

The Secret of Becoming Successful

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THREE MAIN OBJECTS

WEALTH, THRONES, and WOMEN

People generally think that success relates closely to 3 main objects: **Wealth, Thrones, and Women**. If a man can gain these 3 symbols of success, namely **Wealth**, a **Throne**, and a beautiful **Woman**, he is considered to belong in the category of a successful person.

The first is Wealth: Most people assume that by possessing wealth, the so-called successful person can enjoy life. Owning a great wealth, that person can buy anything, even the most luxurious car or a grand luxurious house like a palace.

That person can also go anywhere because he or she can afford the expenses of his or her trips. That's why if a man wants to become a successful person, the common assumption is that he has to possess wealth, which is one of the most important things. Since by owning great wealth, anyone can enjoy all the luxuries found in this world.

The second is a Throne: When a person has a throne, he or she gets a status. We know that people normally respect high-ranking officials because they regard an official as someone with a different social standing and of a higher status.

Hence, someone in his or her given position has some power. Therefore, people assume that to be successful is not enough to have only wealth, but also to have a recognized and highly esteemed position. The position is not related just to social status, but even to some power. He or she would have the authority and the right to do many things that the public or common people could not do.

In addition, an official obtains various facilities as well. Certain high-ranking officials due to their positions get special protection, are guarded by state apparatus, gain office houses, vehicles, operational funds, and are even allowed to visit places forbidden for the public.

The third is a Woman. People think that happiness should not relate only to what is outside the house but also to what is inside the house, namely their homes. A man is considered perfect or complete if he also can have a happy household, the right woman as a good life partner who can bring happiness to his home.

Thus, in general, a man is considered successful if he has great wealth, a throne (high position), and a beautiful woman as his wife, his life partner.

On this occasion, the author also would like to discuss the same theme: *How to become successful, namely how we can gain **Wealth, A Throne, and A Woman** as the symbols of success, yet according to the Christian viewpoint.”*

WEALTH

In the same sequence of the 3 main objects described above, the author will begin with the first, which is **Wealth**.

When a person accepts Jesus Christ as his Lord and Saviour, at that very moment all his or her sins are forgiven, and he or she is also saved from the condemnation. He or she is redeemed by Christ from death to life. As it is written,

*“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, **that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.**” (John 3:16)*

We, believers, were redeemed from death not with corruptible things, as silver and gold, but with the blood of Christ the Son of God.

*¹⁸For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, ¹⁹but with the precious **blood of Christ**, a lamb without blemish or defect. (1 Peter 1:18,19).*

The Value of Salvation

As explained above, we believers were redeemed from death with the blood of Christ who died in our place bearing all our sins.

Therefore, our salvation is very expensive, exceeding the value of all gold and silver, even of the whole world.

*“What good will it be for someone **to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?** Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? (Matthew 16:26).*

Consequently, the salvation we receive is worth more than any wealth or treasures or anything in this whole world, for even if someone could own this whole world, its value could never pay the price of his salvation, since the salvation we receive is possible only through the death of Jesus Christ on the

cross. So, no wealth nor treasures of any value in this world could ever pay for the price of our salvation.

Every year we get news about the ranking of the richest people in the world or in some particular countries. In the lists, there are people who own wealth more than a hundred billion US dollars.

But even a wealthy person with hundreds of billion US dollars would not be able to buy salvation. This means, we as believers, who are saved and are also called children of God are very rich because we own an awesome wealth namely salvation, which value exceeds the value of the whole world.

Accordingly, we need to realize that salvation is a gift of grace, received for free. This does not mean that salvation is of no value, instead, it is so invaluable that no one can ever buy it. So, God gives it freely to anyone who believes in Jesus Christ.

The Richest, but Not Blessed

At the start, it was mentioned that people consider wealth very important since it gives them the ability to buy anything to enjoy in this world.

