

Jesus and Your Success

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All scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the New King James Version of the Bible (NKJV). Scripture quotations marked (TLB) and (MSG) are taken from The Living Bible and the Message Bible translations respectively.

Praise for Some of Our Bible Success Books

1. "Thanks for requesting my feedback on your book. Frankly speaking, it is a wonderful book that can help us have faith in Jesus as the only one who can save us and make us successful in life. I really like this book and will read it once more. I will be glad if there are other interesting books again from you". Regards, Bartholemy, Barthwango@yahoo.com
2. "Hi, thank you very much for that free book. I wish there was an easier way to download spiritual and bible books free of charge. God's word is free and to spread it for Him and to build His kingdom will surely not go unseen. May God bless those who are doing this selflessly, amen" Mega, megalici0us@hotmail.com

Book Vision

1. To show how anyone can earn success principles from Jesus, use them and profit immensely from them.
2. To show that in only Jesus Christ lies enduring success principles

Book Text

"...for without Me (Jesus) you can do nothing" (John 15:5b)

For Whom

To anyone who desires to learn true, tested and enduring success principles that do not lead to destruction.

Chapter 1: Introduction

Johnson Idiok (not real name) was trained as an agriculturalist in a city university and returned to his village to set up a modern farm. After some years of consistent hard work, his organization grew in leaps and bounds; he became very wealthy. He worked harder and amassed more wealth and properties in the community. Johnson Idiok was contented to see his personal fortune grow on a regular basis and loved the cult-figure image the people of the village accorded him.

On the other hand, Timothy Anderson (not real name) was trained as a production engineer. He left the city to set up a manufacturing firm in his village. He also worked very hard to take his business to the next level recording outstanding breakthroughs in the process. After some years, he had also amassed lots of wealth and properties. However, Timothy Anderson felt very uncomfortable with the fact that he was the only one making significant progress in his little village. He took a decision to do something about it and approached God for what to do about the situation.

He was inspired to set up a second organization in his village that would inspire and educate the youths and other members of the village on how they can go ahead to achieve what he has achieved and even surpass his achievements. This free service also involved the award of scholarships to those who were finding it difficult financing their education.

My dear reader, I want to ask you a simple question: Who do you think is a real successful person amongst these two personalities?

Chapter 2: Who is a Successful Person?

Success is, according to the Oxford advanced learners dictionary, “the achievement of a desired aim, fame, wealth, or social position”. Therefore, with respect to this dictionary definition, a successful person is somebody who has been able to achieve a desired aim, fame, wealth, or social position. This is correct but for the purpose of this book, it is still not a complete definition! This is however, my own definition of a successful person: A successful person is somebody who has been able to start a project (any project at all and it does not matter how small it is) or a desired aim and see it to the end and should have guided quiet a number of people to bring their own projects to completion.

It is a two-part definition – a successful person must have:

1. Started and finished a project.
2. Should have guided one or more people to bring their own projects to completion.

I believe this is a complete definition of a successful person. I am sure you will agree with me very soon.

You are not a successful person or you have not achieved any success if you have not helped or guided some other people to succeed in their own trade or project! Your measure of success in whatever field of human endeavor you find yourself is proportional to the number of people you have assisted to achieve the same result or greater results on those tasks or similar projects.

I am not surprised Dr. David Oyedepo, a dynamic Nigerian preacher of the Word and the President of the Living Faith Church, Worldwide Inc. defined a millionaire as someone who has been able to affect a million lives.

I know this definition will not appeal to those people who have measured their success with what they have acquired or achieved for themselves alone. If you are in this category of people, then you should have a rethink and make yourself embrace the message from the true definition of a successful person that I have described above.

Johnson Idiok and Timothy Anderson were very successful in their own rights but the latter went further. Success is not just about what you can achieve for yourself alone. You are not a successful person if you enjoy being the only champion in your community.

Jesus Was Successful

Jesus, the Master was a very successful Man when He was here on the earth; He helped many people to achieve success. He mentored the disciples and gave them the Holy Spirit until they became very bold to preach the gospel to the public: “But Peter standing up with the eleven, lifted his voice, and said unto them, You men of Judea, and all you that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words” (Acts 2:14). Act 2:14

Today, He (Jesus) is still transforming many lives with His word.

