an animal can do that. If you keep a pet dog, you watch that dog. All it does is eat, bark, sleep. No planning for the future, nothing. All he did is live a dog's life. You are not a dog. You are a human being. You are created in the image of God. And it is God's plan that He wants every one of us to contribute something into this life that will change the way your fellow human beings lived, even if you do it in your own small special way. Say I am special to God.

We will discuss three principles that are involved in harvesting from this life. There is nothing you can do about the past. You either forget it or remember it. What can you do about the past? You have a choice to either forget the past or forget the present. So remember those things that are good and forget those that are bad. We have to have our forgettable working. Do you know that God is very good at that? When God forgives, He forgets. But when we forgive, we don't forget. It haunts us the rest of our lives like as barking dog. And it makes our life miserable. We have to learn to forgive. We have to learn to forget. Some people are still living in the past. That is nothing you can do about the past. You may as well to forget it. And the future is tomorrow, and there are years ahead. What you do today determines your future.

So there are three principles to take out of life: Vision, Discipline and Balance. We need to know where we are going in order to take out from this life what we want. You receive in proportion to what you are looking for. For example, if you travel, if all you are looking for are places that are scenic, then you travel to places that are nice to visit. But if your purpose is to travel for business venture, then you have a different itinerary. The way you arrange your tour is based on the prospect that you can research into. And the places you visit will be different. So your goal sets your direction. Every one of us has goals whether you write them down or not. When we are talking about vision, we are talking about goals. We are talking about objectives that we have to set in our lives. You have to have objectives in your life, visions in your life as to what you want to do.

In talking about goals and objectives, we have to screen through what we call the will of God. Generally you can apply goals that you know your conscience allows you to. The desires that come out in you that are in line with the word of God. If you are not sure it is the will of God, there is one tiny principle that you can always do. When you do your best to love God with all you heart, mind and soul, and your goal is centered on love and helping human beings, you will find that, that goal is not far away from the perfect will of God. In other words how do I know I am doing God's will in my life? All you have to do is set to do the most loving thing in that situation. And when you do it you will find that it is not far from the perfect will of God, probably is may be the perfect will of God. Do the most loving thing in that situation is the will of God.

There are two types of goals that a person has to set. One is the ultimate goal and one is the proximate goal. The ultimate is long range planning. The other is short range planning. Some people when they hear teaching about goals, they go to success seminars and they learn about goals setting. And they come out with a lot of resolutions. Sometimes they set goals that are so far reaching that they don't know how to go about it in the present. For example if somebody aged 23 sets a goal to be a

millionaire, he may reach the goal by the age of 30. I read a story of one guy who did it. That was his ultimate goal. And this was his proximate goal. He found that everybody work about six to eight hours a day. So he asked whether if they work six to eight hours, they could reach there. And he saw around him that everybody were in their late thirties or forties and they were just so, so. So he said if he worked twice as hard, he will reap twice of what they had. So he worked twice as hard. And he reached his goal by the age of thirty. But he overworked himself and by the time he reached to be a millionaire he could not enjoy his wealth. His body was as wrecked. He was like a car that has not been serviced for ten years. This is why we have to have the last key: balance.

## **Goals**

We have vision, which are your goals; discipline and balance. Lets talk about goals. We have to have long-range goals: what do we want to have out of this life. Then we have proximate goals. In other words the man had a goal quite far out and then his near goals: what he wants to do immediately. So a long-range goal had to be broken up into smaller sections in order to reach it. If you set a goal to be a doctor, then you have to sit down and pray. Now there is something characteristic about the Holy Spirit. If you don't ask Him, He won't tell you. And you are maybe 19 or 20 and you set your goal to be a medical doctor. The first thing after you set a goal it helps you because you begin to look for information in that area. If you don't have goal you don't look for information. And where ever the person goes that person looks for information in that area. They have information. And the information helps them to direct their life. Unless we have proper goals, we will not have the ability or the concentration to look for information.

So here is a guy who sets a goal to be a doctor. So the person lists out and find out information. And the person looks at information. The person looks at hurdles to clear. For this person it could be that the parents are poor. They could not afford the education. Do you know that is a simple problem? That is not the end of life. Some people when they could not make it through their exam results. They said this is the end because they are not mature. They think that failing it would be the end. There is no other alternative to clear the hurdle. Let me tell you that there is always a million ways to clear one hurdle. There are always many ways to clear over a mountain. You can either climb up on the mountain and then ski down on the other side. Or you can walk round the mountain on the right side or left side. Or you can tunnel through the mountain. There are many ways to cross over a mountain. Not just one way. That is the problem for those who are young. They are limited in their thinking. There is more than one way to get what you want out of life. And so that person looks for information in that area. And that person will find that they can get accredited degrees by correspondence. And you would be fully qualified as those who go to school. You got to have a goal and then you have to have an approximate short-term goal to achieve that major ultimate goal. I could work and take a correspondence course at the same time. Or I could look around for scholarship. Or I could look around for an education loan. There are hundred of ways across those hurdles. Once you have set your proximate goal, work at it with all your heart. Keep the ultimate goal in mind.

What happen is sometimes people keep looking at the ultimate goal. There is a hurdle in front of them. There are a lot of bums along the path. They are looking at the

ultimate goal suddenly you don't see them around. You turn around and they are in the manhole. We need ultimate goals and proximate goals.

Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth and you shall meditate it day and night that you observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous and then you would have good success. Notice that God is speaking to Joshua. And God told Joshua you must meditate on the word and you shall have good success. Let me tell you he did not just meditate on the word of God generally. Joshua was supposed to enter the Promised Land. That was the will of God for his life. That was his vision. That was his objective. That was his purpose. That was his goal to enter the Promised Land successfully. Do you know that there are a lot of promises in Genesis to Deuteronomy about the Promised Land? As he read through Genesis he came across where God spoke to Abraham about the Promised Land that after 400 years I will bring you out. And he may have jumped up and said that is for me. And then every time he read those parts where God said to Moses and say that I have given you the land. He said yes Lord I claim it you have given it. I could imagine Joshua meditating on the word. As he meditated on the word, he claimed what was his in the word. And it became real to him. The objective was clearer. What is the will of God in your life?

When God chose David to be king, David had to meditate on the word. He knew what his goal was even when nobody accept him. Nobody believed he had an anointing to be king. He was being pursued as an outlaw by king Saul. Everybody rejected him. But the anointing was on his life. While he was hiding in the cave, you know what he was doing. He was building his army. Only people with goals are able to overcome the immediate hurdles in front of them because they know where they are going. David started with his army not after he became king, but before he became king. By the time he became king, those people with him became his main generals. He had a proximate goal. He started training there.

