

Recipe for Success

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Study by W. D. Frazee—June 15,

"Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses My servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. 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 1:7, 8.

This is the way to success. God says that if we will do certain things we will be prosperous and have good success. So this is for everybody.

Is your life a success? Are you on a program that will bring success? Are you certain of it?

Every normal person wants to be successful. None enjoy failure. The sad thing is that nearly everyone is heading for failure. Some get there quicker than others. The world seems interested in getting wherever it is going as fast as possible, even if it means failure.

But you and I are interested in success. And God says if we will follow this recipe, we will get success. Notice that He says we are to observe, meditate, think about, and study His law, His instructions. He has given us through His inspired Word a way of life, a blueprint for success.

But our study of it is to be just like the study that a builder gives to a blueprint. When a man looks at a blueprint he studies it to build something. So the Lord says observe to do according to the law.

One of the great difficulties with conventional education is that there is a great deal of study about things that nothing is ever done about. In fact, it is not intended that anything be done about them. But something happens to the character whenever we study about something that ought to be done and don't do anything about it. Notice how Jesus pointed out the failure on the part of the scribes and Pharisees:

"Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to His disciples,
Saying The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat:
All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that

observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not" Matthew 23:1-3.

They thought they were teachers. They were expounding the precepts of the law that God had told Joshua about. In fact, every one of those teachers knew the first five books of the Bible by heart. Jesus told His disciples that whenever they teach the law, listen to what they say and do it, but don't do it the way they act.

Even a hypocrite can be listened to and his teaching followed if his teaching is out of the Book. Jesus called these people hypocrites. So no matter who the man is, if he is teaching from the Word of God, that teaching can be listened to, meditated on, and observed, provided we do what the Book says instead of what the man does. The recipe for success is to follow the blueprint.

Suppose we haven't been following the blueprint. What shall we do when we find a mistake? Do you think we ought to correct it?

Someone was telling me about a man and his wife who were traveling across the country. As they were riding along the wife was looking at the map.

Suddenly she said to her husband, "We are on the wrong road. We got off back there."

They talked about it, and became convinced that it was true. Then the man said, "Well, I hate to turn around because we are making such good time."

That is what the world is doing today. It is making wonderful time, but it is breaking the speed record every little while on the wrong road. Any success to that? No. The faster you go the quicker you get to the destination, and the end is the way of death.

But we are studying tonight the way to success. God says that is you will just listen to what I tell you, and follow it, you will have good success.

Has God given us in His word and the testimony of His Spirit a way of life? Yes. If we will follow it we will have good success. The goal of this message is a perfected people who are ready for the coming of the Savior. To have good success in this last generation means to be translated. That will really be success. When all the world goes down into destruction there is going to be a remnant that remains; taken out of this world without ever dying. That is real success. I want to be among that number, don't you?

The remnant will be those who have fully followed the divine pattern, the divine blueprint. Yes, without any question. But neither the world nor the Devil will ever help us meet that goal. Success will come only by following the divine blueprint. That means a reform, a reshaping of the life. Transformed by the renewing of our minds.

There are many phases of this reform. We speak of health reform and dress reform, Sabbath reform and educational reform. There is another very important reform. I want you to watch for it as we study further.

"Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you" 1 Peter 5:7.

The world is full of care. Stress is the current word for it. All sorts of physical and mental ills come from stress.

There is a doctor up in Canada who has devoted a number of years to research on the relation of stress. All over the country more attention is being paid to what is called psychosomatic medicine—the relation of the mind to the body. And it is being discovered that ulcers in the stomach, high blood pressure, heart trouble, arthritis, and many other conditions can be caused by, or be greatly aggravated by stress. Of course, there are many kinds of stress.

Beside these physical symptoms we have thousands upon thousands of cases of nervous breakdowns. Think of the stresses that lie back of those.

Our text invites us to cast all our cares, our stress, upon God, for He careth for you.

"Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls" Matthew 11:28.

Have you come? Has He kept His word? Have you found His rest for your souls? If you have, you know it. If you haven't, don't try to fool yourself. Don't be like the fellow over in France that was advocating that the way to get well and stay well every day was to repeat these words: Every day in every way I am getting better and better.

The trouble was that pretty soon this man died, and people quit repeating that particular formula. But there are many variations of the foolish human endeavor to transform wishful thinking into facts. None of those things will help us. They only fog the mind.

Jesus says, "Come unto Me and I will give you rest." "Casting all your cares upon Him; for He careth for you."

Does He really care for you? Oh friends, I hope everybody here knew it before you came in, or will know it before you leave. I hope everybody can go out knowing that God cares for you, and that in your inner soul you can say, Yes, Jesus loves me. This I know, for the Bible tells me so.

