

# Formula for Success

#0116

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—February 7, 1975

Isn't it wonderful to have something to depend on? Now, tonight I want to give you the formula for success. Everybody wants to be a success, and God wants everybody to be a success.

Turn to Joshua 1:8. These are the words the Lord gave Joshua when he came to the leadership of Israel after the long administration of Moses. God told him how to carry on successfully the tremendous work given him of leading in the conquest of Canaan.

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

My subject tonight agrees with my text. My subject is "How to be Successful," the recipe for success. You all want to be successful, I'm sure. Nobody loves failure, and here is the formula. God says if you'll just read what I've had my prophet write and then do what it says—don't turn from it to the right hand or the left—meditate in this day and night, and then carry it out, and then you'll have good success.

Did it happen? Yes, it did. Joshua stubbed his toe a time or two when he slipped up on what this says, but he learned a lesson out of it. We can learn lessons from all our failures. The great lesson, friends, is that the plan and the power are in this Book. If you've got the Book, folks, you have it.

Suppose I'm going to make a trip across the country. Well, someone kindly gave me a road atlas. It has a map of every state in the union and every province in Canada—a road atlas. There's one map after the other. There's no place you can think of on this continent, but what this will tell you how to get there. But oh friends, here is a road atlas that stretches from this earth to Heaven, and shows every step on the pilgrim journey. Isn't that wonderful? Why not study this map? Why not study the directions for getting from where we are to where we're going?

You know, really, there're only two destinations. There're various ports of call en route, but just two destinations: one is Heaven and the other is hell. Somebody may say, "I don't plan to go either place." Well, I just have to tell you something, friends. There won't be many days before people will be planning their gardens. You can plan for peas and onions, and carrots and beets and lettuce and all the other things. Some people might plan for weeds. That would be too bad, wouldn't it?

Suppose somebody says, “I’m not going to have either one. If you don’t take care to plan for the vegetables, you won’t need to plan for the weeds; they’ll take over. Right? So it isn’t necessary for people to get a road map and study it to get to hell any more than it is necessary to buy seed catalogs and garden books to study how to grow weeds. That’ll happen. What takes planning, what takes study is going on the good road, and getting a good garden. Are you with me? All right.

Here is the seed catalog. Here are the instructions on how to grow the garden. Here, to come back to our figure is the road atlas. There isn’t a single stop on the road from here to Heaven but what it is cover in this wonderful road atlas. Think of it prophetically. Think of those marvelous predictions of Daniel 2, Daniel 7–12. Think of the wonderful prophecies in Revelation 12–14, and the other marvelous chapters that zero in on our generation showing us what has been, what’s going on now, and what’s going to happen.

I love to study those road maps, don’t you? They give me confidence that the One that wrote this Book knew what was going to happen. But oh, the future—that’s where the map comes in most handy, most important, isn’t it? How to get from where we are to the glorious coming of Jesus. It isn’t just merely for the world as a whole or the church as a body that this wonderful instruction is given; it’s for you personally. May I tell you a secret? God in His wonderful providence has arranged this Book of infinite wisdom in such a way that, although written for everybody in the world, it’s written for you as though you were the only person in the world. And if you’ll ask the dear Lord, He’ll help you to find not merely maps of history written in advance through prophecy. He’ll help you to find the guiding lights for your life. He will.

Take this one in Jeremiah 33:3; I love it. Let’s look at it. If you were writing it yourself, could you do any better? Look at what a tremendous commitment on the part of God is here recorded. What a wonderful promise the dear Lord is given you. What’s the first word? Call. What’s the third word? Yes, God is speaking. “Call unto Me,” and what will He do? “I’ll answer you and show you great and mighty things”—The margin says hidden things—which thou knowest not.

Oh, how wonderful it is. You know along some of these freeways, every little while there’s an emergency telephone. The person that needs the help or guidance can lift that receiver and at once, they’re in touch with a source of instruction and help. Here in the Bible, thank God, we have something closer than that—just as close as your own mind and heart. God is right there by His Spirit listening.

“Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show  
thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest  
not” Jeremiah 33:3.

He is speaking through His Word, and He longs to answer through His Word. So the more we study this Word, the more we will know the way.

There’s something else we need to make a trip. Do you know what it is? We need the potential, the power to make the trip. If it’s a short trip, we make it by

walking. If it's a longer trip, we make it by driving an automobile or getting in an airplane, or a train, or a bus, some method of transportation. And that calls for what? Money. They've devised a very interesting system in recent years—the credit card. Here's one that I have, and I'll tell you a secret: I don't use it to go in debt with. I recommend that policy for anybody that has one of these. But I want to use this for an illustration, that's why I'm bringing it out.

The other day I had to go West on the Lord's business to hold some meetings. When I went to get my ticket, I simply presented this card. They put it in the little machine, and presently I had my ticket, and they gave me back my card, and I stuck it in my wallet. Well, I got out there and presently, I needed to take a trip back. And again I showed them this little card, and presently I had my ticket, and I was on the plane, on my way home. Do you mean that little card will take care of that? Sure! It does it.

Somebody says, "I wish I had one like that." Well, you do. You have one for something far more important than a trip from here to the West, or the West back here. You have in the Bible, my dear friend—and don't miss it—not merely the instructions for the trip, but you have the credit card that'll carry you all the way there.

There're some things this credit card here on earth card can't provide for. Think of how many things we really need that this can't take care of at all. Somebody has said that money can provide you food, but not appetite. It can provide you a bed, but not sleep. There's a long list of things that money can get, and there's a long list of things that money's powerless to provide. Am I right? Yes. Money can buy you fun, but it can't buy you happiness.

Thank God, this Book, oh what a credit card it is! Look at Philippians 4:19. I just love this one. I use this again and again. Like my credit card, they give it back to me, and I can use it again. I like that kind of arrangement.

Philippians 4:19. Somebody that's thinking fast is thinking, "Yes, Brother Frazee, you've got a credit card, but you have to pay off sooner or later." You all know that's true, don't you? I hope nobody gets a credit card that doesn't know that. But I'm going to let you in on a secret of this credit card in the Bible. This is something, praise the Lord, that Somebody else has paid for.

"But my God shall supply all your need according to  
His riches in glory by Christ Jesus" Philippians 4:19.

Oh, isn't that wonderful? Who's back of this credit card? God is back of it. He has promised to supply how much? *All* my need, according to what? His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Unlimited.

Now, you know this credit card has a limit on it. When I first got it, it had a small limit on it. After I had it awhile and met my obligations without any request on my part, they raised it a bit. So now it has a ceiling higher than anything I want to buy. But my point is, it does have a ceiling. Something might happen to me, that I wouldn't foresee or plan, where I'd need a lot more than that little credit card would make possible. But here in the Bible is a credit card that the ceiling is so high that I

can't even reach it. I just read it to you: My God shall supply what? All your need. If it stopped just there, it would be pretty big, wouldn't it? All your need; all your need tonight; all your need tomorrow; all the need you ever will have.

But notice, to encourage us, He shows us what's back of His credit card—His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. All the assets of the universe, all the riches of wealth in the treasury of God, are pledged to fulfill this credit card, which has been put in my hands. I'm so thankful for that. What do you say?

Now, wouldn't you think that everybody would be searching the Bible first to find out the directions, and second to get the power, the potential, the strength, the wealth, the riches, whatever it takes to travel the road? Wouldn't you think everybody would be?