Goals are seeds in your life. They are seeds that you plant today. They are buried inside you. Nobody sees it. Do you know I have a goal? You can't see it now because it is not fulfilled yet. You will see the whole plant maybe many years later. Because of the seed inside me, ten years from you will see the plant. But right now when you look at it you don't see. You only see me as I am. But you can't see inside me. When you plant a seed, you can't see it for some time. But inside the seed is taking roots.

Joseph was given a dream. And I believe the reason why God gave him the dream is because of the many hurdles he had to face. Gen.37 God gave Joseph a dream when he was 17 years old. And he dreamt about his brother and how they came to him and bowed before him. He never forgot that dream. When 13 years had passed by, the dream began to be fulfilled. He was the right hand man of Pharaoh. His brothers came to him in Gen.42 Joseph said to them in verse 9 you are spies. But before that Joseph remembered the dream. He was 17 when he was sold as a slave. He was 30 when Pharaoh promoted him to Prime Minister. And there was seven years of plenty. Twenty over years later the dream was never forgotten. He never forgot what God told him when he was 17 years old. People can take away your house, take away your car but if they can not take away your vision, you will still come up.

During the great Chicago fire many businessmen started committing suicide. There were so many suicides that the newspaper people felt that they have a responsibility.



So they put in bold letters in the headline “Any fool can quit but it takes a man to pull through.” The suicide started dropping. Some of them were bankrupts who lost everything in the fire. But there was a man who stood there at the Chicago fire and said, “I will build it again.” And that man today owns a chain of supermarkets and became a millionaire. The most precious thing in your life is not your money, your house or your car but it is your vision.

Proverbs 29:18 says without a vision the people perish. Do you know that the house that you are living in is because of an objective you lived for your life. You saved up for it. You have a goal to buy it. You took a loan for it. You had a goal that is why you are living in your own house. You have what you have what you have today is because you set some goals. We can take everything away but as long as you have your vision, you can restore every thing back. All it takes is the will to live and take from life again. Life is full of whatever you want. Whatever you want of life, you can take it. It is there. The only people who will reap from life and harvest from life are those with goals. That is why you need objectives and goals. Goals and vision are something that need to be revised constantly. When you set your ultimate goal and your proximate goal you need to revise them.

### **Discipline**

How often did God told Joshua to meditate? Day and night. What was God doing? God wanted him to build that vision in his life. And there is something about this. That is why we go to the number two discipline. Every one of us has to fight laziness. It is easy to be lazy. But it takes effort not to be lazy. After sin nature came our bodies tend to laze about. And so we need to be disciplined. There are too many people who set goals but they are too lazy to do something about it. A dream is only a dream until you start acting on it and it becomes a part of your life. There are those who dream and do nothing about it.

I believe Joseph did something about it. Between 17 years old and 30 years old is a period of 13 years. For 13 years he served in two places. He served in Potiphar’s house and he served in the prison. What did he learned in the 13 years. He learned administration, to have employees under him. He learned all these things. Later when he was the right hand man of Pharaoh he had thousands of people under him. What you are leaning now is important. You have to have goals and objectives and start preparing. I am sure that all through his 13 years he remembered that God is going to promote him and he was prepared for it. Discipline is something that all of us need to do something about. And discipline can only come if we revise our goals every day. It is because we human beings tend to forget. Even Jesus knew that the body of Christ forgets easily. That is why He said as often as you meet you must have the Holy Communion so that you remember what I have done for you. God knew that human beings forget easily. So God told the Israelites and said you must remember my word. And goals and objectives are something we have to revise everyday to keep in that direction.

Life is like driving a car into a new area. All you have is like a road map and generally a few places that you know. So you are going to drive you car through that new area you haven’t been. Life is that way. You haven’t been to some of these things that are there in life. Some of the things you face, you feel that you are all alone there. Nobody else is with you but you have a road map. Then you have an objective. You

want to go to such and such a house. You have an objective there. You have an appointment there. So you wanted to go there. You must locate where you are before you can start driving. You can do it if you do it bit by bit. There are those who are over confident in a new place. They missed about three turns and ended up somewhere else. Do you know that by looking at the map actually it is easy to go if you are slower? What we are saying is the map is the goal and objectives in this life. As we go through this life, we tend to be side tracked by many things. That is why we need to constantly revise our goal everyday. You have to sit down and write it down. And every day perhaps in the morning, in the noon and in the evening, look at your goals and objectives. At least you have some direction.

A life without direction is a life that will be bullied. Do you know that in life you get bullied? You have to know what to harvest out of this life. And so even if you say you don't seem to have any goal, check properly and you will find that you have goals. Nobody exist in this life without any goals. The only people who find it hard to exist are those who are very depressed and suicidal. Do you know why people commit suicide? They have no more purpose in life. As long as you are not there, then you have a purpose whether you have written it down or not. Whether it is a short-range goal or long-range goal, you have to go the Lord to develop long range goals and short range goals or ultimate and proximate goals as I called them. You have to write them down. And after you have written them down, everyday in the morning and everyday in the night, take them out look at them and read through them.

I have my own objectives in goals in life. So I write them down and every morning I look at them and every evening I look at them. Whenever I am free I look at the list. Why because when you have a goal you prevent unnecessary detours. And you need to keep looking at it to be disciplined. Discipline is to prevent the detours. Somebody invites you to see a football game or a three hours video show. You review your goals and say I can not be spending my time there. If I spend my time there I don't have time to fulfill this goal. So you have a goal and objective and you start choosing not to have certain things. And you became more disciplined because your goals are more real. When your goals are more real and you look at them every day, you tend to be more disciplined.

Discipline is not something very hard to get. Discipline comes by training and habit. It doesn't come instantly. It is by force of training and habit. Every man and woman in this world has a tendency to be lazy. It is because we have an objective to do. And if we don't do it failure is going to come. That compels us sometimes, pushes us. We should actually be pushed not by the thought of failure but by our goals and objectives. What do you want out of life? Write them down. Write your own ticket with God. What is your goal? What are your objectives? To be an evangelist? Write it down. That is your objective. As you write it down and every day you look at it, you will begin to have more ways to fulfill it. You begin to program your whole soul to fulfill the goal. Paul says I pressed towards the mark of Christ. So discipline comes by meditation on your goal and objective. Then discipline comes second nature.

Most of us do not like to be disciplined as a habit. We don't push ourselves into it. We don't enjoy it. But we want something to motivate us. Which is why I said goals and objectives are important for discipline. The most important discipline is self-discipline. Don't wait for your father or mother to push you. You are depending on the discipline of another person. You have to be self-motivated and self disciplined.