Every once in a while there is something outstanding in the care of God for the individual. But beside those outstanding things, day by day and hour by hour God is doing wonderful things that show His loving care. Who keeps the heart

beating? God does. Who keeps the lungs breathing? God does. Who sends the sunshine and rain? God does. And so many things to make us glad. Extras all around us.

I like to watch the things that God does. Notice them and call attention to them, and say, Thank You. And I believe that the more we notice them the more there is to notice.

Suppose some problem came up into your life and you didn't know the answer. Would God be willing to change any circumstance necessary in order to solve that problem for you, or are you that important? We should never encourage self-importance in the sense of thinking we are important of ourselves without God. But it is perfectly proper to encourage in ourselves and others a sense of our importance in God's sight.

"Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows"
Matthew 10:29-31.

Even the sparrows are important enough to God that He is looking after them. But you are of more value than many sparrows. I wonder how much value we are to God. You know that He loves us so much that He gave us the Savior to die for us. And He would have done it for just one.

Driving along the highway the other day I saw a field with some beautiful horses. The man who owns those horses has considerable money invested in them. Having invested all that money in them, do you think he would let them starve to death? Do you think he would let them die for want of water? No, he has a great deal invested in them.

And Jesus is seeking to tell us how much heaven has invested in us. Nothing that concerns us is beneath the Father's notice. Everything that concerns us is of moment to Him. So He says, I want you to cast all your care upon Me, for I care for you. Come unto Me and I will give you rest.

Suppose Jesus were here tonight, and you would have a personal interview with Him. Suppose He should say to you, Child, is there anything troubling you tonight? Is there any problem you would like to have me help you solve?

Ah friend, if there is anything like that, why not give that problem to Him even though you can't see Him? Why not do it? Our text says, Casting all your care upon Him, for He careth for you. That word "cast" comes from a Greek word that literally means to throw down. Take your burden to the Lord and leave it there.

I want to read something wonderful:

"There are many whose hearts are aching under a load of care because they seek to reach the world's standard. .

. . The continual worry is wearing out the life forces. Our Lord desires them to lay aside this yoke of bondage. He invites them to accept His yoke; He says, 'My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.' Worry is blind, and cannot discern the future; but Jesus sees the end from the beginning. In every difficulty He has His way prepared to bring relief. 'No good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly.'

"Our heavenly Father has a thousand ways to provide for us of which we know nothing. Those who accept the one principle of making the service of God supreme, will find perplexities vanish, and a plain path before their feet"
Ministry of Healing, page 481.

You can see the conditions. We must give all, and take His yoke of service. Those who accept the one principle of making the service of God supreme, will find what? Perplexities vanish, and a plain path before their feet.

How different is the experience of those who try to solve their problems some other way.

God told Jonah to go to Nineveh. That put Jonah in stress. He thought he would have to solve his problem, so he went down to the sea. Did it solve his problem? Oh, no. He landed in another problem. A whale of a problem. Did he learn anything down there in that special room? Yes, he did. And God didn't say, Poor Jonah. He has had a hard time. I guess we won't ask him to do what he wasn't willing to do.

No. Human beings sometimes work that way. That is one reason why so many children have a hard time growing up. And after they grow up parents and teachers are not willing to hold them to the point. And remember, as medical missionaries our business is not to take all the problems out of the lives of people. It can't be done. And if we could, all we would succeed in doing is making jealousy. And God is not going to translate jealousy.

So when Jonah got out of the whale he had no sooner arrived back on shore than God said, Jonah, go to Nineveh and preach the preaching that I bid you.

The rest Jesus offers us, the release He offers us, is not a release from burden bearing. True, we are to cast all our care upon Him. But He says to come unto Him and He will give you rest. Take His yoke upon you and learn of Him. We are to lay every burden and care at His feet. But along with it He says, I have got something for you to carry. I have got something for you to bear. It is My yoke, which is easy, and My burden, which is light.

There are things that are burdening millions of people that Jesus wants us to give up to Him. One is the burden of remuneration. You can call it wages, salary, satisfaction. Whatever you get for what you do is remuneration. Everybody has to work.

So who are we working for? Personally I am working for the Lord, and I wouldn't work for anyone else. There are those who seem interested in selling their lives on the installment plan. So much down and so much a week. I am not seeking to criticize that, but the highest experience in life is to work for God.

If you will do that, and He sends you to a factory, work for God. If He sends you from door to door, work for God. Whatever your work, let it be because God has put you there, and work for God.

In the parable of the laborers Jesus tells about the master of the vineyard saying to those standing idle in the market place, Go into the vineyard, and whatever is right I will give you. Will He do it? If you are working for God then, you may leave the question of the remuneration that you are to receive with God.