If you were the Devil, what would you do about it? Well, I'll tell you what he *is* doing about it: he's trying to interfere with this. He's trying to interfere with the communication. He's trying to block this wonderful channel. Some people, he gets to doubt the Bible. They say, "Oh, I don't believe it." Of course, without faith it doesn't mean anything. If I doubted this credit card, I certainly wouldn't try to use it, would I? And if I doubted this Map, it would be foolish for me to study it. If I'd say, "Oh no, I think this is wrong, I don't think the road goes there at all, I think it goes over here," I'm better off without the atlas if I have to correct everything. So *doubt* devaluates the value of the instructions, and the value of the credit card offered us in this Book. Doubt destroys it.

"Well," someone says, "How can I get faith?"

"...faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God"  
Romans 10:17.

If you want more faith, study this Book. But faith won't come by listening to all the arguments and objections and doubts of others. Oh, no. Faith comes by listening to God, and God will kindle faith in your heart as you study this Book.

The Devil has other snares for those who believe the Book. There are millions who say, "Sure, I believe this Book." But the Devil's game for those people is to get them to be so busy with other things: other books, other magazines, TV programs, radio broadcasts, or just listening to their friends and relatives, *anything* to keep them from studying this Book, listening to this Book. Any of you know what I'm talking about? Any of you meet that problem? Well, we'd just as well be conscious of it; the problem is all about us. But, bless the Lord, folks, we don't have to walk into that spider web. We don't have to at all.

But now, let me tell you the one, the most insidious things of all, and that's this: After we have found faith in this Bible, and as we read it and study it, and even learn to love it, there is a danger of getting all the blessing that there is in it through failure to carry out what we read. By looking at what people about us are doing instead of listening to what the Book is saying. Oh, my dear friends, the burden of my heart tonight is to warn you on this point. The pilgrim's pathway is ever onward, ever upward. This Book is not instruction on how to reach a certain plateau and stay

there waiting around until Jesus comes. This Book is a map in which every day we're to make progress. This Book portrays a journey that never stops this side of Heaven.

Think of the changes that this Book has already made in your life. Wouldn't it be wonderful if God could have the opportunity to *keep on* making changes in your life? Will you let Him do it? Will you let Him shape your life, your home, your witness for Him, your service, wherever you labor—in a factory, in a shop, in an office, in an institution, or at your own home? Will you let Him shape that service, that witness more and more in harmony with this Book? And when you read something in this Book, do not look around you and say, "Well, I wonder who else is doing this?"

Do you know that every year over this planet, there are people who, as they study the Bible in their homes alone with God, for the first time find out that the seventh-day is the Sabbath, and they don't know of anybody keeping it? A few of those start in keeping it thinking they're the only ones in all the world.

Do you know what most of them do? Most of them go along doing what they *had* done, wondering why other people aren't doing what's in the Book, but concluding there must be some reason, so they go ahead going along with the crowd.

Whatever it is that God teaches you from this Book, why not follow it, and follow it at once? This is the way to make rapid progress in the pilgrim journey.

There's something else that's wonderful about this Book, and this is something that no credit card can do. This is something that no map can do. Through this Book, God has revealed to us His wonderful way of forgiving all our past failures, and canceling them through the blood of Jesus Christ. No matter what a mess we've made of life, no matter how many failures and mistakes our life record is filled with, Jesus offers to forgive us, to cleanse us, and help us to start all over again. Isn't that wonderful? Ah, yes, I'm so thankful for it.

I was thinking of it as something like my operator's license. You know, if I'm going to drive across the country or even to Chattanooga, I need something more than a map and something more than a credit card. I need an operator's license, don't I? That's right. And thank God, when Jesus saved my soul, He wrote my name in the Lamb's book of life, and gave me an operator's license signed by His most precious blood. And as long as I keep that operator's license, I have a right to be on the King's highway that leads straight through to the pearly gate.

My friend, have you got your road map? Are you studying it? Have you got your credit card, the promises of God's Word? Are you using it? Have you got your operator's license? Do you know that Jesus has forgiven your sins, written your name in His book, and that He has authorized you to travel with Him all the way through to the pearly gates? Bless the Lord for His wonderful plan. What do you say?

[Testimony service]

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