Look at David: why did he succeed in life? It is because he was self-motivated. Self-motivation is the best. 1 Samuel 30 is one of the lowest points in David's life. He had to flee from king Saul. He lost his wife and was an outcast; was chased and rejected. This is the lowest point in David's life. They were with the Philistines and the Philistines did not allow them to go with them against Israel. And they came back and found their wives gone. They found their houses gone. They found their goods gone. They found the whole city that was given to them by the Philistines ransacked. All the big mighty men were discouraged. In chapter 30:4 David and the people who were with him wept. Do you know how long they cried? They cried until they have no more strength to cry. But we have to develop our lives. Most people commit suicide out of that. In verse 6 David was greatly distressed for the people spoke of stoning him. Here is David rejected by Israel, rejected by Saul, rejected by his own people. If anybody should commit suicide, he should. But he had a goal and objective. If your vision does not perish, you will not perish. But if your vision dies, your whole being starts dying. People commit suicide when something inside them dies. And in the midst of all these discouragement look at David. Verse 6 David strengthened himself in the Lord his God. When all forsake you God will not forsake you. You have to have that quality in your life. And your encouragement must not depend on another person. This is why I want to those who get depressed easily and discouraged when somebody say bad things about you, you are depending on encouragement from others. You have to be prepared to face the tunnels of life alone. Even though you walk through the valley of the shadow of death, His rod shall lead you. He shall be with you.

Before self-discipline is self-motivation. And before self-motivation is vision and goal. You have a purpose in life. I can guarantee you if you have a purpose in life, nobody can destroy you. They can destroy all you have but as long as you have a purpose in life, they can not kill your will to live. You will somehow come up again. When you set ultimate and proximate goals, and here it has to do with discipline again, don't set them beyond your ability until they becomes a discouragement. You can set goals based on God's revelation in your life. God can tell you things that are beyond your ability. But sometimes people have never tasted success in their life. And their goals are so far ranged that everything they do seems to be failure along the way. Do you know that there is nothing that tastes better than success and victory? Defeat and failure taste bitter. But success and victory taste sweet. Here is an important thing in your life. If you have never succeeded in your life, you must set goals in certain area where you know you can succeed. So that you can taste success and then it can encourage you to press on. And you will have more discipline the next time.

For example, a person sets a goal of earning ten thousand dollars in one month. But their faith level is very small and their capability at work is also small. And their educational level and qualification and academic level are not up to the mark. At the end of the month they only managed to get about two thousand dollars. So they say they will never make it. It would have been better for that guy to set a goal of three thousand dollars instead of ten thousand. It is better to go progressively than to put a big step. So set goals that you can taste success in. Don't over reach yourself. Your goals must be realistic and flexible. If you do not set realistic goals you will be frustrated. And there is something about failures. Failures tend to produce more failures. And if in your life you have never tasted success in some areas, you probably don't have much motivation either. There is nothing that motivates you more than

success. If you have succeeded once, you are motivated for more. There is nothing that can make you to go for it than you have reached it before. Set goals that are reachable. Don't set goals if they are beyond you to achieve. You will get discouraged, frustrated and just give up everything. All these things I am sharing from my life.

One day in school I started getting recognition. That started changing my personality. I was virtually unknown until I discovered I could play chess. At sports I was lousy. At running I was last. What kind of motivation will that be? You can be sure I was never motivated in the sports. Why, because I was a failure there. One day as I was playing chess and I started winning, something started happening. My personality started being molded. Then when I tasted success in front of the whole school, I was given recognition because I won the state championship. Something happened to me when the sweetness of success soaked in. And I began to be more self-motivated than before. Then without anybody telling me, I started spending more time on chess. I meditate over the chessboard. There is nothing sweeter that can motivate you to be more disciplined than success. So if you want to be self motivated. Set goals that you can reach and taste the success. As you set goals where you can taste the success, your motivation becomes stronger. And then discipline becomes second nature. So that is how you deal with discipline. You don't have to force yourself. Your goals should never be a burden. It should be an inspiration. There is nothing that taste sweeter for discipline than self-motivation. Self-motivation comes from your goal. And self-motivation needs discipline. And discipline comes from tasting success.

## 5. HAVING A GOOD SELF-IMAGE

This morning we are going to look at the self-image of a person. The word image speaks about the imagination that is inside you. For some time as a Christian I always thought that the more you devalue yourself, the more you claim you are the dust, you are nothing, the more closer you can be with God. The Holy Spirit began to show me that, that is only half the story. To see all our sins on the cross is only half the story. The other half of the story is to see that we are the righteousness of Jesus. What happen is that many people have only half the story. They only have half of what God intends for them to see themselves to be. I don't know why but probably it has to do with human nature. Many who come to God wants to see themselves as dust and as worthless value. Contrary to what we think the bible does not say that. Jesus did say that you could do nothing without Him. But on the other side of the coin, He also said that if you abide in Him and He abide in you, that you will bear much fruit. We can do much with Him. So always tradition has made us devalue ourselves. And I believe that is of the devil. If the devil could have us to see ourselves as worthless, before long you will behave as a worthless being. If the devil could have us see that we have completely no value in life, then we will follow accordingly. We become what we see.

In 2 Cor. 5:21 it says that he became sin so that we might become the righteousness of God. That is the other half of the coin. Could you imagine yourself as the righteousness of God? The book of Romans tells us we receive the gift of righteousness. And we are talking about the image that God has of us, that we must see ourselves as the righteousness of God. Let me show from the bible that God wants you to have a good image of yourself. It has nothing to do with being self-centered. Being self-centered is a different thing from being seeing yourself as God sees you. All the time we always have three ways of seeing ourselves. You either see yourself to be what other people see you. Usually a child growing up experiences that. When as a child, they do not receive approval from the parents they began to see themselves as valueless. And they feel disappointed. So a child growing up needs a lot of image forming in their life. I call children wet cement. When the child grows up the cement will dry up and the impression you made in life will remain there and it will affect their whole life. It takes the Blood of Jesus Christ to cleanse all over again the things that have been impressed on us. As we grow up the images that we received sometimes speaks to us. You noticed sometimes parents put a wrong image in the child. They call their children "stupid" or "good for nothing" etc. And the child begins to respond to that image. And after some time the child begin to be what they say the child is. And then they blame the child and say I don't know why you are good for nothing. But it is the parents that formed the image in the child.

And the most important thing in our life is to see ourselves as God sees us. You can see yourself as other see you. You can see yourself as you see yourself. And because of original sin we always devalue ourselves. We always see ourselves to be below the dust. It is sin nature involved. But what God wants us to see is to see us as he sees us. That is the right value of ourselves. It is what I call a false form of humility. It is not being humble if you keep on saying I am a sinner, I am good for nothing, and I am worthless. It is not being humble at all. You are destroying what God wants to do in your life by destroying the image in you. And because of this fact, the image in your life will affect the image outside. Sometime people have the impression that we Christian are different from the world. And so we can do what we want. We wouldn't

care what the world think. That is one side of the coin. But on the other side is your testimony. Don't pull it to the extreme so that you behave in such a way that the testimony is a bad reflection of Jesus Christ. What the bible is talking about is that you are not influenced by the world, you are not affected by what the world say but yet at the same time your testimony should be spotless before the world. It does not mean that you have no reputation with the world. It does not mean that as far as the world is concerned you are a useless junk.