God started the big project of creating heaven and the earth and brought it to a good end in six days – He then made Adam (first man) and gave him a “breath of life” (Genesis 2:7) to behave like Him – start a project, finish it and also influence others to do it. Today, you can have this beautiful nature of exploits of God if you have JESUS as your Lord and Savior (1 John 3:9). The major purpose of this e-book is to make you recognize this fact.

This book is relevant to anyone who desire true success. Paul the Apostle wrote in 1 Corinthians 8:6, "yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things..." He also declared in Acts 17:28 "for in Him we live and move and have our being". Living successfully on this earth is impossible outside Jesus! Everyone must live, move and have their being in Jesus.

As you go through this material, God will make you take decisions that will make you a success in your lifetime.

Chapter 3: My Story

I grew up as the first child in a family of eight comprising of my dad, mum, and my beautiful sisters in the former capital city of Nigeria – Lagos State. My father worked with the Federal Government for so many years until he retired. My mother on her part was for the most part of the period we (the children) were growing up, a petty trader. We struggled through school as the people in my country were hit severely by the effect of the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) introduced by the then military administration. The family depended solely on my father's monthly income and the little income from mother's petty trading.

A combination of improper administration of the nation's resources and economic recession made my father's monthly income to become irregular. This development badly affected the family and we found it difficult feeding ourselves. Paying the accommodation fees became very impossible and the owners of the property served us with a “pack out” notice.

Things were very tough. My father and mother ran to friends and relatives for help, which came. The accommodation fees and some other debts were settled. This was to be a temporary relief as the worst was yet to come!

A year after my High School (Secondary school) education, my father was retired and gratuity and pensions were not forthcoming from the government. The same old problem reared its head again. Feeding became very difficult and we were served with another “pack out” notice. We finally relocated to a cheaper accommodation on the outskirts of the state where all the necessities of life – electricity, pipe-borne water were missing. Help was no longer coming forth from anybody. We were left to “enjoy” the pains of our God-less living. My dad took to farming, mother continued her petty trading, and I gained admission into a higher institution. It was during my time in the higher institution that I began to look at the way we have lived our lives all this while. I began to see in my “inner mind” how real success has eluded us because we chose to put our trust in men – the government, friends, and relatives. We never had a relationship with God and we really struggled. My lovely and ever-caring dad and mum worked very hard but I realized hard work alone could not bring success.

Finally, I took a decision to find out by all means, the perfect solution to the various problems that surrounded us like a plague. I took a decision to be successful. How was I going to do it - by working hard alone? No. My Dad and Mum worked very hard but achieved moderate results. Maybe I must put my trust in friends, relatives and the government. No. Dad, Mum, and us (the children) trusted them but they failed. Then, I realized the only thing we never had then, was a relationship with God Almighty. Therefore, I took a decision to develop a relationship with God. I never knew how I was going to do it but all I knew was that if I was going to be successful, I needed to be “Godful”. After I graduated from the higher institution and during the compulsory National Youth Service Programme, God finally helped me to know how I will start a relationship with Him in order to be a success. In a dream, He revealed Himself to me with some sets of Bible passages; I read these Bible passages repeatedly to get a clear understanding of the meaning and relevance to my cause in life. The Lord finally arrested me a year after and I gave my life to Jesus Christ.

A new chapter was opened in my life and instructions upon instructions have come from the Holy Spirit unto me on so many occasions on how my goal of becoming a success can be achieved. My Dad and Mum are now living their lives for Christ and they are enjoying every bit of this relationship recording outstanding personal results in the process!

Jesus is the Way

“Jesus said unto him, I am the way the truth and the life no man comes unto the Father, but by Me” (John 14:6). Jesus has acted as the Way to the Father for me. I now enjoy a good relationship with the Father, which is very necessary for me to be a success in life.

We Want To Read From You

Finally, I believe my greatest joy will come when my writings about success in Jesus Christ will bring about a miracle in the heart of someone that will ultimately lead the person to accept JESUS as his or her personal LORD and Savior.