However, if we observe, we will find out that quite a lot of wealthy people have relatively the same kind of meal for their breakfast every day, and very often for their lunch or their supper as well, which is only instant noodles usually consumed by the poor.

Why do they often take relatively the same cheap food? The answer is because they are too busy to make time for enjoying their food. So, they eat fast food, which is practical and quick to get. They are no longer concerned

about the taste of the food and consider that the most important thing is just to fill their stomach full immediately.

One of the richest men in the world admitted that he used to eat a hamburger and drink Coke for breakfast at least three times a week, as he was too busy to have breakfast at home. He often bought packaged food for breakfast, which consisted of a hamburger and a glass of Coke for 2 or 3 US dollars, at a drive-thru McDonald's outlet he passed by when he went to his office. Even then, because he was too busy, he oftentimes could not eat his breakfast on the way, but at the office instead, while working.

Of course, this is very ironic because with his wealth he obviously was capable of buying any kind of food at any place or from any country. The problem was he lacked time to enjoy it, or lacked physical health, or due to any other reasons.

Therefore, the Apostle Paul reminded the wealthy people through Timothy,

“Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. (1 Timothy 6:17).

This verse explains that even if a person has money, it doesn't mean that he or she definitely can enjoy it, or that the more money he or she has, the more he or she can enjoy it. No. The chance to enjoy the money we have does not come from our wealth, but from God who gives it to us. Many people possess abundant wealth, yet God does not give them the chance to enjoy it.

Compared with some rich people, we are perhaps far more blessed than them. Yesterday we might enjoy turmeric rice for our breakfast, today fried bananas, tomorrow fried rice, and the day after tomorrow steamed sweet

potatoes. Even though economically we are less than them, it does not mean that our blessings are less too, because blessings have no relation to possessing but to enjoying. (Please read again the author's book entitled "Blessings").

As We Have Christ, All the Worldly Wealth Are But Trash

Nowadays, rich people can own big mansions worth hundreds even thousands of million US dollars from their wealth. Some buy grand and luxurious mansions or former castles. But in reality, we as believers in Christ are far richer than them, because we have our mansions in Heaven which are worth more than any houses or even palaces in this world.

John 14:2 says,

"In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you." (KJV)

The Lord Jesus ascended to Heaven to prepare a place for us. That place definitely exceeds in worth or value than any house on earth because it is obviously of a very different level as it is in Heaven. That's why we should realize that we are very very rich people.

If we realize that we are so very rich, we can understand why Zacchaeus said to the Lord Jesus when he met Him,

"But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount." (Luke 19:8)

In the above verse, Zacchaeus said, "*I give half of my possessions to the poor*". Why was Zacchaeus willing to give half of his wealth to the poor? When he met the Lord Jesus, he realized he had obtained an invaluable precious treasure so that to him the abundant wealth in this world became valueless and had no meaning at all. That's why Zacchaeus could say, "*I give half of my possessions to the poor.*"

The issue is as if we have two motorcycles which are very precious to us. Since we have no other means of transportation, the two motorcycles become our most valuable assets.

Yet, one day, somebody gives us other means of transportation which are of the most luxurious and expensive kind. We receive several expensive motorcycles even the most expensive ones, luxurious cars, and the most luxurious ones, also helicopters, airplanes, and yachts.

When we get such exorbitant means of transportation, we can say, "*Well, whoever wants to have one of my motorcycles, I'll give it to him.*" Now that we already have much better vehicles and so many, those two motorcycles we first consider as very precious and valuable assets become worthless compared with the new vehicles we possess.

Then Zacchaeus continued, "*if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.*" Why was Zacchaeus willing to compensate fourfold if he had ever extorted money from someone? Because he no longer wanted to earn money in an unrighteous or dishonest way.

To Zacchaeus, the wealth of this world is no longer the ultimate meaningful thing, no longer extraordinary, as he had already gained something most awesome and worthy since he had met the Lord Jesus whom he really longed to know (Luke 19:3-6) and got the salvation he desired. He was assured of having a place in the Kingdom of Heaven.