Paul mentioned that one of the qualifications of leadership is reputation. First Timothy 3:7 Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside. Do you know that refers to non-Christians? He must have a good testimony among non-Christians. Good reputation, lest he falls into reproach and the snare of the devil. Do you know a lot of Christians has a bad reputation outside? And they try to have a good reputation within the church. That is inconsistent. We have to be outside what we are inside. We have to be inside what we are outside. We have to be sincere, true to ourselves. So definitely it is God's will for us to have a testimony outside. To have an image and that image is the image of Christ. We must have an image as far as we relate to the world outside. Which is why when we do business with the world, when we relate to the world, we have to bring forth that this is God's work. It is high quality work. And the world began to learn a little bit of that by what they called quality control. What does it reflects on. It reflects on the person who made it. Whether you are concerned for the profit or for the artistic aspect, success in life involves the image that we present onto people. As we keep presenting the right image, there will be people who will begin to respond.

For example today in the world there are certain images that have been formed. Long ago when the Japanese first came out with their goods. Some of the western film will show for example a cowboy film. And in the midst of the cowboy film somebody would pull out a gun and they go bang, bang. And the gun doesn't work. He looks at it and say, "It is a Japanese gun." It is a way of saying that it is low class. Today it is a different story. It is not just producing the goods. It is the image that the goods carry that is important too. So your image is important when you relate to the world. Don't say I am a Christian businessman I don't care what the world thinks. But Jesus is concerned about what your reflection is in the world. Whether you are giving a poor or good example of Jesus Christ comes from your reputation. One of the qualifications of the deacons in Acts chapter 6 is the same thing, that they must have a good testimony.

So to have a good testimony we must place a value on our own life. And we all have value. You can think in terms of value by what have been paid for your life. For example, if we ask of this chair. Then we compare in monetary terms. We say it is worth \$38.00 each. Then you say that is more valuable that the chairs downstairs which is worth \$10.00 each. So we say that these chairs have more value than the other chairs. How do we measure value? By the medium of exchange you measure value.

Your body, your spirit, your soul, has been purchased with the Blood of Jesus Christ. What value is the Blood of Jesus Christ? Think about the value that God has invested in your life. God invested in your life through the Blood of Jesus Christ. 1 Cor. 7:23. Do not become slaves of men. Brethren let each one remain with God in that calling in which he was called. You were bought with a price. God has placed a value on your

life. If you see yourself of no value, you will definitely behave as such. We all Christians need to pick up the fact that we have to see ourselves as people of value. We have to walk that way, talk that way, and behave that way. We have an image for God that we carry. Every one of us must have an image. For example when people interview you for a job, do you know what people are looking for? The image that you reflect. They judge you by how you carry yourself. That is why when people go for interview they dress their best. None of you will put on your worst shirt, worst slippers, smelly pants etc. The problem is people lived their life for interview. They didn't live their life for everyday. So the very next day after getting employed they become their true selves. The image that they carry is a temporary one. I am talking about a permanent image that you see yourself and carry yourself as you are. By seeing the way a person does things and seeing the way a person behaves, you could actually tell in five years time whether that person would succeed. For example, 300 people graduate from the university. By watching their lives and the way they do things. Even when none of them has any assets, none of them has anything that can be considered a big success in the world; they only have themselves. By analyzing all three hundred and the image that each one carries, you could roughly see which one would fail and which one would succeed, even when nothing has been done yet.

The difference why people succeed is because they carry a certain value in themselves and it comes out as an image. For example, a lady who sees herself and compares herself with others and say I am nothing I am not the most beautiful girl in the world; I am of no value and always dresses shabbily will follow what she believes. And after sometime she has no proposal. She says I don't know why I don't have any proposal. And nobody seems to like me. Basically because she never like herself. She never treats herself of value. So nobody comes along and says you have value. People pick up what you also say about yourself. I want you to know that the quality that we are looking for is something that people in the ministry also look for. The image that they carry causes them to bubble up or to continue as they are. Every one of you carries an image. Right inside of your heart every one has an image of another person that you know. Every one of the people whom you know has a classification in your mind. What kind of person they are. There is an image that is formed in you.

People who made image their lifestyle will become successful. They are as they are whether they get up in the morning or they sleep at night. They have an image about them. They carry the image about. It is not a false artificial one. It is a real one. That is why I say you have to value yourself inside before you can change your image outside. Then you won't be frustrated. You won't be like carrying a banner that is too heavy for you to carry. I am talking about changing your image inside and carrying it outside too. What is inside will always affect the outside. When you think of James. What do you think? When you think of John. Now there is an image that you formed about each other. What a person is imparting through their lives, through the way they dress, there is a certain image that a person carries. And people tend to treat you the way you carry yourself. People tend to treat you as your image is. For example if I come to church every Sunday in a sarong and preach, you know what kind of people I will attract. I will attract sarongs. You sow sarong you reap sarong. What you do will affect the life of people. How you treat others will affect the life of people.

The image that you carry all the time has to be alive. It is important that the image you carry reflect the way God wants you to put it forward. People look at image and life.

What people want to know is, is it real? When it is real, that's when it changes life. The same way God wants you to have a good testimony outside. In talking about image we have to talk about failures. Do you know some people can not take even one failure? It is because the image in them is poor. They have a poor value of themselves. When failure comes you will find it hard to face your loved ones or those you know. Failure is basically the sense of losing your image. Why are people who failed afraid to face others? Because they are afraid that now their image have gone down. So when you failed you must realize it does not make you a failure. It is a true failure only when you have not learnt something out of it and you have not come out of it to improve it.

Basically everything about this life we do by trying. Why is it that when some taste opposition or seemingly failure that they give up. The basic problem is image. If you know that what you have inside has value and you have a right image of yourself, which is the image as God sees it (which is always an image of success), whatever happens, you will press on and go on and say I can do better than that. There is something in you that says I can do better than that. And I am going to do better than that. Life is filled with attempts and sometimes failed attempts. But the difference lies in whether your image is correct. Every time you see or you experience what you call seemingly failure, you will see where you went wrong. Learn something out of that and take that as a stepping-stone to do better the next time. You won't throw up your hands and say I can never succeed in this. I am just not good at this.

I am going to show you some bible people that have good image and bad image and how it affected their life. The person that I am going to show you first of all who have poor self image inside them and it bothered him all his life. Because somehow in himself he never sees himself the way God sees him. In 1 Samuel 9 we see Saul before he became king. From his example we can see that before a person reached his status in life, you can actually see how a person will behave when he gets there. If you begin to have the quality and an image of a corporate Chief Executive Officer, there is something in you that keeps on putting you in the right position. To you everything will find its right place in life. Everything will find its right place of specific gravity. You can shake the thing up side down but the object will find its right position of specific gravity in the water. It depends on the content not just the outside circumstances.

