

Success in Life

Goal of every Christian – Jude 24

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy...

- Conditional; some may not make it
- Israel, Hb.3

God has done His part – 2 Pt.1:3

As His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue...

I. God's provision for our successful journey

¹Guidance and companionship of the most successful traveler ever

- Mt.4:11, Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.
- Col.2:15, Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.
- Acts 2:24
- Mt.18:20 . . . 28:20
 - Guidance, protection, provisions . . .

²Book of success to instruct us

- Ps.119:105, Your word is a lamp to my feet
And a light to my path.
- Bible blesses every area of life
 - Friendship: Pr.18:24
 - Business, honesty: Ep.6:5-6
 - Family: Tit.2:4-5
- Many blame Bible unjustly for every evil.

³Bible gives access to throne of God

- Eph.2:18
- Hb.4:15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
- Ph.4:19
 - Not promise to meet needs out of His riches...but to give according to His riches

⁴Association with finest people on earth

Hb.10²⁴ And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

Ac.20³⁶ And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

³⁷ Then they all wept freely, and fell on Paul's neck and kissed him, ³⁸ sorrowing most of all for the words which he spoke, that they would see his face no more...

5 Assurance of eternal reward

2 Tim.4⁶ For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

I. God's provision for our successful journey

II. *Why do so many fail?*

1. Misplaced confidence.

- Ps.118⁸ It is better to trust in the Lord Than to put confidence in man. ⁹ It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in princes.
 - Most cannot help us; others do not care

2. Love of the world

- Mt.6²⁴ No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.
- Mt.13²² Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful
 - “Why did gnostics stay in the church?”

3. Fear of men

- 2 Tim.3¹² Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. ¹³But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.
 - Pure gospel is offensive and unpopular with most. Jn.12:42-43
 - Rv.21:8, fearful: too cowardly to confess Christ, follow the gospel, or be 'narrow'

4. Unbelief

- Heb.3¹² Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God
- Heb.4¹¹ Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience

4. Unbelief

“Why charge Christians with unbelief?”

1. What kind of God does a disobedient person believe in?
 - One who approves him as he is.
 - “I believe God will accept me as I am.”
 - 2 Kings 17
2. Even if he acknowledges true God, faith requires obedience. Hb.11

5. Feeling of self-sufficiency

- Rv.3¹⁷ Because you say, I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing — and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.
- Many do not feel a passionate need for the guidance and counsel of God.
 - Some view God as 911 service . . . there when you need Him.
 - Song: *I need Thee every hour*. Jn.15:5
- Ps.119:11

1923

- Charles Schwab, Pres. largest steel co.
- Samuel Insull, Pres. world's largest utility co.
- Howard Hopson, Pres. largest gas firm.
- Arthur Cutten, greatest wheat speculator.
- Richard Whitney, Pres. NY Stock Exchange.
- Albert Fall, member of Harding cabinet.
- Leon Fraser, Pres. Bank of Internat'l. Settle.
- Ivar Krueger, head of world securities.
- Jessie Livermore, greatest speculator in stock