

Secrets of Success

#0788
1983

Study Given by W.D. Frazee—April 29,

A large corporation, engaged in manufacturing service of various machinery, has a sign in its repair shop, "When all else fails read the manufacture's instructions."

Tonight, I want to share with you some of the instructions of success given in this wonderful Book. Everyone wants to be successful. Everyone could be.

"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.

We will have good success if we will listen and learn and live out of the law of God. That is the recipe. These are the manufacture's instructions. God is the one who made us body, mind, and spirit. He knows how we are put together. He knows how we can be successful. You would think everyone would be anxious to get the instructions and follow them.

"Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes. And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt write them upon the door posts of thine house, and upon thy gates: That your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children, in the land which the LORD swore unto your fathers to give them, as the days of heaven upon the earth" Deuteronomy 11:18-21.

If you want heaven on earth you can have it. Just listen to what God says, learn His program, and live it. Fill your mind with the words of God, fill your hands with the works of God, and fill your heart with the love of God.

I want to study success in physical health, success in prosperity, and success in spiritual life. You would think a man would be real happy in success in all three of those things.

“Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth” 3 John 2.

God wants our souls to prosper. Most people are aware that God is interested in their religious experience. But isn't it wonderful that God is interested in our physical health as He is in our religious experience? God loves us. If you love someone you don't love part of him. God is interested in our total health, total prosperity, and our total spiritual life and happiness. I think that is wonderful.

The recipe in all these is to listen to what He says, learn His principles, and live them in harmony with His law. That is the program. If we will do it we will have the results.

Israel came to the waters of Marah, and the waters were bitter. God, in answer to Moses' prayer, showed him a tree. He cut down the tree and put it in the waters and the waters were made sweet. That tree represented Jesus, who was bruised and cut down for us that we might be healed. Notice this wonderful promise to those who will meet the conditions:

“And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in His sight, and wilt give ear to His commandments, and keep all His statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee” Exodus 15:26.

God says He will heal you if you will harken to the voice of God. So we are to listen and to learn and to live in harmony with His law. If we will do it, the results is physical health. Notice the agencies God uses:

“And ye shall serve the LORD your God, and He shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee” Exodus 23:25.

God's health and healing program is a program of certain material agencies. The two mentioned here is bread and water. Bread and water, with God's blessing, will sustain and restore life. It is the blessing of God that does it, but He does it through these natural agencies. We talk about the eight remedies. The last one mentioned in that list is trust in divine power. Doctor Harding has called our attention to the fact that it is not an anticlimax. It is the cap-sheath of the whole thing. More than that it must be with all the others or they don't work as they should. I will illustrate it:

“Some are continually anxious lest their food, however simple and healthful, may hurt them. To these let me say, Do not think that your food will injure you; do not think about it at all. Eat according to your best judgment; and when you have asked the Lord to bless the food for the strengthening of your body, believe that He hears your prayer, and be at rest” *Ministry of Healing*, page 321.

Trust in divine power goes with the other remedies of proper diet. Without trust we may eat the best food but worry ourselves. Trust goes with eating. A merry heart does good like a medicine.

“And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved” Acts 2:46-47.

That is the program. They ate their food with gladness. They were not worrying about a lot of things while they ate. And at that time there was a great soul winning program going on. Every day souls were accepting the message. But in the midst of that great evangelism they had time to eat and eat with gladness. Trust makes people happy.

It is not possible to defeat benefits of exercise by worrying. The antidote for worry is trust. It is impossible to trust and worry at the same time. Of course, you can alternate it if you want to. I don't recommend it. If you trust you don't worry, and if you worry you don't trust. So whatever we are doing, let's thank God for the privilege of uniting trust with the rest of the eight remedies.

Some people overdo abstinence by worrying if they have eaten too much or worked too much. They are defeating the purpose of it. Trust in divine power is part of the way of God in health. Let's learn to do it. What do you say?

Rest is another divine remedy. We don't rest all the time, and we don't work all the time. Suppose I lay down to rest and I can't sleep. Then is the time to do what? Trust, not worry. The Lord's messenger to the remnant was taken through many experiences. When she was in Australia in 1892 she suffered for many weeks from pain and nerves. The result was she wasn't able to sleep. She had special prayer and thought she would be healed as she had been many times before. But she wasn't. Thank God her arm of faith reached up to lay hold of the promises of God. When she couldn't sleep she went over them, and she was able to write some of those beautiful passages in *The Desire of Ages* that fill our hearts with joy and courage.