Now the problem with Saul before he became king he always had an image problem. When Samuel the prophet came and told him that he was chosen to be king, Saul immediately said in verse 21 am I not a Benjamite of the smallest of the tribes of Israel and my family the least of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin. Why then do you speak to me like this? So Saul had a poor image. He said I am nothing. My tribe is the smallest, in fact it is the worst, my family is the worst. If you think carefully that is not true. Not many families own donkeys. His family was probably an average family. There are many other families who don't own donkeys. He was the son of Kish. Don't blame your circumstances. It is in you the image that counts. You can not be lower than what you think you are. You have value. Saul the son of Kish said my family is the least. Do you know he was telling a lie? He may not be aware but he had a poor self-opinion of himself. And that was inside him. It looks like humility. I don't know what kind of traditional Christianity that says he was being very humble. My definition of humility is this. Being humble is being what God says



you are. Not being what God says you are not. So if God says that you're His righteousness and you say I am still full of sin and worthlessness, you are not saying the truth of what God has done in your life. It looks like humility but it is not humility. It is a poor self-image.

And it was so rooted in him that when the inauguration came in the next chapter. All the tribes of Israel were gathered together. And Saul who has a poor self image. When he saw all the tribes and one by one being isolated to present to the king whom God has chosen. In chapter 10 it tells that they were looking for him but they couldn't find him. The tribe of Benjamin was chosen in verse 20. Then out of Benjamin they chose the family of Matri. And the family of Matri they chose Saul the son of Kish. But when they sought him, he could not be found. Where was their king? Their king was not around. Their king had a poor self-image. He didn't walk like a king. He didn't talk like a king. He behaved like a coward. And then somebody looks around and saw him hiding. Remember he was one of the tallest fellows there. In verse 22 they say there he was hidden among the equipment. Why did he hide? Because he was having a poor self image. He said I am the least. And he behaved like he was. Do you know people with a poor self-image will try to depend on what people say about them? People who have a poor self-image can not take persecution or difficulty in life. When life is difficult every one runs you down. The world hates a loser. The world loves winners.

There was one of our famous badminton player. He is saying every time I loose they put it in the headline. Every body criticized him. The world criticize them says why you fail this. What happened here? And he was being disappointed. But that is the way the world behaves. If you have a poor self image, you are affected by what people say. If you have an image and you know where you are going in life, whatever people say will not make any difference.

So here was Saul. He was chosen to be king but there was in image in him that made him not to behave like a king. He always had the image of the rejected tribe, the least of the tribe and the least of the family. As a result of that he always depended on what people say. To function he needs people to say nice things about him. If you are the type of person who needs people to say nice things about you, you have a problem. You will never be able to go through difficulty. You will never be able to stand alone in life. We all in the body of Christ must have the ability to stand alone and yet the ability to reach out our hand to fellowship with another. We love one another and we draw encouragement and nurture from one another. But yet at the same time our source and our life is from Him and not from each other. That is the strength that God wants in the body of Christ. We should be so strong that when you are sent alone in a town where all are unbelievers, you could still stand. Yet you love the body of Christ. And you draw nurture and nourishment for the body of Christ. That is strength. The test of your true strength is when you are standing alone.

Jesus went to the cross. The test of the cross in your life and in Jesus' life was being able to stand alone with the call of God on His life and with the image of what God wants Him to do. Jesus didn't collapse when His disciples deserted Him. He was not bothered when all the people around Him turn Him to be a criminal. What would you do for example if you are arrested and they tried to frame charges on you? And some of your best friends say I did not know you are this kind of person. What will you do?

If you have a proper self-image you will know that God vindicates the just. You will rely on God.

When people work with me in the ministry, I can tell by the way a person work whether he is going to succeed or fail by the way he does his work and the image he carries. And that is why we have this kind of teaching. It is to teach us those things that produce fruits of failure, remove them so that you could start planting seeds of success and be a success. It is not too late. One wonderful thing is you still can change. We may have been sowing seeds of failure all the time but we can change.

Can you see king Saul? He was a failure from the start. He never had a proper image of what a king should be. A king should walk boldly to lead his people. He depended on other people. In chapter 13 when there was a war to fight, there was his unlawful sacrifice. Verse 8 – 9 they were going to battle and he waited seven days according to the time set by Samuel. But Samuel did not come to Gilgal and the people were scattered from him. So Saul said bring a burnt offering and peace offering to me and he offered the burnt offering. Samuel came and said why did you do that? He did something wrong. That was for a priest to do, not for king's job. And this is Saul's reason in verse 11. When I saw the people were scattered from me and you did not come, I made the supplication. Do you know his reason for offering the sacrifice? The people were deserting him. He can not stand to stand alone. He should have the ability to say offering of sacrifice is the ministry of a priest not a king. Even if the whole army desert him, if he had the right self image, he will say if all forsake me God is with me because I am doing the right thing. Remember having a poor self-image he depended on what people think of him. He can not stand to be alone. So he walked into the office of a priest and as a result he lost his whole kingdom. The roots of failure were already sown in his life.

1 Samuel 15 shows his personality. God told Saul to slay the Amalekites. And he did not slay them fully. He kept the king alive and the best of the cattle. So Samuel said obedience is better than sacrifice. Then this was the prophecy of Samuel in verse 26. I will not return with you for you have rejected the word of the Lord. And the Lord has rejected you from being king over Israel. As Samuel was going away, Saul seized the robe and tore it. Samuel turned around and said the Lord has torn your kingdom and given it to your neighbor. Verse 30 I have sinned please honor me before my elders and my people. You know what he was looking for? Acceptance and honor from people. He was thinking about what other people think of him. But he himself never corrected what he himself thought of himself. Inside him was still the image: I am the least, I am the least. And he sowed the seed of failure in his life. See before he was king he had that problem.

Now look at David as an example of one with good image. Some people said when you talk about image, you are talking about the outward thing. Let me tell you what is inward will affect the outward. And what is outward is the reflection of the inward. The two are one. In 1 Samuel 16 you will notice that even God told Samuel in verse 7 do not look at his appearance and at the height of his stature because I refused him. For the Lord does not sees as man see. For man look at the outward appearance but the Lord looks at the heart. So when David came let me tell you his outward image and appearance was very kingly. He had a right heart. A right heart will produce the right walk. When David came in verse 12, now he was ruddy with bright eyes and good looking. You know he took care of himself even though he was a shepherd with

all the sheep. Do you know when you look into somebody eyes you could tell whether he has a poor image or good image. You could tell failure in person's eyes. You could tell whether there is rejection in the person's eyes. This guy came with his eyes shining and sparkling. He had a right image of himself. He did not drag himself in smelling of dung. It says he looked handsome. Look at the image he projected. That was a king in embryo stage. You have an embryo of success in you by the image that is in you. So we began to see something that David took care. He took care of his image.

