

Success is Not a Secret 1

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Success is not a secret and it doesn't happen by accident.

Success is not financial security or achievement only.

Success is reflected in "balance," and not in reaching a goal at the expense of your values.

Success is not losing what is of "real value" to gain what is "fleeting."

EXAMPLE: When you gain something outside of God's values, you will always lose something of greater value.

- Gain the whole world and lose your family
- Gain the whole world and lose your soul

Proverbs 10:22 – The blessing of the Lord makes a person rich, and he adds no sorrow with it. (NLT)

Success is simply a series of wise decisions that are based on underlying unmovable principles.

There are 7 principles that we have committed to that bring success.

Put People First.

- Policies matter, but people matter more. Building the Kingdom of God begins by reaching lost, hurting, and wayward people with the love of God. We never apologize for spending our time, talent, and resources to do this!

Putting people first is the bedrock of what governs God's decisions toward man and it must become ours.

God calls people:

- Precious fruit of the earth – James 5:7
- Sheep of his pasture – Psalm 79:13
- The joy that was set before him – Hebrews 12:2

Two Take-aways:

1. People before rules
2. People before obstacles

1. People before rules
People matter more than rules.

Deal with perfectionism and control. Perfectionism is about you and your needs and fears, not others.

Woman taken in adultery – John 8:1-12

- Jesus made the rules about the woman
- Religion made the rules about punishment

Touch a leper?

- **Matthew 8:1-3** – When he came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed him. ² A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean." ³ Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" Immediately he was cured of his leprosy. (NIV)
- **Leviticus 13:45-46** – "The person with such an infectious disease must wear torn clothes, let his hair be unkempt, cover the lower part of his face and cry out, 'Unclean! Unclean!' ⁴⁶ As long as he has the infection he remains unclean. He must live alone; he must live outside the camp. (NIV)
 - How many people internally are crying out, "Unclean, unclean"?
 - When we determine this about *ourselves*, we isolate *ourselves*.
 - When we determine this about *others*, we isolate *them*.
 - Jesus broke every expectation and law about "the unclean."
 - Jesus didn't break the law because when "he touched him," he was no longer "unclean."
 - When we put people first, we lead them to the "cleansing Christ." They no longer have to live "unclean," "live alone," or "live outside the camp."

2. People before obstacles
Decisions formed by values, not by honoring obstacles, circumstances, and limits.

When I evaluate obstacles and costs, I look to Jesus.

Hebrews 12:2 – Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (NIV)

- People (you!) are the "joy set before him."

John 10:11 – I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. (NIV)

I never hesitate to ask people to live and give beyond themselves.

When people ask, "Why this expense?" I answer, "Because people matter to God!"

I refuse to love money more than Jesus and the reason he died.

Learn to make decisions based on your values; not on reflecting, observing, and honoring your obstacles.

Obstacles in:

Marriage – Put your spouse first

Relationships – Put the other person first

Job – Put others first

34 Years of Living this Value

- Put People First – Why Victory is the size and scope that it is.
- Put People First – Why we have never honored the obstacles that other churches have honored.
- Put People First – Why 300 churches are going to learn this same principle.
- Put People First – Why our facility honors our purpose.
- Put People First – Why our next step is not about money or obstacles, but is about the "family" in Victory FAMILY Church.

Next Step: Expansion and Family Small Group focus

Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep, and we are to lay down our lives for one another.

This is why we expand and give beyond our own needs and wants.