

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: How to Be Successful

SERMON REFERENCE: Proverbs 3:5-10

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1903

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) God has programmed us for success.
 - i) God did not engineer us for failure.
 - ii) God wants us to be successful and victorious.
 - iii) God has a wonderful plan for our lives.
- b) The tragic thing is that few people know the will of God, much less do the will of God for their lives.
- c) Man is a clever creature, but he's lost his way in the darkness.
 - i) Man has accomplished many things.
 - (1) Man has discovered how to split the atom.
 - (2) We've gone into space and explored space.
 - (3) We've developed radio, television and the computer.
 - ii) We've gained so much information that we don't even know how to process it, much less know what to do with it.
 - (1) Daniel 12:4
 - iii) As we double our knowledge, it seems that we triple our trouble.
- d) If you are a child of God, God has given you a wonderful promise of guidance.
 - i) Proverbs 3:5-10
 - ii) Isaiah 58:11
 - iii) Psalm 32:8
 - iv) We have the Father above us, watching us and controlling all things.
 - v) We have the Savior beside us, guiding our footsteps.
 - vi) We have the Spirit inside us, controlling our thoughts and our inner life.
- e) God has an individual plan for you.
 - i) He deals with us as individuals.
 - (1) The very hairs of your head are numbered.
 - (a) Matthew 10:30
- f) Stephen Olford said that it is our duty and our joy to find, to follow and to finish the will of God for our lives.
- g) In Proverbs 3:5-10, we will find God's plan and instruction for us to invest in life and be successful God's way.

2) FULL DEPENDENCE (PROVERBS 3:5-6)

- a) There must be complete confidence.
 - i) We must trust the Lord with all of our hearts.
 - (1) It is not a proposition or a formula that we are asked to trust but God Himself.
 - (2) Proverbs 3:5
 - ii) We find it difficult to trust the Lord because it's hard to trust someone we don't know.
 - (1) We have not learned to know Him and to love Him.
 - (a) To know Him is to love Him.
 - (b) To love Him is to trust Him.
 - (c) To trust Him is to obey Him.

- (d) To obey Him is to be blessed.
- (2) If you are having difficulty trusting the Lord, then spend time getting to know Him.
- iii) We are not to trust our own understanding.
 - (1) Proverbs 3:7
 - (2) Proverbs 14:12
 - (a) We don't want to let go and trust God.
 - (b) We want to do it ourselves.
 - (3) Jeremiah 10:23-24
 - (a) We don't have what it takes to guide our own lives because we don't know all of the factors.
 - (i) Proverbs 3:5
- iv) Proverbs 2:1-5
 - (1) We are to search for wisdom as if for buried treasure.
 - (2) When we get serious about knowing the will of God, then we will know the will of God.
- b) Complete confidence leads to constant compliance.
 - i) Proverbs 3:5-6
 - (1) Not in some of our ways, but in all of our ways we are to acknowledge Him.
 - (a) We cannot tell the Lord that we want Him in only part of our life but not in all.
 - (i) If He is worth part of it, then He is worth all of it.
 - (2) Until we do this, we cannot complain about not knowing the will of God.
 - ii) Many people are afraid of what God might ask them to do.
 - (1) Do not be afraid of the will of God.
 - (a) 1 John 4:18
 - (i) This passage does not mean that we love God perfectly.
 - 1. We have never done anything perfectly except sin.
 - 2. It is not our perfect love that casts out fear.
 - (ii) One translation states, "We have no need to fear someone who loves us perfectly."
 - (iii) It is God's perfect love for us.
 - (2) God's will is best.
 - (a) It is what we would choose if we knew all of the factors.
 - (3) Romans 8:32
 - (a) If God gave us Jesus, there is nothing He will withhold from us.
 - (4) If He sends you as a missionary, then that is exactly where you would want to be.
 - (a) Philippians 2:13
 - iii) John 4:34
 - iv) Psalm 37:4