Now in 1 Samuel 17 David was not influenced by what people thought of him because he had a right image of himself that he has built. Chapter 17 when he was facing Goliath Saul looked at him and said you can not fight Goliath. But David answered in chapter 17 and said in verse 34 David said your servant used to keep his father's sheep. When a lion or bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, I went out after it and delivered it from its mouth and struck it and killed it. When Saul said you couldn't do it he said that he could and to prove that, he said when a lion came and took one of his sheep, he grabbed the lion's beard, opened the mouth and took the lamb out and killed the lion. He had the right image in him. When he faced Goliath, Goliath called him all kind of names. He was not bothered. Before he became king you could see the demonstration of a king. Before you become an evangelist you can see the demonstration of an evangelist. Before you are a successful businessman you can see whether a person will succeed or not. You have the image that comes forth from your inside.

When David began to have a place in the army of Saul, 1 Samuel 18:5 says David went out wherever Saul went and he behaved wisely. He was taking care of his image. Behaved wisely means he watch what he is doing. He watched his testimony among Saul's people. So how can people say that there is no such thing as image? He took care of his testimony because this is the army that he is going to lead next time. Do you know all of them were impressed with David? He made an impression in their life. Make an impression on the people you meet. Don't do it artificially but let it come from the inside. You must change the way you talk. Change the way you dress. Get rid of that floppy, lazy image. Get rid of the couldn't-care-less attitude. Sow the right images and people will take you for what you are.

## 6. SUCCESS ATTITUDES

Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth but you shall meditate in it day and night that you observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then it will make your way prosperous. And then you will have good success. We are looking on principles on how to succeed in life. So we are talking about principles the world has sometimes discovered but they may not have the full impact of the principles, as God's word will give us. It says that you shall meditate on the word of God day and night and observe to do them. Observe to do what God's word says. In this life that we live, there are two forces that are working. There is the force of evil and the force of good. And we are caught between those two forces. There are two currents that are flowing all the time. And until we reach heaven the choice will always be given to us. Which current do we want to flow with? And it is out there all the time. From the time we are born into this life until we leave this life or until Jesus comes and ends it for us, these two forces constantly vie for our lives. And whether a person has come to know God personally or not, when a person in this life chooses to go with the good force, to do good in life, somehow or other they tap on part of the current and they start succeeding. That is why there are a lot of people outside there who do not know God but who have a good heart in a sense. They desire good and they have tap on certain laws of success. But of course without Jesus life doesn't satisfy. When they have tasted all they can with their five senses, something seems to be missing. But yet from the point of the people outside, they seemed to have success. It is because they have kept certain principles. They have lined themselves up with good force.

I came across one magazine called the "Success Magazine". I also glance through "Entrepreneur" magazine just to keep myself informed. And there was the editorial column where this guy was saying that they have discovered that basically to be successful, people need to have a basic concern for the people around them. And they must seek after this success by observing moral laws too. It is quite amazing that the people who do not know Jesus are discovering that to tap on the law of success. They also need to follow certain laws. Success doesn't just drop on a person.

Mark 10 is an example of a man who was successful. The bible calls him the rich young man. Mark 10:17 Now as he was going out on the road one came running, knelt before him and asked him, "Good teacher what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?" Bear in mind that verse 22 this guy had great possession. He was rich with this world's goods. But there was something lacking in his life. And he said master I want eternal life. He has temporal life but he wants eternal life. And in seeking after eternal life, he came to Jesus and said how do I inherit eternal life? And Jesus in verse 19 says You know the commandments, do not commit adultery, do not murder, do not steal, do not bear false witness, do not defraud, honor your father and your mother. Jesus quoted to him the Ten Commandments. His reply was Lord I have observed them from the time I was young. You can read behind the lines and see that the reason behind this man's success was that from the time he was young, he followed God's commandments. He has observed to follow God's commandments. And thus has accumulated wealth and great possessions. That is what people don't see. They only see the man coming and followed Jesus and went off. But behind his answer was Lord I have followed these commandments from the time I was young. And these commandments have brought him success. These commandments came

from God. So we see that it is not possible in this life to be a total success unless we are determined in our hearts to follow the commandments of God.

In following the commandments of God. Sometimes it may not seem to work yet. Sometimes because you choose to be honest, you chose to tell the truth and not tell a white lie in spite of your boss telling you to lie you get persecuted. You seemed to get demoted. And people around you ridicule you. The businessman around tells you how can you succeed in business if you don't drink like we do. If you don't socialize like we do. So you find yourself in a position where you have to ask yourself, "Shall I keep the commandments of God or shall I not?" And here whenever a person keeps the commandments of God, there is something built into a person so much that they will come up in life. Even though by keeping it seems that people will run them down, there is something built into a person.

Let's see Genesis 39:6-10 So Potiphar left all that he had in Joseph's hand. He did not know what he had except for the bread, which he ate. And Joseph was handsome in form and appearance. Now it came to pass after these things that his master's wife cast longing eyes on Joseph and she said, "Lie with me." But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Look, my master does not know what is with me in the house, and he has committed all that he had to my hand. There is no one greater in this house than I nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?" And so it was, as she spoke to Joseph day by day, that he did not heed her, to lie with her or be with her. So here we notice that he was being tempted to do wrong. Nobody is looking but God. And Joseph determined in his heart to keep God's commandments. He says, "I want to obey my conscience. I want to do what is right." Remember Joshua 1:8 says and shall observe to do them. Even though the Ten Commandments have not been written, they have already been in operation even before Moses came. And they are still in operation because these are social principles that God has brought forth to us. The commandments were not invented in Moses' time. They were written in Moses' time. They were invented when the world was created. And Joseph said no I will not do what is wrong.

When some made a decision and say I will not tell a lie, I will not cheat, I will not keep back the money that don't belong to me. I will be honest with it. When you make decisions like that. You are coming to align yourself with the force of good, which will promote you. Sometimes in areas where nobody sees you, you could secretly cheat, secretly do the wrong things, secretly be dishonest but God sees. Remember what the bible says in Proverbs "He that hid his sin shall not prosper." Nobody sees but sin and disobedience is a weight. The more you sin and the more you do what is wrong is just like tying weights on you. The bible calls sin weight. Remember the book of Hebrews says cast aside every weight. He was talking about sins that are ignorant. Whatever kind of sin ties you down. And when you are tied down you can not rise up. Wherever you go that sin confronts you. Until you repent and get it cleansed by the Blood of Jesus which is able to remove all sins.