Because of this belief, I will be a happy man, if you make it a point of duty to share your success story with me. You can send a mail to <mailto:contact@infobookscash.com> or infobooksng@yahoo.com. Please do not stop the success journey until you have helped every less- privileged person you come across to succeed.

Feel free to share this book with as many people as you like. You will succeed in Jesus name.

Chapter 4: Good Success and Bad Success

“This book of the Law shall not depart out of your mouth, but you shall meditate therein day and night that you may observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall have good success” (Joshua 1:8). The first time I read this portion of the Bible, I was inspired to understand that there is a good success and a bad success. The Word of God says if “you will listen to the voice of God, obey His commandments, study and meditate daily on His Word, you will have good success”. The Word of God qualifies the noun “success” with the adjective “good”. This simply means you will not have a bad success if you follow God’s rules during your success journey in life.

What then, is a good success and what is a bad success? How do you differentiate a good success from a bad success? How do you recognize someone with a bad success and someone with a good success?

Good Success

I have tried to study carefully the lives of people God used mightily in Bible days and those of present times and I found out that there are actually some people with good success stories. I was able to reach a conclusion using my definition of a successful person stated earlier on as a basis of analysis. That is, somebody with a good success must have started and completed a good project and must have helped one or more people to do the same.

Let us look at some good examples.

God

Let me start with God Almighty Himself. He enjoyed good success during the creation of heaven and the earth. He actually set the pace at creation, showing us how to obtain good success in whatever we do. “And God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day (Genesis 1:31). There were many obstacles, which stared Him in the face when He was creating the heavens and the earth but He never allowed them to stop Him. “And the earth was without form and void and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters” (Genesis 1:2). Even a formless earth and the darkness that came with it could not prevent Him from achieving His good aim!

“Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moves upon the earth” (Genesis 1:26). He also made man (Adam) and transferred His “breath of Life” into him for him to become a living soul. What a loving and selfless God who completed a good project and also empowered somebody to act like Him.

Jesus

Jesus Christ is the most successful human being that has ever (and will ever) walked the surface of this planet earth. “Looking unto Jesus the Author and Perfecter of our faith: Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the Cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God” (Hebrews 12:2). This Man fulfilled His good mission of coming to the earth. He came as the “Lamb of God” to take the sins of the world away. Even in the face of great oppositions, He never lost sight of what He came to do. He pushed on and on helping a lot

people along the way to overcome various problems. He also mentored the twelve disciples and others during this period. This Man died, resurrected, and presently sits at the right hand side of God the Father acting as an advocate in the presence of God for us. Jesus had good success during His journey on the surface of the earth.

Joshua

“And Israel served the LORD all the days of Joshua and all the days of the elders that outlived Joshua and who had known all the works of the LORD that He had done for Israel” (Joshua 24:31). Joshua took over the reins of leadership of Israel from Moses and this man did excellently well. During his tenure, the whole of Israel served the Lord. What a wonderful feat! It must have taken great Godly efforts on the part of Joshua to influence all of Israel to serve God! Joshua did a good thing by serving God and also did better by influencing the people to serve God. He had good success.

And Many More

Countless numbers of people in the Bible had good success stories. Moses, Apostle Paul, King David, Joseph, John the Baptist, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob all had good success stories. There was something that was common with all these people and that was the fact that they feared God during their journeys on this earth, made Godly efforts to achieve their aims and also added values or influenced so many others to be successful.

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of Wisdom: and the knowledge of the Holy one is understanding” (Proverbs 1:10). You can become a child of God by accepting Jesus as your Lord and Savior and begin to live a life that has the fear of God. You can expect to record a good number of good successes in your lifetime after you have done this.

Bad Success

I may not need to bother you with the stories of people who recorded bad success stories in the Bible or even in our society today but you will observe that this set of people also have some things in common – they lived Godless lives and made ungodly efforts to achieve their aims. You can study the stories of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt when the Israelites were in bondage in Egypt. Cain who killed his brother Abel (Genesis 4:8). Herod the king who ordered the killings of all new born babies when Jesus was born (Matthew 2:13-23). Satan who fell from grace to grass because of pride (Luke 10:18). Judas Iscariot who betrayed Jesus (Matthew 26:36-46).