*“Jesus said to him, “Today **salvation has come** to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham.” (Luke 19:9).*

Therefore, in our own terms, what Zacchaeus said would be like this, *“I don't want to make money in a secular way anymore.”*

Self-introspection

Therefore, each of us needs to introspect ourselves whether right now we still think that the wealth we possess in this world is primary and extraordinary. If so, we need to correct ourselves lest we do not realize that we actually own a much more valuable treasure that far exceeds any world treasures of high value.

Furthermore, we also need to introspect whether at present we still earn our money in dishonest ways, not in accordance with God's word, not biblical, lest we still do not realize that we are exceedingly rich or “super-rich” people and need not earn money in such a way.

What Money Can Buy

Money is only a medium of exchange and it cannot act by itself as an executory. Indeed, with their money people can buy many things, but not all things.

Below are some examples:

MONEY can buy a BED, but not the SLEEP

MONEY can buy a WATCH, but not the TIME

MONEY can buy a BOOK, but not the KNOWLEDGE

MONEY can buy a POSITION, but not the HONOR
MONEY can buy FOOD, but not the APPETITE
MONEY can buy MEDICINE, but not the HEALTH
MONEY can buy ENTERTAINMENT, but not the JOY
MONEY can buy OBEDIENCE, but not the LOYALTY
MONEY can buy ACQUAINTANCESHIP, but not the FRIENDSHIP
MONEY can buy a HOUSE, but not the HOME

As it was explained earlier, actually blessings have no relation to possessing but to enjoying.

In the book entitled “BLESSINGS”, the Author quoted from a book written by Mr. Muchtar Riadi the part where he told that he had a grand mansion with marble floors and a big television set in the living room. At present, a big television set is no more exceptional since many already own it. But at that time, it was considered very luxurious. He wrote that due to his occupied life, he rarely could watch his television set. However, oftentimes when he came home, he saw his housemaids sitting on the marble floor watching the television. Thus, although the house and the television set belonged to Mr. Muchtar, the housemaids enjoyed them!

By that, there is no guarantee that when a person owns something, he or she can enjoy it. On the other hand, when that person does not own it, there is no assurance he or she cannot enjoy it.

Observing what money can buy, we would see that money can only buy things or goods but not the enjoyment since the enjoyment or the opportunity to enjoy comes from God.

*“Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, **but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.** (1 Timothy 6:17).*

A THRONE

Thrones are the second of the 3 main objects people aim to become successful. The question is: *“Why do people seek Thrones or Positions?”* There are at least three important reasons the author can bring forth, namely: First, a Throne or a Position relates closely to status. Second, a Throne or a Position relates to power or authority. Third, a Throne or a Position also relates to facilities.

The Status of a Child of God

First of all, the author will discuss the status of a child of God. When we accept Christ as Lord and Saviour, our status will be as children of God,

*“Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave **the right to become children of God**” (John 1:12)*

This status as a child of God is extremely special. As a child of God, somebody said, *“I am a princess, not because I am married to a prince, but because my heavenly Father is a King.”* So, she became a princess, daughter of a King, because her heavenly Father is King.

As children of the King of the Kingdom of Heaven, we are princes or princesses. In that position, it is clear that our status is higher than any other status.

Our status then is higher than any earthly princes or princesses, emperors or empresses, kings or queens because the earthly kingdoms are incomparable to the Heavenly Kingdom, which is far beyond all of them. This means that as princes or princesses of the Kingdom of Heaven, our status is higher than any kings or queens in this world.

Earthly Positions are but Garbage

The Apostle Paul wrote,

*“What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I **consider them garbage**, that I may gain Christ.” (Philippians 3:8)*

The Apostle Paul, or Saul, before he believed in Jesus, once asked for letters from the high priests to persecute God's children or the followers of God's Way. Perhaps one of the reasons was that he wanted to be a member of the Jewish Religious Council.

