

Ambition and Success – Part 2

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I. Introduction.

II. Characteristics to develop toward success.

A. Excitement.

1. The excitement that comes from the expectation of faith. (Proverbs 23:7)
2. The excitement of goal setting and reaching.
 - a. Determine goals.
 - b. Separate the important from the less important.
 - c. Take shortcuts.
 - d. Get all the facts. (Proverbs 23:20)
 - e. Face the facts.
 - f. Plan ahead. (Matthew 6:24; Proverbs 16:9)
 - g. Think through. (Proverbs 22:3)
 - h. Make a decision. (1 Kings 18:21)
 - i. Execute now.
 - j. Be a finisher. (Ecclesiastes 9:10)
 - k. Be time conscience.

B. The right to ambition.

1. The desire to be a witness.
2. The desire to influence society.
3. The desire to be used by God.
4. The desire to lead spiritually.
5. The desire to make the most use of your gifts.

III. Hindrances to success.

A. A failure image.

B. The money bag. (1 Timothy 6:10; Proverbs 23:4-5; Ecclesiastes 5:10; Proverbs 30:8-9)

C. Misconceptions about success. (Mark 8:36; John 6:33; 2 Timothy 3:12; Galatians 6:3; Philippians 4:13; John 10:10; Luke 6:26)

D. Laziness.

E. No goals.

F. A fear of failure.

G. Doubts and fears. (Revelation 21:8)

H. Defeated friends.

I. Wrong ambitions. (1 John 2:15-16; Luke 22)

J. The “if” syndrome.

K. Wrong responses to suffering.

L. Broken-heartedness.

IV. The sky is the limit.

A. Man is meant to achieve.

B. Man must be motivated to achieve.

C. Inner change is the beginning of the motivating process. (Ephesians 2:10)

D. Motivation must be through daily repetition of positive thoughts and patterns. (Acts 17:11; 5:42)

E. Goal setting is necessary for moving in the right direction. (Matthew 16:21; Luke 19:10)

F. Believing in God’s power to accomplish is a must. (Matthew 19:26; Mark 9:23)

V. Key principles.

A. God is totally in charge of our present and future—he will promote success as he pleases. (Psalm 75:6-7)

B. Each person must personally responsible for seeking God’s will. (Ephesians 5:17; Proverbs 12:15)

C. Our worth does not depend upon our ability and position. (1 Corinthians 4:7)

Application questions:

1. How would you help a young Christian gain a biblical understanding of success?

2. What are the keys to success?

3. What are your goals? Develop a long range life goal statement and write it below.