Whether it is eating or working or resting, trust is the great absolute essential to get the optimum benefit of all these things. Success doesn't come by following just one of these. It takes the whole package. And when all else fails read the manufacturing instructions. The whole Bible is the manual on health of body and mind and soul. Thank God for the fifty volumes in these latter days that magnify these wonderful things in the Bible, and bring them down to our needs today.

I thank God for what the health message has done for me. I praise God for these years of joy in serving Him. I am not immortal yet, but I am getting ready to be. Yes, we have lots to be thankful for.

Are you interested in secrets of prosperity? Is God interested in it? Yes. Just as in the matter of health for the body there are certain rules and principles that God wants us to follow. He wants us to live in cooperation with Him. Brother Wilson brought us some vital counsels on this matter. He showed us that God wants us to be exact and careful in our work, and He wants us to be prompt. In other words, those are secrets of success. With this I bring some of the Bible principles concerning making all this a spiritual service.

“Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove Me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts. And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts” Malachi 3:10-12.

Inspiration that has come to this people tells us that if the children of Israel had done with God told them to, they would have been the world's example of health and prosperity. They would have been known all over the world. And notice that the cornerstone of prosperity is the tithe. How much? Ten percent of increase. It is to be brought into the storehouse. I am sure everyone here believes that.

“Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh? Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the LORD shall be thy rearward. And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noon day: And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not” Isaiah 58:6-8,10-11.

Health and prosperity depend upon sharing the good things God gives us with others who are in need. That is the program. Notice some of the details. This text talks about bread. This is talking about actual food to the hungry. And bring the poor where? To your house. You will be interested in this statement. It is a statement by one who knew James White very well. I picked it out because James White was the great leader in the beginning of this movement. Notice how he carried out this instruction:

“Elder White was himself a very philanthropic man. He always lived in a large house, but there were no vacant rooms in it. Although his immediate family was small, his house was always filled with widows and their children, poor friends, poor brothers in the ministry, and those who need a home. His heart and his pocketbook were always open, and he was ready to help those who needed help. He certainly set a most noble example to our denomination in his large-heartedness and liberality of spirit” *Welfare Ministry*, page 322.

Sister White herself was a lifetime example of this. I have something wonderful I want to share with you. It is a simple example of what I think is a philanthropic interest in humanity. And remember, God says that if we will do it our health and prosperity will be improved.

“It is selfish actions that keep the soul in feebleness, and deprive it of its power. A lady who has just recently embraced the truth, who conducted a large dress-making establishment, thought she would be able to take treatments at our sanitarium at Sidney, and then came to the school to be educated as a missionary. She remained there paying out her little hoard of means until she dared not remain longer. Then she went to the mission home where she was boarded for ten dollars per week. But money was going out and none coming in. It was thought that if she could get into the quiet of the country it would be beneficial to her. I invited her to my house and told her to make her home with me, although we had to crowd up our family to do this. I could not say she could pay out her last shilling for board. She is now located in my family, and is having all the opportunities she desires in writing out and sitting at my family board. She is treated as a member of my family without cost to herself of a penny. I thought Jesus would do just this.

“It had been thought that she would remain here only four weeks, and then return to the city. But she will remain here just as long as she pleases. I tell her this is her home. We must do these works just as Christ would do them if He were in our place. We want to show Christian warmth and hardiness, not as though we were doing some wonderful thing, but just as we would expect any real Christian in our own case were we placed in like circumstances” *Letter 68*, 1898.

Now let's read it in the Bible. I want you to notice that in plain language it links the promise of prosperity with this attitude and state of mind.

“If there be among you a poor man of one of thy brethren within any of thy gates in thy land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not harden thine heart, nor shut thine hand from thy poor brother: But thou shalt open thine hand wide unto him, and shalt surely lend him sufficient for his need, in that which he wanteth. Beware that there be not a thought in thy wicked heart, saying, The seventh year, the year of release, is at hand; and thine eye be evil against thy poor brother, and thou givest him nought; and he cry unto the LORD against thee, and it be sin unto thee. Thou shalt surely give him, and thine heart shall not be grieved when thou givest unto him: because that for this thing the LORD thy God shall bless thee in all thy works, and in all that thou puttest thine hand unto” Deuteronomy 15:7-10.

God wants everything we do for our brothers and sisters to be cheerful in love. But the bottom line is don't be fearful and worried and anxious and grieved when you give, for the Lord will bless you in being generous with the needy, helping them when they need help. Bring them into your home and give them what they need. Sometimes they need counsel and prayer more than they need anything material. But whatever they need, the Lord will bless you.