At that time, the Jewish Religious Council was a very powerful institution and very prestigious. So, probably Saul really wanted to become one of its members, and if possible, even to be one of the chiefs.

However, when Saul came to know Christ Jesus the Lord he became one of His apostles, known as the Apostle Paul (Acts 13:9). Later, in his letter to the Philippians, he wrote that any position is of no value at all when he has accepted Christ as his Lord and Saviour and became a child of God. Now that he had attained such an exalted and noble status, earthly positions and status were considered as trash or rubbish compared with his status as God's child, namely his status as a prince of the Kingdom of Heaven.

One Position vs Many Positions

Several years ago, the Author was invited by one of the state-owned enterprises to deliver God's Word. Yet the procedure was conducted like a seminar. So before delivering God's Word, a moderator shared about the Author's *Curriculum Vitae* that he had a position as a member of the Tiranus

Bible School Board of Trustees. The moderator said that it was the only acknowledgment written to be read out, but soon Mr. Yunus the speaker himself would add the other positions he occupied.

When the Author started to speak, he admitted that the position was the only one he had. Until now the Author's position is only that one because he is not interested in having many positions. Had no one ever asked him to fill in some recognized positions? Quite a lot. Even one big well-known and affluent organization wanted him to become a member of its Board of Counsel, but he refused because he considered it not necessary. His status as a prince of the Kingdom of Heaven has no need for such positions.

The Author once attended a seminar where the speaker was a very renowned servant of God. When the moderator was to read out the speaker's *Curriculum Vitae*, he first asked the speaker's permission to read only two or three of his positions which are so many up to two folios, just to save more time for his seminar.

At that moment, a thought crossed the author's mind about the speaker, "*Is he a smart gentleman, or just a stupid guy?*" Some people would be surprised by the author's thought, and might question, "*How could one who has dozens of positions be stupid?*" According to the author, that person was foolish.

First of all, the author doubts this gentleman would be able to carry out the duties of all his positions. He certainly would not have enough time to accomplish all those.

Second, even if he could carry out all his duties well, we would pity his family, because he certainly would not have time at all for his wife and children, whereas our main duty is to take care of our own family, not other people's family nor any other institutions or organizations.

In connection to what we are talking about, the Author worries that as a very famous servant of God, the speaker did not realize, or he might forget, that actually he already has a very prestigious position that exceeds any worldly position.

Besides, the Author also doubts that all those positions the gentleman kept could only be handled by him alone. Surely, there must be other people who could handle them although perhaps not as good as he himself.

Therefore, it would be wiser if the gentleman entrusted some of those positions to other capable people and kept the crucial and strategic positions that had to be handled solely by himself while training and preparing his potential successors. Evidently, no earthly position can surmount his status as a prince of the Kingdom of Heaven.

The Power of God's Children

As children of God, we are privileged with extraordinary power from our Father. We are not like the earthly officials who are only capable to manage, removing, giving, or building secular things yet limited. In fact, as children of God, we are given the power that enables us to do things, such as:

1. To conquer demons and evil spirits,

*“The seventy-two returned with joy and said, “**Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.**” (Luke 10:17)*

2. To resist the enemy's forces,

“I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.” (Luke 10:19).

3. To perform signs and miracles,

*“So Paul and Barnabas spent considerable time there, speaking boldly for the Lord, who confirmed the message of his grace by enabling them to **perform signs and wonders**. (Acts 14:3).*

4. To bring someone to know Christ and become God’s child

*“Therefore go and **make disciples of all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (Matthew 28:19)*

Compared with the power of the earthly officials, it is very clear that the power of God’s children is far beyond theirs. The high officials only have the power to manage people, money, goods, and regulations, while God’s children have the power to resist enemies, perform signs and miracles, also to conquer demons and evil spirits.

