

CHRISTIAN AND SUCCESS

Excerpts from “Success Is Not an Accident” by Tommy Newberry

Presentation by Dong Choi

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Does God Want Christian's Worldly Success?

- A prominent Korean pastor wondered in his sermon whether Christian soccer player's goal ceremony – kneeling and praying – is a proper behavior toward the opposing team members in their heart-breaking conditions.
- The main theme of the famous American evangelist's sermon (a smiling pastor) is Christian's success in his inspirational or motivational sermon.
- To find an answer, let's explore the excerpts from "Success Is Not an Accident" by Tommy Newberry.

Does God Want Christian's Worldly Success?

- *Does God Even Want You to Succeed? Many people of faith wonder whether it's wrong to pursue wealth or certain types of worldly success. Some even feel guilty for wanting what others don't have. What about you? Do you think God wants you to succeed?¹*
- *Who Are You Now? You are a beautiful, wonderful child of God! You are an original masterpiece. Your DNA proves it.¹*
- *You were created in the image and likeness of God to do wise, wonderful, and grand things with the limited time you have here on earth.¹*
- *There has never been anyone just like you, and there never will be anyone just like you. God has not made anyone else out of better clay than he has made you.¹*

Does God Want Christian's Worldly Success?

- *God is the infinite source and ultimate provider of all good things. Our heavenly Father has poured an inexhaustible supply of abundance onto this earth, ready for us to multiply it even further if we are willing to take the initiative.¹*
- *As you want your children to become everything they were created to become. And that is exactly what God wants for you as well.¹*
- *God wants us to reach our potential and contribute to the world in tremendous ways. Success in the general sense is God's way of sharing abundance. He uses your success to bless others while you benefit yourself. Success is a multiplier, not a divider, as the media often tend to represent.¹*
- *Your true place is your unique path to glorifying God.¹*

*What is success for a Christian?*¹

- *What exactly does success mean to you?* ¹
- *Remember, obedience to the rules and teachings of the Bible is just the minimum daily requirement. It is the starting point, the foundational standard.* ¹
- *True success, on the other hand, is maximum service to God.* ¹
- *Your heavenly Father desires that you be fully, in every single respect, the person he created you to be. I encourage you to reach for more than a life of mere obedience and “good living.”* ¹
- *Instead, strive for an abundant life of success in the service of others.* ¹

What is success for a Christian?¹

- Are you getting out of life everything that God intends for you? Can you stand to be blessed above and beyond your wildest dreams? The Bible is full of those who are “more than conquerors,” and none of us should be content to be mediocre.¹*
- Success is, instead, an intentional approach to life that ensures you are a faithful steward of your gifts and talents. ¹*
- Remember, success is the ongoing, proactive process of making God’s desires your desires, becoming today a little more like the person he engineered you to become. ¹*
- I have learned what it takes to experience the fulfillment that comes from living in sync with one’s God-given purpose. ¹*

Who are successful people?

- *The most successful people in the world are those who have taken the time to figure out exactly who they want to become and what they want to achieve. Then they invest the hours of their days in activities consistent with these ideals.*¹
- *Successful people are those who have learned how to consistently apply God's laws in their lives. They ascribe their achievements to focus, hard work, strong relationships, perseverance, and the blessing of God.*¹

Who are successful people?

- *God's universal principles: "Joyful are people of integrity, who follow the instructions of the LORD" (Psalm 119:1, NLT).¹*
- *The unsuccessful or mediocre are those who have no obvious direction. These people tend to "go with the flow" or drift in whichever direction the wind happens to be blowing. ¹*

How to succeed?

- Objective Driven Life
- Know Your Talent
- Think Excellence
- Practice
- Be Healthy

How to succeed? – Objective Driven Life

- *Choose Who You Want to Become* If you want your purpose in life to become a magnificent obsession, you must develop and constantly review your personal mission statement. ¹
- *God has a particular objective for your life.* ¹
- *“This objective (or purpose for your life) coincides with your gifts and talents and a host of other heavenly factors.* ¹
- *Persistently ask God these three questions: Who am I? Why am I here? Where do you want me to go?* ¹
- *I visualized where I wanted to be, what kind of player I wanted to become. I knew exactly where I wanted to go, and I focused on getting there. —Michael Jordan* ¹

How to succeed? – Objective Driven Life

- *Write Down Compelling Goals* The very act of writing down and setting magnificent goals unlocks your creative powers, and the act of writing your goals is completely under your control. ¹
- *You may have heard of the 1953 study of Yale graduates. The subjects were periodically interviewed and followed by researchers for more than twenty years. Eventually the graduates were again interviewed, tested, and surveyed. Results showed that 3 percent of the Yale graduates earned more money than all the other 97 percent put together! The only difference between them was the top 3 percent had written goals and a plan of action for those goals, which they reviewed daily.* ¹