These People all recorded bad success stories.

Famous But Miserable

I feel very bad when I read the stories of many famous people all over the world who have distinguished themselves in various fields but who ended up either committing suicide or jailed for one offense or the other. It is very common nowadays to read in the dailies, stories of men and women who have distinguished themselves in their various fields finding it difficult to maintain a steady home front. Divorce cases are filed at any slightest provocation leading to separation between husbands and wives. Popular sports stars have been suspended or banned for spiking their systems with banned substances. Widely-acclaimed successful business people have found no reason to live again by taking their own lives. Popular music stars that used satanic means to achieve their goals have felt very miserable and have taken their own lives even at the height of their Satan-assisted successes.

A self-confessed or widely-acclaimed successful man or woman in these categories mentioned above cannot have any reasonable impact on people looking up to them for guidance. They will not be able to play or act adequately the second part of my definition for a successful man. My dear reader, I want to believe you desire to be a good success; If this is so, then, I humbly advise you to read carefully all that is contained in the remaining chapters of this book. I have produced this book to teach you how you can be the real successful person with principles laid down by this great Man called Jesus. However if you must learn success principles from the life of Jesus, then you must know who He is.

I will be discussing who Jesus is in the next eight chapters.

Chapter 5: Jesus is God

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor. The Mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6)(Emphasis mine). This is a quote from one of God’s prophets in the old testament of the Bible - Prophet Isaiah. By inspiration, he made this statement about the person of Jesus Christ. He called Him “The Mighty God”. I am aware of the fact that there are many controversies concerning this topic even amongst self-confessed Christians. Some Christians still believe Jesus is not God! They believe Jesus is just a prophet who came to the world to deliver God’s message and that is all to it.

Well, it is true that Jesus came as God’s servant to do the work of redemption here on the earth but there is something more about the person of Jesus Christ as we have seen from prophet Isaiah’s statement quoted above. This great prophet was inspired to speak about the future birth of Jesus Christ and he called Him, The everlasting Father, The Mighty God.

The Divine Plan

After the fall of man in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:23), God knew it would be difficult for Him to have a cordial relationship with man. Man failed Him. The righteousness of man is now incapable of making him relate with God. However, God really desired not just a relationship with man; He wanted to make the inside of man His dwelling place! Man became sinful by nature (Genesis 6:5) after the fall in the Garden of Eden and a sinful man cannot relate with a Holy God! Therefore, the divine plan (which had been in God’s plan even before the creation of the world) came up for execution- there must be a holy, sinless Vessel that must stand between a Holy God and the sinful man for there to be a relationship. God searched for that Holy Vessel in all of heaven and found none! However, God’s purpose of relating with sinful man cannot stop because of the non-availability of this Holy Vessel.

“There is none holy as the LORD...” (1 Samuel 2:2). Since God is holy Himself, then He must come to act as this Holy Vessel! Now, God is a God of order, if no other vessel is qualified for this divine plan and He must come to act as this Holy Vessel, then He must come as Jesus Christ. I am not surprised that one of the names of Jesus is Emmanuel - God with us (Matthew 1:23) (Isaiah 7:14). I am also not surprised that the angel of the Lord commanded Joseph to name the unborn child in the womb of his espoused wife, Jesus. “And she shall bring forth a Son, and you shall Call His name Jesus...”(Matthew 1:28) (Emphasis mine).

The message came to him as a commandment because it must be done that way and no other way! It is part of the divine plan and Joseph did not do otherwise (Matthew 1:25). Jesus is God who came to live with us in order to make us right with God (Himself). Jesus is more than a prophet; Jesus is the Mighty God! No other vessel could have or was qualified to achieve His purpose of coming to the earth. Finally, let me draw your attention to this statement credited to Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 8:5 and 6 (TLB): “According to some people, there are a great many gods, both in heaven and on earth. But we know that there is only one God, the Father, who created all things and made us to be His own; and one Lord Jesus Christ, who made everything and gives us life”. Yes there is one Father and one

Jesus Christ who made all things and they are One! (Emphasis mine).