High officials may bring with them their families and friends to enter special places, such as the State Palace. But God’s children can bring with them anybody to know the One Who can make him or her God’s child and own a place in the Kingdom of Heaven. So, the power of God’s children is very different from the power of a high official.

The Facilities of God’s Children

Next, the author will discuss subjects related to the facilities of God’s children.

There are so many facilities the Heavenly Father has given to His children. On this occasion, the author will discuss but two subjects, namely God's Presence and God's Provision.

God's Presence

Like the high officials who get many assistants to help them and bodyguards to protect them, we as God's children gain also similar facilities.

When we become God's children, at that very moment we are given the Holy Spirit into our hearts Who will help us in all our weaknesses and inabilities. The Holy Spirit will also teach us, remind us, encourage us, advise us even comfort us, and will be with us forever.

*“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another **advocate to help you and be with you forever**” (John 14:16)*

*“In the same way, **the Spirit helps us in our weakness**. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. (Romans 8:26)*

*“But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, **will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you**. (John 14:26)*

Unlike the assistants and bodyguards of the high officials whose abilities are very limited since they are only human, we are given the Holy Spirit Who will help and accompany us forever. The Holy Spirit is the Person of God Himself, the Creator of the heavens, the earth, and all that is in them. He is omnipresent, omnipotent, and a loving God as well.

The presence of God in our lives was also confirmed by the Lord Jesus before He ascended to Heaven,

*“and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And **surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age**.” (Matthew 28:20).*

At the Author's house, there is a security guard to watch over him and his family, but his guard post is outside the house. So, if something bad happens to the family inside the house, the guard will not be able to help them, because he is outside and is not allowed to enter the house.

It is the same with a high official. His assistants or bodyguards stay or keep at a distance from him. Therefore, if something bad happens to him, there is no guarantee that they can immediately help and protect him. His assistants and bodyguards are only human beings limited by space and time.

But as God's children, we have the Holy Spirit to help and guard us, Who can and will stay close to even in us forever. He will always be with us wherever we are.

God's Provision

1 Peter 1:3-5 says,

"³Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time."

These three verses describe clearly the following issues: verses 3 and 4 about the process of salvation. How we are saved, how we can be born again (be given a new birth) and have the hope of living again by being resurrected like Jesus Christ our Lord, raised up to be together with Him forever in heaven as the completeness of our salvation, which will be revealed in the last time.

Next, verse 5 continues with the phrase, “*5who through faith are shielded by God’s power.*” The word **who** here as the relative pronoun of **you** in verse 4 refers to us that have been saved, have accepted Christ as Lord and Savior after the explanation in the previous verses. It is said that we will be kept or shielded by the power of God.

When we accept Christ as our personal Lord and Savior, we do not go to Heaven right away. We are still on earth and we will receive our salvation later in the last time. Now we still dwell in this world and verse 5 it is written, “*until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.*” We have not yet received that salvation and we keep anticipating it while we are still living in this world,

“For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? (Romans 8:24)

When will that salvation be granted to us? When we leave this world or at the coming of the Lord Jesus.

*” 15 According to the Lord’s word, we tell you that **we who are still alive**, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the **Lord himself will come down from heaven**, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 After that, **we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air**. And so we will be with the Lord forever.” (1 Thessalonians 4:15-17).*

In verse 1 Peter 1:5 above it is said that God promised to keep us or to take care of us with His power, the power of the Creator of heaven and earth, for as long as we are still in this world.

