

**KEYS TO SUCCESS**  
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*"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success." Joshua 1:8.*

There is something in man that makes him not want to fail, but to be a success. In the secular world many books have been written to outline the path, by experts that have achieved it. The television is full of programing for all to see and try. We teach our children to study and work hard, to make something out of themselves. In the realm of the physical, the desire for success rises and falls on the dedication of the one who seeks it. Through all the many years of my ministry I have urged folks in the sure plan for success taught in God's wonderful Word. In this sermon I want to show you **Five Keys To Success**: Put on your thinking cap and see how you are doing. Each one is a treasure in itself to allow you to make great strides in victory. **(1). Genuine Conversion:** *"And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven"* Matt. 18:3. Everything that grows has to have a beginning. Like a plant or tree your life had a beginning. Since Adam and Eve all mankind is born under the curse of sin. *"All have sinned and come short of the glory of God."* Rom. 3:23. The true value of soil begins when you plant a seed within it. Everyone needs the seed of the Gospel planted within. Once you are a born again child of God, you are heading in the right direction for success. God loves His children and will guide them in the paths of victory. Have you been saved? *"For whosoever shall call upon the name of*

*the Lord shall be saved."* Rom. 10:13 You need to have a good, definite, acceptance of Jesus Christ as your Saviour. You will then enter the family of God, and the Father will apply His will and wisdom to bring you success. He will give His best direction to you as a member of the Christian family. Again, be sure you have been born again! **(2). Complete Surrender:** *"I Beseech ye therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."* Rom. 12:1&2. I was 15 when I went forward at a campfire, and surrendered my life to be an evangelist. Instantly the leading of the Lord began, and He started using me greatly as a young man. I challenge you to pick a time and totally turn your life over to the Lord, to live and serve as He wills. You owe the Lord Jesus your very best, for that is what He did for you. We are to live in sacrifice to the will of God. This is our reasonable service as we live day by day. As soldiers of the cross we are to sacrifice, whatever, to be our best for the commander in chief. Failure will always be the result if you conform to the world and its cheap pursuits. Only when you start thinking right, and be totally surrendered, will you be of value to God. He is looking daily for surrendered servants, who are not ruled by the world. His power moves in when He sees a willing heart to obey His will. He will then direct your daily thinking and actions for His glory. **(3). Constant Separation:** *"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you."* II Cor. 6:14&17. We older

folks remember the significance and use of an ox yoke. I have my grandfather's hanging near our ceiling, from the team he owned and worked. We understand the two animals had to pull together to accomplish the job. We believers must take care as to what we accept, and not put ourselves in the yoke of sinning mankind. The crowd you keep, and the actions participated in, are very important. You can't "love not the world," as the Bible instructs, and run with it. There is great difference in the directions and the accomplishments. The sinner will want to pull to feed the flesh. We on the other hand must pull to please the Spirit. We cannot tie in with an organization that is evil, a bar or a club, or any organization that does unholy and evil things. Be careful what you see, and with whom you join and where you go. Pulling in the midst of the wrong crowd will lead to bad testimony, and a ruined life. It will also result in future judgment by the Lord and even present correction day by day. Remember *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away ; behold, all things are become new."* II Cor. 5:17. Don't defeat your own life by giving in to anything of the world. "This world is not our home, we're just a passing through." Stand tall and straight as a soldier of the cross and defeat the world by the grace and power of God. **(4). Continual Growing:** *"But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:"* Eph. 4:15. Ask any athlete how he gets better in his sport. He will speak about dedication, hard work, and a desire to be his very best. Every professional athlete must be sold out to the dream of success in his sport. The very same is true in the Christian life. A ho hum, lazy, Christian will never experience the blessings that await totally dedicated, Christ pleasing ones. It is so important for we older and experienced believers to gather around the babes in Christ. They need to be taught by personal testimony and actions how to grow in

Christ. One of your greatest life pleasing joys can be found in helping others to grow in their faith. Urge them to pray and read the word, and be faithful to a good church. Point them to the path of victory, and the joy of growing in spiritual things. Be sure you apply the great rules of your own faith to your daily life. If we grow up serving God, we can be sure we are growing up right. Don't still be a baby Christian after years of being saved. Maturity in heavenly things and obedience to the Lord, are great highs of accomplishment. The more time you seek out the truths of the Lord, the more happy days of growing will be yours. **(5). Eternal Planning:** *"But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."* Matt. 6:33. This verse puts a cap on all the normal things of our daily living. What we eat, and what we drink, and how will we be clothed are all in the realm of the plan of God for you. You certainly should seek a job, work faithfully and provide the money to buy what you need. You need a home and perhaps a car and different items of this world's goods. Don't expect society to take care of you if your health and age allow you to work. There is a sense of well being when you labor for your daily needs. A servant can be very happy in the fields of the owner. What this scripture is saying is put first things first. God knows all the physical things we need and will provide them. However in the process of making a living keep your eyes on the Lord. Don't get burdened down with daily tasks until you forget He knows all our needs. *"Take therefore no thought for the morrow; for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself, Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."* Matt. 6:34. The key to victory in every area we have examined, is to do our very best to please the Lord, in every area of our growth. Someday when we stand in His presence for reward, it will have been worth it all. I urge you to use these Keys for Success.