If you agree with all I have explained above, don't you think you need to get yourself hooked to this great God so that you can write as many success stories as possible in your lifetime?

Chapter 6: Jesus is the Son of God

I want you to read the following three Bible passages: “The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God” (Mark 1:1)...“And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God” (John 1:34). “This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased (Matthew 17:5). These Bible passages above refer to Jesus as the Son of God. The writer of the gospel book - Mark started his story with the first passage. John the Baptist testified that Jesus is the Son of God in the second passage. Finally, in the third passage, God called Him His beloved Son! Now are these three stories contrary to what I shared in the last chapter under the heading “Jesus Is God”? Definitely no! Some people (even self-confessed Christians) have questioned the reason why the same Bible called Jesus, both God (Isaiah 9:6) and the Son of God. Jesus is God but if He must come to the earth as part of the divine plan to rescue man from the powers or camp of sin, then He must come as the Son of God.

Remember that God is a God of order. Jesus in flesh must be the Son of God and He has to come to show the way to us on how we can also become sons of God! We cannot become and live effectively as sons of God if we do not have an example of someone who once lived on this earth as a Son of God. Jesus showed the way as the first - begotten Son of God and He transferred the baton to us to start acting as sons of God. Therefore, I am not surprised to read His statement to Mary after His resurrection in John 20:17, “... I ascend unto my Father, and your Father, and to my God, and your God” (emphasis mine) to confirm our sonship status.

The devil has done a lot to contest this arrangement and he has done a lot to make even Christians not to have adequate knowledge of the Sonship of Jesus and ultimately their very own sonship! The devil questioned or tried to make a mess of the Sonship of Jesus Christ when he tempted Jesus after His forty days fasting exercise. Twice, he tried to do this: “...If you are the Son of God...” (Matthew 4:3 and 6). Jesus responded as somebody who has a deep knowledge of His Sonship. I am not surprised the devil never talked about the topic of Sonship the third time according to the account in (Matthew 4:9).

The knowledge of the fact that Jesus is the Son of God is important and relevant to your success as a Christian. You must understand or have adequate knowledge of this great secret before you can begin to reap the fruit of your own sonship.

Peter Confessed

“And Simon Peter answered; you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God” (Matthew 16:16). Peter uttered this secret and Jesus made Him to understand that it was actually a secret revealed to him from above and He (Jesus) ultimately gave the most important information to anybody that truly desire enduring success here on this earth: “Upon this rock, I will build my church; and the gates of hades shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:18). Upon which rock? Upon the great confession of Peter that “Jesus is the Son of God”. The fact that Jesus is the Son of God is part of the divine plan to make us have a relationship with God on this earth and therefore ensure we live very successful lives.

The writer of the book of first John shows how important this fact is to you and me: “But who could possibly fight and win this battle except by believing that Jesus is truly the Son of God?” (Matthew 16:18) (TLB). This is the truth! You must believe Jesus is the Son of God and then obtain eternal life in Him (1 John 5:12). This eternal life in you is just what you need to write the most enduring success stories of your life.

One More Reason

Let me show you one more reason why Jesus came as the Son of God from this story narrated by Jesus Himself in Matthew 21:33-41. It is about a man who planted a farm, let it out to tenants and traveled. He later sent servants to collect gains of the farm from the tenants. The tenants killed the servants! This man later sent his son. Let us read the statement of the tenants when they saw the son in verse 38.

“But when the tenants saw the son, they said among themselves, “this is the heir; come, let us seize his inheritance”. Now the act of these tenants was evil but their joint statement above shows an important truth which is relevant to the message of this chapter – if you must have access to the inheritance of a father, then the son must die. I am not surprised that Jesus came as a Son of God; killed by us (yes, you and I were represented at this event over 2000 years ago) so that we can have access to His inheritance with His Father in heaven!