The Author has mentioned previously that the Apostle Paul wrote in his letter to the Philippians,

*“What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. **I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ.**” (Philippians 3:8)*

This verse indicates that he gave up everything and considered all but garbage. What the Apostle Paul considered garbage or rubbish certainly did not relate to positions only, but also to wealth and to the assured maintenance of life offered by this world. The Apostle Paul assumed the maintenance of life promised or offered by this world as trivial and of no importance. Why so? Because the Apostle fully believed in God's provisions. How could he be so assured? Because he knew definitely that Christ Jesus is Lord as mentioned in the verse above, *“knowing Christ Jesus **my Lord**”*

Since the Apostle Paul knew that Jesus Christ is Lord, the Creator of heaven and earth, he did not bother about his life maintenance, advanced age, retirement, or whenever he worked no more. Whereas God can create the heaven, the earth, and all that is in them, maintain their existence, wouldn't He be capable to provide for him personally?

Hence, if we are still worried about our future and even our daily lives, the Lord Jesus said this to remind us,

*“So **do not worry**, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’” (Matthew 6:31).*

We need to check ourselves whether we really believe that Jesus Christ is Lord and have learned to understand Him and His attributes as Lord.

How to check this for ourselves? One of the checkpoints is whether we like to read the Bible diligently. Why is reading the Bible so important? For in

the Bible we can find all things about the Lord and His attributes, who He is, and what He can do. We can read about what He likes or what he hates, about His laws, His love, His judgment, and many other things described there in detail.

As God's children, we might listen to sermons regularly every week. But if we want to know God by relying on the sermons we listen to once or twice a week only, that would never be sufficient. A year consists of 52 weeks. If we have become Christians for years, we might have listened to hundreds or thousands of sermons, but we might remember no more what we have heard.

Therefore, one of the best ways to get to know our Lord is to read the Bible. Don't get anxious that we may not be able to understand the Bible, for once we have become God's children, God will give us His Holy Spirit to dwell in our hearts and teach us and explain to us all things concerning God, even about God's plans and His personality.

*“these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even **the deep things** of God. (1 Corinthians 2:10).*

When we really know God, we will not be anxious about our future, our life maintenance, even our whole lives.

That is why the Author quite diligently read the Bible. Every year, he exerts himself to read the Bible at least twice plus the New Testament at least twice and from the Letters to the Romans to the Book of Revelation at least twice.

Other Facilities

As princes and princesses of the Kingdom of Heaven, we receive many facilities. Except for the two facilities previously mentioned, there are also other facilities as follows:

First, we may call God our Father.

Calling God as Father is a privilege.

“The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” (Romans 8:15).

A religious leader once said that only Christians can enjoy the privilege to talk directly to God, even call Him Father.

Second, we are granted the right to enter the Kingdom of Heaven because we are God's children.

The security guard at the Author's house will not allow any children to enter into the house nor dwell in it, however good and pious they may be. Yet, the Author's children are free to enter into the house and stay there at any time, day or night or dawn. The Author's security guard will surely open the door for them.

What is the Kingdom of Heaven? The Kingdom of Heaven is the area of God's Kingdom. The dwelling place or the house of the Heavenly Father as conveyed by the Lord Jesus,

“This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,” (Matthew 6:9).

As His children, we are allowed to enter into it. Others will not be permitted, because they are not His children.

Third, we are objects of God's love, He loves us very much.

“He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? (Romans 8:32).

If God was willing to sacrifice His Son for us, even so God would surely be willing to give us anything for our good.

That's why we can find quite a lot of statements in the Bible about His consent for His children to ask Him, among others,

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.” (Matthew 7:7)

“Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.” (John 16:24)

Therefore, when we assume that God does not love us enough, we need to seek to know our Father better by listening more closely every time we hear God's word, spending more time reading and studying it, and applying it in our lives.

In addition, we need to draw closer to God by sparing special devotional time to pray in private to Him. We also need to have a quiet time in His presence.

Fourth, God is eager to help us in our difficulties.

God is always ready to help us to solve all our problems, even problems caused by our sins. If we ask His forgiveness and sincerely repent to leave our sins, He surely will be with us to bear and to solve them.

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9)

*“And we know that in all things **God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.**” (Romans 8:28).*

Fifth, to enjoy the world for a thousand years.