I will have to be honest and tell you that if there were some men I were working for I would certainly have an understand about just what I was going to get. But if I am working for God, I don't need to do that. I can trust His wisdom. I can trust His ability to pay. And I can trust His interest in me. So I don't need to have the stress and worry and fear that is filling the people of this world.

"And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness" 1 Timothy 6:8-11.

God, through Paul, didn't encourage Timothy to play the stock market so he could have a lot of money on the side. Paul didn't want Timothy burdened down with the race to get rich. He said, Flee these things.

Don't misunderstand me. There is nothing wrong with having money. It is the love of money that is the root of all evil. But it is a blessed thing to be independent from money. If we have any money, it should be our servant, not our master. Notice that Paul says, They that will be rich fall into temptation and into many foolish lusts which drown men in destruction.

I have seen many insects drowned in honey. It is a sweet death, but they are as dead as can be.

But this is drowned in money. Like that multi-millionaire who got into his private plane at the London airport. He told the pilot to fly to Paris. They got out over the English channel, and he opened the door and dropped down into the cold waters below. He was through with life.

Don't fool yourself and think you can run the race of this world and avoid the stresses that go with it. Not all the heart failures are coming from nicotine and cholesterol. Stress is one of the big causes. Not all the ulcers are coming from smoking and irritants that are put into the stomach. Stress is a great factor. And don't think you can go into the race to keep up with the Joneses without stress.

If you want the rest that Jesus offers, you must be willing to live as He lives. And to the man who came to Jesus to follow him, the Savior said, The foxes have holes, the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of man hath not where to lay His head. Jesus was rich, yet for our sakes He became poor.

Somebody says, But does that mean we have to wander around homeless?

Not necessarily. But it does mean that we must be willing to follow Jesus. And if it includes that, it is all right, because that is where it is going to take us eventually. The pathway we are on leads either to a dungeon or a cave. If I had my choice I would take the cave rather than the dungeon. But whichever, it means to be penniless, without human resources, to be at the mercy of God. How sweet it is to get that settled right now.

If God gives us a comfortable place to stay, that's something extra. If He gives us a nice dinner, something more than bread and water, that's something special. If He gives us some money to carry in our pocket, perhaps to relieve the wants of the suffering ones about us, that is some stewardship He puts into our hands. It isn't something that we struggled and schemed and worried and developed ulcers trying to get.

Oh, what a freedom from stress to learn the lesson. Having food and raiment, let us be therewith content.

Somebody says, If the whole world was filled with people like that nothing would happen.

Well some things wouldn't happen. There wouldn't be any gambling dens. There wouldn't be any jails. There wouldn't be any forgeries. There wouldn't be any cut-throat competition, or any other kind of competition. Everybody would be working with God to help others.

Oh, I pray that God may make us conscious of the fact that we can be delivered from every stress, if we are willing to place ourselves into the hands of Jesus, and take the consequences.

"And seekest thou great things for thyself? seek them not:
for, behold, I will bring evil upon all flesh, saith the LORD:
but thy life will I give unto thee for a prey in all places
whither thou goest" Jeremiah 45:5.

Here is the burden of ambition. Not just money making, but position, prestige, recognition to be somebody. And how natural that is to the unconverted heart.

Somebody said, If you want a good sales manager for a corporation, get a man with ulcers. He is pushing things.

I am glad I don't have something to sell that calls for that sort of business. The thing I have to sell is relief and release from that program.

Don't misunderstand me. The Gospel doesn't stifle activity. But it does deliver us from the rat-race that is filling the world with worry and fear and anxiety.

"And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, come unto Him, saying, Master, we would that Thou shouldest do for us whatsoever we shall desire. And He said unto them, What would ye that I should do for you? They said unto Him, Grant unto us that we may sit, one on Thy right hand, and the other on Thy left hand, in Thy glory" Mark 10:32.

Did Jesus give them that job? No. He gave them something infinitely better. He gave them a commission that took one to the scaffold and one to banishment on Patmos. They spent their lives not sitting, but going for Jesus. And instead of thrones and crowns in this world, He gave them the joy of winning men to Christ.

The desire to get honor and prestige caused the disciples to miss the vision of the cross. And the desire to have our own way, to get what this world offers, will destroy for us the vision of the cross.

Those are the two great burdens the world is carrying—the burden to get money and the burden to get position. They are heavy loads. Why not lay down at the feet of Jesus every burden. Then, accepting the yoke of Jesus, we can be busy for God. We can work hard, but we can work for God. And the matter of remuneration will all be left with Him. The matter of recognition will all be left with Him. We can work and pray, work and sleep, work and enjoy life, and let God carry the responsibility of how much remuneration and recognition we will get for it.

Such a program will not make us lazy. It will make us happy. It will make us less ambitious as far as this wicked world is concerned. It will fire our hearts with a holy ambition that will cause us to live for Jesus here and through the ceaseless ages of eternity.

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