Chapter 7: Jesus is the Lamb of God

“And looking upon Jesus as He walked, he said, behold the Lamb of God!” (John 1:36). John the Baptist, by divine revelation, made the statement above. He understood how Jesus was meant to come to this world to shed His blood to wash away our sins in order for us to enjoy great relationship with God almighty. Jesus, as the Lamb of God is also part of the divine plan by God to relate with sinful man. Now let us go down memory lane and see the significance of the use of the blood of lambs by the people in Bible Old Testament days. God showed the way in the book of Genesis 3:21 when He had to kill an animal shedding its blood in the process to make Him relate with Adam and Eve after their fall in the Garden of Eden. God killed the animal, shed its blood and provided the skin for the couple’s cover. We have seen so many other recorded cases where the children of Israel had to kill lambs shedding their blood as sacrifices to God. This exercise was then the only way they could relate with a Holy God.

Let us read how the writer of the book of Hebrews described this old practice of the people to deal with sin: “But only the High Priest went into the inner room, and then only once in a year, all alone and always with blood that he sprinkled on the mercy seat as an offering to God to

cover his own mistakes and sins and the mistakes and sins of all the people” (Hebrews 9:7)(TLB). However, this practice cannot not really sustain an enduring relationship with a Holy God. The blood of lambs and animals are just too ordinary to ensure a lasting relationship with a Holy God. If this arrangement is imperfect and inappropriate, then that part of the divine plan that must make Jesus come as the “Lamb of God” that takes the sins of the world away must come into place. If the blood of lambs or animals is inappropriate, then the Blood of Jesus (a precious Holy and sinless blood) will just be very appropriate! Now, if the blood of ordinary animals were used in the past for the process of sanctification, then the precious and sinless blood of Jesus will do far more than that. “For if the blood of bulls and of goats sanctifies to the purifying of the flesh. How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God; purge your conscience from dead works to serve the Living God?” Hebrews 9:13 and 14

Jesus is the Lamb of God because He must shed His blood to wash away our sins in order for us to have a perfect relationship with God. This act of Jesus is meant to purge our conscience from “dead works” and ultimately start making us to live very successful here on earth. In the book of Genesis, God had to kill an animal, shed its blood and provided a cover for Adam and Eve's nakedness when they sinned against Him. This was a temporary cover; Jesus' blood brought about the permanent cover for sinful and naked man.

Chapter 8: Jesus is the Good Shepherd

King David was inspired to call Jesus his Shepherd, He said, “The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want” (Psalm 23:1). Jesus also called Himself the Good Shepherd (John 10). The question now is, “who is a shepherd and why is Jesus the Good Shepherd?” If there must ever be a shepherd, there must be the sheep he must shepherd. We are the sheep and Jesus, as part of the divine plan became our Good Shepherd.

David Pointed the Way

David was a small shepherd boy in charge of his father's sheep. David showed so much love for these sheep by acting as their “good shepherd”, warding off any attack on them. David was ready to tear the mouths of lions in order to protect the sheep under his care. Great courage and great attitude on the part of little David! However, David's act was only a symbolic representation of what the real Good Shepherd was coming to do. When you are a sheep in the fold of Jesus, you are secured. He can tear the “mouths of lions and bears” to ensure your safety. David placed his life on the line to protect the sheep of his father in his fold. David did this for animals. Jesus however came and not only placed His life on the line for our sakes but also gave it for you and I. I am not surprised He called Himself the “Good Shepherd”. Let me now bring your attention to this Bible passage to complete my message on “Jesus the Good Shepherd”. Jesus said: “I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. A hire man will run when he sees a wolf coming and will leave the sheep, for they are not his and he is not their shepherd. Therefore, the wolf leaps on them and scatters the flock. The hired man runs because he is hired and has no real concern for the sheep” (John 11:13) (TLB)

You should make yourself become a sheep in the fold of the “Good Shepherd” (Jesus) by accepting Him as your Lord and Savior. You will be sure of having His Spirit as your Keeper, Helper, Mentor, Lover, Father, Friend, Strengtheners who will not abandon you when those

obstacles come against you as you strive to be successful in every task you lay your hands upon in your lifetime. Jesus is not a hired keeper. He is a highly responsible and highly committed Keeper and Owner of the sheep!