- 3) FAITHFUL DIRECTION (PROVERBS 3:5-6)
- a) When there is that full dependence, there will be that faithful direction.
 - b) Proverbs 3:5-6
 - i) If we trust Him with all of our heart and acknowledge Him in every way, then there are no if's, and's, but's, no stammer or hesitation, He will direct our paths.
 - ii) He will lead us into the paths of success.
 - c) There are four ways in which God will direct our paths:
 - i) Through the Word of God.
 - (1) Psalm 119:105
 - (a) The Word of God will show us the will of God.
 - (2) Salvation is the will of God.
 - (a) 2 Peter 3:9
 - (3) It is God's will that we be filled with the Spirit.
 - (a) Ephesians 5:17-18
 - (i) Why do we ask God's will about whom we should marry or where to go to college or what house to buy when we're not even Spirit-filled?
 - (4) Sanctification is God's will.
 - (a) 1 Thessalonians 4:3
 - (i) Sanctification means to be set apart for God.
 - (ii) Fornication means sexual immorality.
 1. The Bible says to flee fornication.
 2. If we don't do what God says in His Word, why do we then waste our time asking God to guide us and lead us?
 - a. Why should God show us something else if we don't obey what He's already shown us?
 - (5) How many people fail to find the treasures of God's Word simply because they will not open the book and read?
 - ii) Through prayer.
 - (1) Not everything is found in the Bible.
 - (a) The Bible doesn't tell us which person to marry.
 - (b) The Bible doesn't say which university to attend.
 - (2) God will guide us when we pray.
 - (a) Acts 1:24
 - (3) Prayer is a two-way street.
 - (a) Don't do all the talking; let God talk to you.
 - (b) God speaks directly to our hearts, if we will listen.
 - (c) Acts 8:29
 - (i) This shows the inward direction of the Holy Spirit.
 - (d) Acts 13:2
 - (4) We must fast, pray, seek the face of God, and let the Holy Spirit of God (who speaks through the Word) speak also through the witness of the Spirit, as the Spirit speaks to our hearts.

- (a) Nehemiah 7:5
 - (i) God put it in Nehemiah's heart.
 - (5) When we totally commit ourselves to the Lord and lean not on our own understanding, God then takes the Word and guides us through His Word.
 - (a) God takes the Holy Spirit when we pray and guides us by His Holy Spirit.
 - iii) Through wisdom.
 - (1) God will give us wisdom.
 - (a) James 1:5
 - (i) "Upbraideth not" means that He won't scold us.
 - (2) Wisdom is judicious, spiritual, common sense.
 - (3) Romans 12:2
 - (a) Why would God renew your mind if He didn't want you to use it?
 - (b) Do not be afraid to think.
 - (i) When we are surrendered and committed to the Lord Jesus and we acknowledge Him in all our ways, He will direct us by the Word of God when we pray.
 - (ii) He will direct us by His Spirit, speaking to our hearts.
 - (iii) He will direct us by the wisdom that He has given us, and we will begin to think God's thoughts after Him.
 - (4) Ephesians 5:17
 - (5) 1 Corinthians 10:15
 - (6) There are some things that we do not have to pray about.
 - (a) For example, we don't have to pray about the clothing we wear.
 - (b) God gives us wisdom, and we are to use it.
 - iv) Through providence.
 - (1) God opens and closes doors.
 - (a) Revelation 3:7-8
 - (2) Proverbs 3:5-6
 - (3) God will not leave us wandering around like a ship without a rudder.
 - (4) God will guide His people.
- 4) FORCEFUL DYNAMIC (PROVERBS 3:6)
- a) In this passage, the Hebrew word used for "direct thy paths" literally means, "He will clear your path."
 - i) It means "to cut a straight path."
 - ii) Isaiah 40:3-4
 - (1) The same Hebrew word is used in this passage for "make straight."
 - iii) When we trust in the Lord, He is going to send a bulldozer in front of us.
 - (1) He will make straight our paths.
 - (2) Not only does He show the way, but He also clears the way.

- b) It's not merely enough to know the will of God and to have that direction, but we must also have that dynamic (that power) that God makes our paths straight through the wilderness.
- c) Proverbs 3:9
 - i) Proverbs 3:5-6
 - ii) When our worship, our walk and our wealth are given over to Him, then we'll know the will of God.
- d) Are you serious about doing and knowing the will of God?
 - i) Do it in the small things.
 - (1) Do it in the things that are nearest to you.
 - (2) Luke 16:10

5) CONCLUSION

- a) If you want to know the will of God for your life, the first step is to receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.
- b) Have you surrendered to the Lordship of Christ?
- c) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- d) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16