So here Joseph said I will not follow the wrong way. I want to follow good. And as a result of that when he chose to follow good, the bible tells us here that at first, at first, he was demoted. At first he was pressed down. At first he was cast into prisons. But God was with him. He began to find favor in the prison. God began to open doors for him. As God began to open doors and before long you find he is the Prime Minister of

Egypt. I wonder what would have happened to him had he accepted committing adultery. God would stop working in his life. He would never have risen up in life. In one of the success books by Napoleon Hill, he speaks about giving to a higher power and a higher force. The reason I do not recommend his book is because he is not a believer and he does not talk about Jesus. One thing they all recognized that to have a total success man needs a higher power. They always say things like they try to tap on the powers of the universe. Tap on the inner mind. Do you notice everything points to the same thing? They need a higher power to put them forward in life. Man was never meant to live by himself. We need the higher power of God to bring us up, to promote us, to bring us up in life and to give us success in life. For that reason I do not recommend all these other books because they are not Christians. Being not Christians they would sometimes talk about yielding to a spirit. And Napoleon Hill goes as far as talking to the spirit. And many success books are based on his. The only problem is that they don't realize that there is an evil spirit. As a result of that some people have opened doors for demonic power to operate in their lives. That is why only what is scriptural will stand and will be recommended. The reason being that when you keep God's commandments, you tap on a higher power, the power of God's Holy Spirit.

When Pharaoh saw Joseph he saw the Spirit of God. You can not succeed alone. You need God. You need a higher power. There are circumstances in your life you can never control. Even the man who says I am in control, one fine day cancer might hit him. Science and technology can not heal them. Who is in control now? And a man outside there who is rich and prosperous might say I am in control. One day the stock market goes down. Who is in control now? No man in a true sense can control his own life without some form of power helping. Those who have what I call a plastic control are very fragile. Some world events happen and they are finished. In fact the suicide rate of millionaires and billionaires is very high. From being a millionaire to a bankrupt is a very fine line. No matter how proud a person becomes, if he says he has got control of his life, that is pride speaking. Every one of them who said that always fell. Remember the bible law can not be violated. Pride comes just before a fall. When you see a person getting proud, they are just about to fall sooner or later. The exalted shall be humbled and the humble shall be exalted. The Shah of Iran thought he had everything in control. He was rich, he was prosperous. Then one fine day the Shah of Iran began to proclaim himself as the Lion of Judah. He became proud everything was in control. Before long everything was gone. After all he did, the Shah of Iran he wanted his country to prosper, he wanted the best army. He tried to give them the best. But he could never win the hearts of the people. Nobody, even the richest man on earth is not in control. There are forces that evade them. There are things that evade them in life. A human being can not control. There are circumstances beyond our control. We need a higher power. As a business you know there are forces beyond your control. You can only do that much. Beyond that you can't control. You can control stock market. You can't control the hearts and the desire of people. We need a higher power.

And to tap on the higher power of God we have to line up with his commandments. We have to line up with the force of good. We have to line up with what Joshua 1:8 says here, meditate on his commandments day and night and observe to do them. Joseph had to rely on God. But there are forces that God control. Nebuchadnezzar was probably the most powerful ruler in his time. He looked at the hanging garden of Babylon. He said look at what I did. God said because you said you did it, that is the

end for you. He started losing his mind and behaving like an animal. Until one day he repented and said I am not in control. No matter who you are, you are not in control. You have what you have because God has mercy on you. It was given to you. That is why we have to keep on following the forces of God. Whether in the business or in the ministry, there are forces you can't control. Many times people tried to control. As a result they become tyrants. Do you know some bosses are tyrants? They tried to control everything. They forget that certain things that they can not control. They must allow God to control. You can pay an employee. You can scold an employee. You can bribe an employee. But it is still the decision of the employee whether they want to give you their loyalty.

Like in David's life. It was God who knitted the men of David with David. There are forces you can not control. Only God is behind all these things. Daniel 1:8 Daniel purpose in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacy, nor with the wine which he drank therefore he requested the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself. Daniel chose to keep and observe God's commandments. Joshua 1:8 says that this book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth that you shall meditate on it day and night. And you shall make your way prosperous and you shall have good success. Daniel purposed in his heart to observe the commandments of God. Notice Daniel was not in control of his life. He was just a mere slave. He was a slave taken out of Judah. He had no rights. No employee rights. No union to go to. He has nobody to turn to but the Lord God Almighty. In his heart he determined to do the right thing. And because he had no authority, he went to the eunuch and say could we observe God's commandments. When your heart is right God will give you grace. Notice here it says God had brought Daniel into the favor and goodwill of the chief of the eunuchs. These things are beyond man's control. God gives favor, God give grace. Favor and grace comes from the Lord. So when Daniel decided to follow God and keep God's commandments, he observed to do what is right. Something began to happen in his life, promotion began to come. When a person decided to follow God, it doesn't matter what situation, but I can guarantee you the devil will make sure that you have an opportunity not to follow God. You have a choice not to follow God. When you choose to do good, God begins to come strong for you.

In Joshua 1:8 it speaks to us about meditating on God's commandments and observing to do them. And you shall make your way prosperous and you shall have good success. In talking about doing good there has to be in our lives a cleansing process so that we desire good. How do we define goodness? Some people define good by their actions. They say he is a good man. What do they mean? They meant that he did good things. He was kind to people. Sometime they say he has a high moral code. But the bible definition of goodness goes beyond that. Goodness has to start from the heart and from the mind. That is why the bible tells us to let God's word come into our lives. Meditate on it day and night until it changes our life. All of us were born in original sin. There is a sin nature in us. Sin nature is basically the selfish nature. Lets talk about giving children two apples. For example if there is a child and I bring two apples. One apple is like those Japanese apples big and huge that cost as much as a chicken. The other is one dollar for ten apples. And you bring it to the child and say choose which one. You can guess which one the child will take. Why is that? It is because there is an inherent selfishness in original sin. For example you are invited to a feast. At that feast there are two dishes. They have the vegetables and they

the fried chicken. Over the fried chicken they have the drumstick. And then there parts that are not so meaty. Do you know that some people never think of others? The first thing they go to is to attack the best piece. What is happening? They never think of others. It is inherent in a person. Original sin is a selfish nature that comes up all the time. So something in our life has to change in order to line up with the good force. And it can only be changed by meditation of God's word.

Also in line with original sin is the tendency to negativity. It is being negative about things. You don't have to teach a person to be negative. People are negative naturally. Lets give an example here. If one of our song leaders come and lead songs which they have been doing very well for six times. Then one Sunday they didn't do too well. I can guarantee you that Sunday people will pass comments. But the other six times they did well, nobody say anything. For six times nobody gives them encouragement. Before you correct somebody please check did you encourage him or her before. Sometime the first time you talk to a person is correction. How can that be? It is natural to do it. But it is not Christ-like to do it. If I have for example been encouraging a person. Then when a person makes a mistake, I am in a position to tell because I have been encouraging. But if you have not been encouraging a person, you have no right to tell a person.

