

The Conditions of Success

Introduction

- A. Success is not a result of "getting the breaks." To succeed in one's daily work, as a person, or spiritually, involves a knowledge of correct methodology the setting of realistic goals and persistent hard work.
- B. God has designed Christianity to work. It is His express will that the Christian succeed. This, however, is not automatic. We must learn how to succeed.
- C. The Bible clearly defines the meaning and the method of spiritual success.

- 1. Negatively – success is not found in gathering possessions.

As an introductory preface to His story concerning the rich farmer, the Lord Jesus said, . . . Take heed, and beware of covetousness; for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth. Luke 12:15

- 2. Positively – success is found in seeking the Kingdom of God.

But rather seek ye the Kingdom of God and all these things will be added unto you. Luke 12:31

- D. Summary: Success is the result of seeking and living in harmony with the Kingdom of God.

I. To Seek the Kingdom of God is to have a Correct View of Sin.

From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, REPENT, for the Kingdom of God is at hand. Matthew 4:17

Observation: One cannot practice known sin and seek the Kingdom of God at the same time. Repentance is the correct response to sin. Failure to repent for sin breaks fellowship with God.

II. To Seek the Kingdom of God is to have a Correct View of Self.

Blessed are the POOR IN SPIRIT for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. Matt. 5:3

Observation: Those who are "poor in spirit" are those who recognize they have a spiritual need of God's grace. It is the opposite of pride and sinful self-confidence. The Christian knows he needs God.

III. To Seek the Kingdom of God is to have a Correct View of Human Relations.

Blessed are they which are persecuted for RIGHTEOUSNESS sake, for their's is the Kingdom of Heaven. Matt. 5:10

Observation: The word "righteousness" defines the relationship that should exist between people. We must be related by "righteousness" or by "doing the right" with and by one another. Failure here will seriously limit one's daily success.

IV. To Seek the Kingdom of God is to have a Correct View of Authority.

Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least COMMANDMENTS, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the Kingdom of Heaven, but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven. Matthew 5:19

Observation: Success in any field depends upon some basis of authority. For the Christian that authority is the Word of God. To succeed, we must read, learn and implement the Scriptures in our daily lives.

V. To Seek the Kingdom of God is to have a Correct View of Religion.

For I say unto you, that except your righteousness shall EXCEED the righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. Matthew 5:20

Observation: The righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees was self-righteousness. It was based on their works. It was inadequate (Isa. 64:6). The Christian has the gift of God's righteousness – it does exceed in every way. (Romans 5:1; 8:1-4)

VI. To Seek the Kingdom of God is to have a Correct View of Priority.

But seek ye FIRST the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you. Matthew 6:33

Observation: All of us have priorities. To be a success with God – He and His Kingdom must be first. This must be a practical priority – it must be daily "sought."

VII. To Seek the Kingdom of God is to have a Correct View of Daily Practice.

Not every one that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven, but he that DOETH the will of My Father which is in Heaven. Matt. 7:21

Observation: The evidence that one is a Christian is seen in his daily life. The true believer will seek to know and practice the will of God. This is not to earn but is a manifestation of the grace of God.

VIII. To Seek the Kingdom of God is to have a Correct View of Faith.

When Jesus heard it (the story of the Centurion) He marvelled and said to them that followed. Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great FAITH, no, not in Israel. Matthew 8:10

Observation: The Centurion recognized the Lord Jesus as the Son of God – and took Him at His Word. This is a necessary condition for success.

IX. To Seek the Kingdom of God is to have a Correct View of Salvation.

Verily I say unto you, Except ye be CONVERTED, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. Matthew 18:3

Observation: The Lord Jesus is here pointing to the honesty, face-value attitude, and trust of children. He wants us to trust Him simply because of Who He is and on the basis of what He has said to us.

Conclusion: Our success – depends only on us. Let's seek first and continually the Kingdom of God!

Victor M. Matthews