“For the poor shall never cease out of the land: therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land” Deuteronomy 15:11

Do you know why God never lets the poor cease? It would be like if every part of this world was just as level as any other part. How many rivers would we have? How many waterfalls would we have? None. I am thankful for God's plan.

“It was not the purpose of God that poverty should ever leave the world. The ranks of society were never to be equalized, for the diversity of condition which characterizes our race is one of the means by which God has designed to prove and develop character”
Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 4, pages 551-552.

Character is being developed and demonstrated. Whenever someone is brought in touch with me, and they need something I have, what is demonstrating in my life? Character. But suppose it is the other way around. Some people say, I can give, but I hate to have anyone do things for me. I am too independent. The Bible says:

“I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive” Acts 20:35.

I want to give. If everyone did all the giving, who would receive?

“Many have urged with great enthusiasm that all men should have an equal share in the temporal blessings of God, but this was not the purpose of the Creator. Christ has said that we shall have the poor always with us....It would be the greatest misfortune that has ever befallen mankind if all were to be placed upon an equality in worldly possessions”
Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 4, pages 551-552.

No matter how fully we follow out the plan of health that God has given us, do all people have an equal amount of endurance and pep and energy and health? No. Does God intend that the strong shall help the weak? Yes. I have an interesting statement on this. Listen carefully, for someone is going to get a dawning of a new light on handicapped people:

“Whether in the home, the neighborhood, or the school, the presence of the poor, the afflicted, the ignorant, or the unfortunate should be regarded, not as a misfortune, but as affording precious opportunity for service”
Education, page 268.

So whether it is physical handicap or poverty, every time we meet a need we should think of it not as a misfortune, but a blessed, precious opportunity. How different this is from the viewpoint of the world. In God's program He will bless you. I know it is true.

My wife and I will soon have been married for fifty years. We are not in debt. We have been in this work most of our lives. We are not millionaires. But we thank God for everything He has given us through the years, and we have held it in trust in helping others. It is a happy way to live. I wouldn't trade with the biggest billionaire on Wall Street. I have something that they would give a lot to have, but they don't know about it. So look around you and see if there is someone who needs help, and you can give it. You don't have to be rich to help others. All you have to find is someone who needs something you have.

“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God” Romans 5:1-2.

That is spiritual prosperity. How is it we get this peace? Being justified by faith. Faith is simply to trust God in what He says. This is His recipe for peace and joy. We have a way to get in. We are invited to the throne room of the universe. We have an intercessor. We have an inside line with God. We rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. In others words, to accept God's way of life means spiritual prosperity on these terms. We give Him our way, and He gives us His way. We give Him our sins, and He gives us His righteousness. We surrender all we have to Him, and we trust Him. I am so glad that He has made it simple, aren't you?

“For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which He shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by His grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life” Titus 3:3-7.

That's the program. We who have been out in the world of sin, whether we were born in the message or in a cold world, none of us are naturally Christians. We all need the converting power of God. But the same One who turned the waters of Marah from bitter to sweet, the same One who made the promises of health to those who would meet the conditions, has told us that if we will just listen and learn to live His way we can be just as prosperous spiritually as what He wants us to be financially and in health. The whole program is one of conformity to His will. The good news is that while we are learning He counts us as having already attained.

“Through faith in Him Christ will make all our imperfect efforts acceptable to God” *Faith and Works*, page 48.

I think that is wonderful. My heart is happy that God has a program for health and prosperity. But most of all He has a program of spiritual victory which gives us peace in acceptance with God. You can see that this program is so different from what the world has. It is more blessed and happy to give than to receive. So in heaven's balance sheet the richest man is the one who gives the most. That's what Jesus did. And that is our experience if we enter in with Him.

Before we get through we are going to learn more and more of the faith of Jesus. Baptized represents all we have studied tonight. It means to surrender everything to Jesus and accept His life to cover our poor failures. And there is no true baptism unless we have made that full surrender and accepted Him by faith. So let's renew our baptismal vows in a full dedication to the program of giving ourselves to Jesus, and for Him to others.

Heavenly Father, we thank Thee with all our hearts tonight that we can be like the little stream flowing down, down, down, watering the earth and bringing the flowers and grass fresh and sweet in the spring. Make us like Jesus who laid aside His royal robes and became poor that we through His poverty might be rich. And we have the joy He had of sharing with others in material things as medical missionaries, and as evangelists in winning souls to Christ. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

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