How to succeed? – Know Your Talent

- *“This objective (or purpose for your life) coincides with your gifts and talents and a host of other heavenly factors. ¹*
- *Your areas of interest—the activities and pursuits that you find most enjoyable and attractive—are the best indicators of strong talent and giftedness. ¹*
- *When you engage in activities that demand your special talent, your brain releases chemicals that trigger satisfaction as an incentive for you to continue in this area. ¹*
- *Your area of Genius is the specific point where what you enjoy doing most intersects with what you do best.*
- *Do what you love—love what you do.”*

How to succeed? – Know Your Talent

- *The Strength Principle, which is that by focusing on your strengths, you ultimately render your weaknesses irrelevant.* ¹
- *The 80/20 Principle, which is that 80 percent of your results come from only 20 percent of your inputs.* ¹
- References:
Now, Discover Your Strengths. Marcus Buckingham & Donald O. Clifton. 2001. The Free Press.

GE Careers -

<https://gecareers.traitsify.com/personality?token=EKpBqRht6uhrpoTprGr5Sw>

How to succeed? – Think Excellence

- *The apostle Paul describes this principle in Philippians 4:8: “Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise” (NLT). ¹*
- *As King Solomon put it several thousand years ago, “As [a man] thinks in his heart, so is he.” —Proverbs 23:7, NKJV ¹*
- *Your inner dialogue, or self-talk, can and must be effectively harnessed if you are to maximize your full potential. It’s training your mind via your mouth. Matthew 12:34 says, “Out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks” (NIV). Your words and mental images reflect what you believe in your heart—and if you change those words and images, you will also change your heart. ¹*

How to succeed? - Practice

- A reverend emphasized “practice what you preach” in his seminary convocation speech.
- *Sow, Then Reap.*
Success is a planned outcome, not an accident. Success and mediocrity are both absolutely predictable because they follow the natural and immutable law of sowing and reaping. Simply stated, if you want to reap more rewards, you must sow more service, contribution, and value. ¹
- *The Bible says, “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap” (Galatians 6:7, NKJV).*
- *When you try to get something for nothing, you become nothing. ¹*

How to succeed? - Practice

- *“If this act were to turn into a habit for me, would that be in my best long-term interests?”*¹
- *Aristotle reminded us thousands of years ago that “We are what we repeatedly do.”*¹
- *The Bible is clear that God loves excellence. The apostle Paul writes, “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men” (Colossians 3:23, NIV). In Ecclesiastes 9:10, Solomon writes, “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might” (NIV).*¹
- *Sometimes I call it Forrest Gump genius, meaning it’s a way of acting. To paraphrase Forrest’s mother, “Genius is as Genius does.” Your Genius is a set of related activities that collectively produce superior rewards in the marketplace.*¹

How to succeed? – Be Healthy

- *“God designed your body intricately. When you manage it wisely—by eating right, avoiding harmful substances, getting enough sleep, and exercising regularly—you will have better health and more energy.”¹*
- *But, as the book of Isaiah explains, the ultimate source of energy is God. “Those who trust in the LORD will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint” (Isaiah 40:31, NLT).¹*

How to succeed? – Be Healthy

- *Number one energy leak according to Tom Newberry is Negativity: Harboring unhealthy emotions like fear, anger, worry, and guilt—or any sort of “stinking thinking”—will drain your energy. If you’re going to plug any of these leaks, plug this one first. Before you can strengthen your body, you must strengthen your mind. Every thought and feeling has an energy consequence. ¹*
- *As Romans 8:28 says, “We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose” (NIV). Remember that God is always committed to your well-being. ¹*

How to succeed? – *Ten Recommendations*¹

1. *Know your life goals.*¹
2. *Make a priority “to do” list each evening for the following day.*¹
3. *Wake up early, before the time when your obligations and responsibilities kick in.*¹
4. *Return as many of your phone calls and e-mails as possible at one or two predetermined times during the day.*¹
5. *Batch or group as many of your daily or weekly errands as possible so that time is not lost by simple inefficiency.*¹
6. *Think of your relationships as precious investments.*¹
7. *Avoid the quick-fix mind-set at all costs! Instead, do it right the first time.*¹
8. *Thoughtfully prune something in your life each year, or maybe even every quarter.*¹
9. *Insulate yourself sufficiently from distractions.*¹
10. *Constantly remind yourself that time equals life!*¹

Closing Quotations

- *As people of faith, we should seek God's blessing and approval. After all, "Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain" (Psalm 127:1, NIV).¹*
- *"A calm and modest life brings more happiness than the pursuit of success combined with constant restlessness." Albert Einstein's theory of happiness handed to a Japanese hotel messenger.*

Literature Cited

1. Newberry, Tommy. *2007. Success Is Not an Accident. Tyndale House Publishers.*

Appendix

Understanding basic project management

Hydrocarbon Processing, December 2008