

The Secret of Success

January 1, 2012 - Gary Post

I. Googling Success

II. Where Happiness and Success Really Come From

A. What will we allow to define our life's purpose?

"Take care! Protect yourself against the least bit of greed. Life is not defined by what you have, even when you have a lot."

Luke 12:15 The Message

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment."

Matthew 22:37-38

"...God Himself pursues a love relationship with you. He takes the initiative to bring you into this relationship. He created you for fellowship with Himself. That is the purpose of your life."

Henry Blackaby, [Experiencing God](#)

B. Are we created just for time or for eternity?

"God did not create you for time; He created you for eternity. Time—your lifetime on earth—provides the opportunity for you to become acquainted with Him. It provides occasions for Him to develop your character into His likeness. Then eternity will hold its fullest dimensions for you. If you live only for time—the here and now—you will miss the ultimate purpose of creation. If you live for time, you will allow your past to shape your life today. Your life as a child of God ought to be shaped by the future—what you will be one day. God uses your present experiences to mold you for future usefulness here on earth and in eternity." Henry Blackaby, [Experiencing God](#)

The Apostle Paul's Consuming Purpose and Passion

"...I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith." Phil. 3:7-9

III. Living a Life that is "Blessed" by God Both Now and for Eternity

A. What does it mean to be "blessed" and how do I get some?

B. Evil to Avoid (Psalm 14:1)

C. Practices that Position Us to be "Blessed"

"All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."

II Timothy 3:16-17

IV. Positive Life Changes from Spending Time in God's Word

A. Streams of Life

"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing." John 15:4-5 ESV

"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life." John 6:63 ESV

B. Green Leaves and Fruit (Mark 4:18-20; Ps. 119:92; Phil. 4:6-7)

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control;" Gal. 5:22-23

"Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown." Mark 4:20 ESV

C. Prospering in Everything We Do (Deut. 8:18; Ps. 119:99)

"For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor. No good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly." Psalm 84:11

"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you." John 15:7

"I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your testimonies are my meditation." Psalm 119:99

V. Three Ways to Get God's Word Into Our Lives

A. Have a "Quiet Time"

B. Meditate on God's Word (Meditation = Prosperity + Success)

C. Memorize Scripture (Psalm 119:11)

[How to Have a "Quiet Time"](#)

The Quiet Time is a brief, but unhurried time alone with God for the purpose of hearing from Him through Bible reading and prayer and sharing with Him what is on our heart.

1. Solitude is essential. Select a time and place free from distractions. Many people prefer the early morning before their mind is cluttered with the busy demands of the day.
2. Focus on only a small portion of Scripture, usually a chapter or less. You may prefer a systematic approach, like the One Year NT Plan, which will allow you to move through the entire New Testament in a year by reading only a chapter a day.
3. Begin by asking God to open your heart to His Word and reveal to you what He wants to teach you for today. Your focus should be on building your relationship with Him, rather than just accumulating additional Bible facts and information.
4. Read through the chapter once, noting any particular verses which seem to “stand out” in terms of their meaning to you. You may wish to highlight those verses to refer back to them later.
5. Using a notebook or journal, jot the verse and reference and one or two reflections about the particular meaning it had for you or a truth that God impressed on you through it. He may use it to encourage, correct, discipline, direct you or just reveal more of Himself and His love for you. You may wish to make the last entry each day a brief prayer asking God to have the Holy Spirit use the truth He taught you to mold you into Christ’s image.
6. Pray the scripture back to God, thanking Him for the encouragement, insight or expression of His love, and asking Him to impress that truth on your life and make you alert to His activity in your life as you move through your day. Also share with Him the other requests or concerns that are on your heart.
7. God longs for an intimate, personal relationship with us and we were created for fellowship with Him. Make every effort to honor Him by being consistent in your “appointments” each day.

“Like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the Word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation.” 1 Peter 2:2

How to Meditate on Scripture

Unlike secular meditation, where the goal is to “empty” the mind, the goal for the believer is to “fill” or “renew” the mind with thoughts and truths from God’s Word. We focus on only one or two verses in order to go past the superficial meaning to the deeper truth that God is revealing to us about the passage.

1. Select one or two verses that you sense God is leading you to examine more closely and ask Him to reveal His truth to you in that passage.
2. Probe the passage by asking who, when, where, what and how questions about it. Turn the passage over in your mind, emphasizing different words and multiple perspectives.
3. Pray over any insights that God has revealed to you, looking for His direction, and acting in obedience as He leads you to. Write down those insights and your response in your journal.

How to Memorize Scripture

1. Read the verse aloud several times, followed by the reference, before starting to memorize the verse.
2. Begin with one phrase and add additional phrases one at a time as you begin to be able to recall the previous phrases in order. As you memorize, think about how the verse applies to your own life.
3. When you can first recite the entire verse from memory with the reference, continue to review it multiple times each day until it becomes ingrained in your memory. After that, review weekly.

Recommended Reading

Life With God: Reading the Bible for Spiritual Transformation, Richard Foster

Hearing God’s Voice, Henry and Richard Blackaby

Celebration of Discipline, Richard Foster

Live a Praying Life, Jennifer Kennedy Dean

Deep-Rooted in Christ, Joshua Choonmin Chang

Experiencing God, Henry Blackaby and Claude King

Listening for God, Marilyn Hontz

Read the Bible for Life, George H. Guthrie