For example when people prophesy up here. When they prophesy a good prophecy. None of you came and encourage them. When their prophecies touch somebody's heart who needed the word, none of you came and say, "I thank God you obeyed." Do you know how much it takes to come up here and prophesy? But when a person just missed. You come and say I love you but I have got to tell you, "You didn't do too well." What are you doing? You are being negative. It is easy to be negative. Do you know it takes training to be an encourager? But it takes no training to judge and criticize. The stream of destruction is negative. I was a very critical person by nature. Because of the way God made me, it took me many years to learn to be an encourager. Think about this way, a person when they are born again comes to the church. They may come with their bad habits. And you want to get rid of them. How could you do it? If you have been as parent, you will never produce a good child by scolding them all the time. Have you noticed that when a child does something right, then you say, "Clever boy." And he does it again and you clap. What is the child responding to? He is responding to encouragement. You will change a person by encouragement and not by correction.

If Jesus had just corrected us all the time. none of us would have responded. But because Jesus keeps telling us of what we can do for Him, He keeps encouraging us. Then we start lining up with what He tells us we can do. Some of you bosses, some of you employers, if you want employees to do well, don't start scolding them. Encourage them tell them what they can do well. If some of you married to an unbeliever, you will never change them by shoving the gospel into their mouth. You will win them by encouragement. People open like a flower when you encourage them. But they close up like the iron curtain when you criticize them. Do you know it is natural for everyone to react to criticism by closing up? And what you give never gets in any more. But when you are an encourager people open up like a flower to you. For that reason the bible tells us in 1 Cor. 13:4-8 Love suffers long and it is kind, love does not envy, love does not parade itself it is not puff up, does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil, does not rejoice in



iniquity but rejoices in the truth, bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. Do you notice here in verse 5 love thinks no evil? Love will change your thought life, your thinking life. A successful person is very generous with his compliments and very stingy with his criticisms. The unsuccessful person is very generous with his criticism and is very stingy with his encouragement and exaltation and compliment.

If you examine your life, where you are today, and what has hindered you, you will notice that there is something common about top producers. People who become the boss and not just an employee. People who rise up in life. People who could do things successfully, build large corporations, build large ministry. There is a mark about them. They are generous in their compliment and in their encouragement. So they have got people to work together. But if you examine the lower level, which is made up of those who never rise up in life, you notice something common about them. All of them are hypercritical. They are negative about their country, negative about this, negative about that, everywhere is negative and they are always down there. Do you see God criticizing us all the time? He is not criticizing us all the time. Notice something Jesus said, if you confess Me before man I will confess you before the angels in heaven. He boasts about you to the angels. Do you know He never said if you talk bad about me, I will talk bad about you. Do you know when it comes to the negative things He is silent? He did not say if you talk bad about Me, I am going to backbite you here in heaven. We can never catch Jesus doing that. When you talk bad about Jesus, Jesus never mention one bad word about you. He is incapable of doing that because He is good. He thinks well about you even though you think evil about Him.

That is why I believe every minister, every pastor, every evangelist, teacher, apostle or prophet must learn this lesson because they are leaders of the body of Christ. If people talk bad about them, they must learn never to reply. We must learn to be like Jesus. In the same way if you are in the business world, you will never rise up in life if you talk bad about your boss. There is an unseen atmosphere that will always be there that will block you. All the other people may talk bad. Do you know it will create an atmosphere? Everything that comes out from your mouth builds something into you. You try it. You keep talking bad about people. Before you meet them there is a big barrier. But when you talk good and speak well about a person, you have chosen to walk the road of success, not the road of failure. All failures got a lot to criticize about. Every one who is a failure always has some event or some things to blame. But all who are successful never blame anybody but themselves if they fail.

So the bible says to meditate on the word of God day and night. Why, our mind is like a computer. What you program in is what you program out. But our mind consists of two parts. It consists of the conscious mind and the sub-conscious mind. Our conscious mind is only about five percent. 95% of it is the sub-conscious mind. And it is the sub-conscious mind that affect your feeling, affects your response, your reaction. The sub-conscious mind plays a big role in success and relationship. Do you notice that God tells you to meditate day and night? It is not just like taking these principles and getting them on your conscious mind. You must soak into them until they get into your sub-conscious mind. It is just like in the computer they have the machine language. After you program it into your computer, it gets into the sub-conscious of the machine. It is the language that the computer speaks between the

printer and between the screen. If it were not programmed in the computer wouldn't work at all. So there is an inner language that is inside us in our sub-conscious that we need to program in and take God's word as it is. If you want to succeed in life, you have to keep programming your sub-conscious mind with the word of God. The only barrier to your success is your thought life and to God's power in your life.

Let me show here in Matt. 14 Jesus Christ was walking on the sea on the fourth watch which is between 3 a.m. to 6 a.m. And as He was in the sea, there was this disciple in the boat. And they saw Him and they said it is a ghost. Jesus called out to them and said it is I, be not afraid. Peter standing in the boat in Matt. 14:28 says Lord if it is you command me to come to you on the water. Jesus said come. And as Peter came out and started walking on the water, he was following Jesus' command. As he was walking towards Jesus he saw the waves rising. And verse 30 he was afraid. Something started happening in his mind. Take note of this, what happens and goes on in the mind, affects what goes on at the feet. What took place in his mind affected what took place at his feet. When his mind became full of doubts, he started sinking. What happened? He was afraid and he doubted. As he was sinking he said Lord help. Jesus in verse 31, stretched out His hand, caught him and said, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" Notice all he had was doubt and the miracle was cancelled. A negative mind will cancel what you are doing. What goes on in your mind affects your feet. What goes on in your mind affects your business. Do you know when people gather together in a church service and the anointing is operating, what goes on in their mind is going to affect whether they are going to receive a healing. What goes on in a person's mind is going to affect what goes on in their bodies. Such a simple thing.

If there are some doubts in your mind, do you know Jesus can even be physically here, yet you will still not be blessed? I remembered ministering in a miracle rally and I saw Jesus standing at my left watching the people. I told the congregation that the Lord Jesus Christ is present. I then told the people to come forward to shake hands with Him. Those who came forward and believed as they shook hands with Jesus (even though they could not see Him) felt a very strong presence, and some were even slain in the Spirit. Later on I saw the Lord weeping, and I asked the Lord, "Why are you weeping?" The Lord replied that His people does not believe that He is present in their midst. When He said that, I too began to weep with the Lord. Oh the unbelief of many Christians. How great a blockage it can be to the blessings of the Lord. But Jesus said if you believe and do not doubt all things are possible. That is why the bible emphasizes meditation. Meditation on God's word will remove inherent doubt in your conscious mind and in your sub-conscious mind. But the main problem in people is the sub-conscious mind. Put something in your mind when you wake up. And put something in your mind when you sleep.