Before we enter the Kingdom of Heaven, God will give us as His children the chance to enjoy the world for a thousand years,

*“**Blessed and holy are those** who share in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and **will reign with him for a thousand years.**” (Revelation 20:6)*

Some of us may not have many chances yet to enjoy this world, to enjoy the beauty of various tourist sites, to taste various culinary delicacies, to enjoy various facilities and other worldly pleasures.

God is always just and good to His children. He will give us the chance to enjoy this world not for just one or two weeks, nor for one or two years only, but for as long as a thousand years so that we can fully enjoy the world before we enter heaven which is so much more beautiful.

There are many other facilities God has given us as His children. Let's observe together these facilities by reading the Bible more diligently.

A WOMAN

The third main object as a symbol of success is **Women**. That's why many men often make efforts to have a young and beautiful wife assuming that if they have such a wife they will have a happy family.

Today we see many celebrities and rich men marry young and beautiful women, even quite a lot of them are polygamous or else, they divorce their wives to marry younger and more beautiful women.

The Bible also explains the role of a woman so that a man can have a happy family. Psalm 128:1-4 describes this.

“¹Blessed are all who fear the Lord, who walk in obedience to him. ²You will eat the fruit of your labor; blessings and prosperity will be yours. ³Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table. ⁴Yes, this will be the blessing for the man who fears the Lord.”

These verses in Psalm 128 consist of two parts:

The first part is explained in verses 1 and 2,

“¹Blessed are all who fear the Lord, who walk in obedience to him. ²You will eat the fruit of your labor; blessings and prosperity will be yours.” (NIV)

“¹Blessed is every one that feareth the LORD; that walketh in his ways! ²For thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands: happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee!” (KJV).

These verses explain that anyone, male or female, young or old, who fears God, is granted this affirmation, “*You will eat the fruit of your labor.*”(NIV) God-fearing people will be blessed to enjoy the fruit of their labors. Thus, it is far different from those people who despite being rich, they cannot enjoy the results of their hard works.

They may have a lot of money, but due to some kind of illness, busyness, and other matters, they cannot enjoy life and often eat food usually consumed by the poor only. They own much money but God does not grant them the opportunity to enjoy the fruit of their labors.

Then further, we read, *happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee!*”(KJV)

God confirms that He will also give us things that make us happy, both in the form of wealth and good family members as well, and He will make our lives smooth or agreeable so that we do not have to face many problems.

Then the verse continues with *“it shall be well with thee”*. This phrase means that God will not only make our lives smooth or agreeable, but He will also give us everything that is good, children, grandchildren, daughters/sons-in-law, and even good health so that our whole life will be really good. This is God's promise to anyone who fears Him.

The Fear of God

The Author has previously explained the meaning of “to fear God” several times, but now he will explain it again.

When we associate "the fear of God" or to fear God with to fear the police, what actually are the requirements so we can fear the police?

First, we have to know about what and who the police are.

If we don't know about what and who the police are, we will not fear them because not everyone in uniform is a policeman. Soldiers are in uniforms too, even the security guards nowadays wear the same brown uniforms as the police.

Second, we must know the laws and regulations, and signs related to the police.

To fear the police is not limited to just to fear the person, but also all matters or conditions concerning the laws, regulations, signs related to the rights and the authorities of the police. For example, if there is a police line in an area, it is forbidden to enter the area whether there are police or no police.

Third, obedience.

To fear the police is manifested by obeying all the laws, regulations, and signs related to them. And we might not obey if we do not know about what and who the police are, and recognize or understand all their laws, regulations, and signs.

Likewise, to fear God can only happen if we know who God is and all matters concerning Him, recognize or understand His laws, and obey them. It is impossible for us to obey if we do not know about God the LORD and His laws.

The second part is explained in verses 3 and 4,

*“³Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table. ⁴Yes, this will be **the blessing for the man who fears the Lord.**”*

Verses 3 and 4 are intended particularly for men who fear God.