Chapter 9: Jesus is the Saviour

Jesus is the Greek form of Joshua, which means the “Lord saves”. We can therefore call He who saves, the Savior. Let us read the statement of the angel of the Lord that appeared to Joseph in a dream when he had made up his mind to secretly divorced his espoused wife - Mary because she was found to be pregnant before they came together as husband and wife. “She will give birth to a Son and you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21)(NIV). This statement describes the entirety of the work that Jesus came to do on this earth to save His people (us) from their (our) sins.

The questions we can ask now are:

1. What is sin? 2. Why must He come to save the people from their sins?

What Is Sin?

Sin is simply disobedience to God. Someone who sins is a sinner and does not have the nature of God and this condition of the sinner cannot make him or her relate with a holy God. In one of our articles on our website, I defined sin as: Sons In Need. Man (an original son of God) lost God's nature in the Garden of Eden and became a needy on the earth – in need of the nature he lost that will make Him relate again with a Holy God to make a success of his stay on this earth. Sin started right there in the Garden of Eden. God created man to inhabit the earth and placed some instructions in place to guide man's occupation and use of the earth (Genesis 2:16 and 17) and God was very delighted to constantly pay visits to man in the garden. Man will continue to enjoy this relationship if he can keep to the instructions given to him by God. God also gave man His breath of life (Genesis 2:7) to ensure a perfect relationship with Him and to make man rule effectively on the earth. I want you to note that the breath of life given to man at this stage and in this verse by God was to prepare man for his occupation and rule on the earth. The breath of life came into man at a time when the other parts of man (flesh and soul) that are necessary for his occupation on the earth came in.

Man however disrupted this great arrangement by disobeying God's instruction. The instruction from God to man was given so that man can always make effective use of God's breath of life that was given to him. The breath of life was from God, it is natural that the instruction to sustain it and use it effectively must come from God. Man, however, disobeyed this instruction and lost the great advantage and benefit of the use of the breath of life and ultimately his God status. "So He drove out man; and He placed at the east of the Garden of Eden, Cherubim, and flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way of the tree of life"(Genesis 3:24). Yes, they (Adam and Eve) were deservedly pushed out of God's presence and had lost an opportunity of a lifetime. Man got it all wrong thereafter:

Curses rained upon the ground of man from heaven. (Genesis 3:16-19). Adam and Eve raised the first murderer known to mankind in Cain. Lamech, grandson of Cain also became a murderer. The children of Israel moved from strength to strength in the practice of disobeying God.

(Numbers 14:11). Everybody after them all got it wrong! Sin turned man into a foreigner on the earth where he was to rule as a king! (Genesis 3:17-24).

Why Must Jesus Come to Save His People From Their Sins?

God knew there must be a way out of the mess that man has found himself and because of the deep love He has for us, He knew there must be a way the sin problem must be dealt with so that He can eternally enjoy His relationship with man. I want you to look at a symbolic representation of how God was desperate to provide a way out from His reaction to how Israel's enemies were treating them in the Old Testament. This should interest you: "The Lord Almighty says, I am greatly concerned—yes, furiously angry because of all that Jerusalem's enemies have done to her" (Zechariah 8:2) (TLB). "The truth is this: You will be in Babylon for seventy years. But then I will come and do for you all the good things I have promised and bring you home again" (Jeremiah 29:10) (TLB).

The stories and travails of the children of Israel in the hands of their enemies in the Old Testament signify man's ordeal in the camp of sin and the devil after Adam fell in the Garden of Eden. God was greatly concerned and He was furiously angry to deal with sin and bring a way out. "For this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins" (Matthew 26:28). However, If sin was to be totally defeated to restore man's cordial relationship with God, then blood must be shed. Now we are not talking about the blood of sheep and goats. These kinds of blood cannot do this work appropriately (Hebrew 9:12) (I discussed this earlier). Since there is therefore a need for a holy, blameless blood to do this work, Jesus (God in flesh) must come to shed His precious blood. Jesus came to "save His people from their sins". He came to shed His precious blood to take sin out of the way of man's cordial relationship with God (Matthew 26:28). He must go down to the heart of the earth to repair the heart of men for the restoration of a heart-to-heart relationship with God. Jesus came as the Savior of the world; He brought us a wonderful new agreement. This is also part of the divine arrangement of God right even before creation!