In verse 3, we read, *“Your wife will be like a **fruitful vine within your house**”*

To every man who fears God, He will give him a wife who is like a fruitful vine in his house.

Wine is a symbol of joy. That's why wine is served at parties. Wine can also be used to heal wounds, and grapes are delicious as well as healthy food.

So, this verse affirms that to every man who fears God He will give him a wife who can make him happy and joyful, can heal wounds, and bring all family members together in harmony to form a healthy and happy family.

Furthermore, it is emphasized that *"Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house"*. Why did God add these words *"within your house"*? Because many wives bring happiness, heal wounds, educate healthy families, not within their own house or home but outside.

Well, outside her home, this kind of wife becomes an idol because she can bring joy, care for and nurse those who are wounded, even provide delightful and healthy food, physical as well as spiritual for other families. Yet pitifully, she neglects her own family. Consequently, her own family members scarcely enjoy or experience her attentions and all her so-called good deeds. This wife is more occupied with taking care of other people's families than of her own. God didn't promise such a wife for a God-fearing man!

Then further, God confirmed, *"your children will be like olive shoots around your table."* The olive tree is a symbol of God's child. God promises to the God-fearing men that their children will become God's children. This is very important since we can see around us many children who are not God's children. They choose to become followers of other beliefs or religions. Besides that, there are also many children who are not sincere believers in God the LORD or in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Here God also added, *"around your table"*, which means that our children will be close to us.

Today, there are many children who have no close relationship with their parents. They are like strangers to each other even though they still live with their parents. Each one is occupied with his or her own affairs, with his or her own gadgets, so that the house is only a place to dwell in but no longer a place for the family members to assemble in harmony.

When secular people tell about successful persons, one subject they like to talk about is having a beautiful young wife. The Lord God has promised more than that to His children. He promised to give them not only a good wife but also a happy family. Having a young, beautiful, and sexy wife is no guarantee for owning a happy family as well.

In this world, we witness so many wealthy men who have beautiful and sophisticated wives but their families are not happy, because they quarrel and fight every day, and hurt each other so that they live as if in hell. In the end, they lead their own lives even though they dwell in the same house. No wonder, their children get addicted to drugs and commit other bad conduct.

Some of the couples ended with a divorce and remarried with new partners. Nevertheless, they still failed to raise a happy family, because God did not bless their family. However, to God-fearing men, He promised to grant them a happy and good family so that they can enjoy heaven on earth.

Conclusion

In conclusion, if we want **to become a truly successful person**, then **the secrets** are:

First, read the Bible as much as possible.

By reading the Bible much, we will know God in all His greatness and also His laws. By obeying God's word, we will become God-fearing people.

The LORD God has promised a lot of blessings to those who fear Him and who live according to His word,

*“Humility is the fear of the Lord; its wages are **riches and honor and life.**”*
(Proverbs 22:4).

*“**He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them.**”* (Psalm 145:19).

Second, have a regular daily family worship.

God has promised great blessings for His children who faithfully hold a daily devotion with their family or have a family worship. God will do whatever they ask.

*“Again, truly I tell you that **if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven.**”* (Matthew 18:19).

(Please read again the author's book entitled “Family Worship”)

Third, keep a routine personal prayer time.

In addition to praying together, we also need to have time to pray individually or privately to God. We need to ask for His wisdom, strength, and guidance to be able to do all our duties and obligations well because as human beings we are very limited.

That's why Daniel kept praying to God even when the king's decree forbade anyone to pray to any god or man except to the king because he knew that the real strength and power are solely from the true God he worshipped.

*“Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, **just as he had done before.**” (Daniel 6:10).*

Fourth, keep a devotional quiet time regularly.

We also need to have a quiet time in the presence of God. A time to be quiet, to contemplate before God, to listen to God's voice for what God wants to say. We need to draw near to God so that He will draw near to us.

“Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.” (James 4:8).