Chapter 10: Jesus is the Son of Man

This is one of the many puzzles I asked the Holy Spirit to explain to me when I began to read the Bible as a newly converted Christian. It was not difficult for me to believe that Jesus is the Son of God and actually God (though I still needed greater understanding of this at that time). However, it was another thing entirely when I read Jesus calling Himself the "Son of man". I am sure so many people still get confused about why the One who is the Son of God and God must also be the Son of man. To God's glory, I make bold to say that Jesus was right when He called Himself the Son of man.

"The crowd spoke up, 'we have heard from the law that the Christ will remain forever, so how can you say 'The Son of man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of man?'" (John 12:34)(NIV). I have quoted a passage in the Bible where the people asked Jesus who the "Son of man" is. Everything written in the Bible is based on facts and the more of these facts you can discover through the help of the Holy Spirit, the greater your Christian experience. Now let me take you through a discovery lane to see how the Bible is right by calling Jesus the Son of Man. I want you to specially note the use of the underlined reference in the explanation below.

Man rebelled against God by disobeying His rules in the Garden of Eden. The same man lost his God-identity that will ensure his continuous blissful relationship with God to sin. Man became miserable on the earth he was to rule! God pitied man and decided to help man out of the situation by putting sin where it belongs. If God was to achieve His aim, blood was needed to wash the sins of man away since there is no remission of sin without the shedding of blood (Hebrew 9:22). Now which blood should come up for mention to do this sacrifice? It should be the blood of man of course since it was man that sinned in the first place. Well, God decided to use the blood of man but HE encountered a problem in the course of doing this – the blood of sinful man is just not qualified to do it!

God is not the One that would hands off and let a problem have its way. He wanted the blood of man that is sinless to accomplish this task. He searched and searched until He found out that there was none He could use so He had to come as Jesus and as a Son of man, to live a sinless life (Jesus knew no sin, Hebrew 9:13-14) and shed His blood to deal with sin.

Exchange of Blood

It was actually the blood of man (represented by the blood of Jesus) that was shed on the cross of Calvary. Jesus knew no sin so He had no reason to go to the cross to shed His own blood! Remember that the Bible says, it is the soul that sins that must die. When Jesus died on the cross, we also died. When He shed his blood, our blood was shed!

Let me support my message here with these Bible passages:

“Nor yet that He should offer Himself often as the high priest enters into the holy place every year with blood of others” (Hebrews 9:25) (emphasis mine). In the Old Testament days, the high priests were actually entering into the holy place every year, not with the blood of animals but with the blood of the people (see underlined words in the passage above). It is the blood of the people that sinned that must be used for the sacrifice but while the high priest in the olden days were using the blood of animals to represent the blood of the people, Jesus used His own sinless blood to represent our blood on the cross of Calvary. Hallelujah!

Jesus must declare that He is the Son of man so that no devil anywhere will come with a claim that it is wrong for Jesus who is God to use His own blood as sacrifice since He knew no sin. This claim would have hold water if Jesus was not divinely arranged to come and live on this earth as a Son of man. I am not surprised that God had tactfully attached the “earth origin” of Jesus with the lineage of David right from the Old Testament. This, as I have mentioned earlier, was to authenticate the manifestation of Jesus as a Son of man and also authenticate His reason for going to the cross to die for the sins of the world.

Let us look at another Bible passage. This one is about the popular Abraham and Isaac sacrifice story: “And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering instead of his son”(Genesis 22:13). The Bible shows that, “a ram was provided by God in exchange for Isaac”. This story is another good pointer to the interesting exchange of Jesus’ blood for our blood (the blood of man) on the cross of Calvary years after. Jesus’ blood took the place of the blood of sinful man on the cross of Calvary. Jesus must therefore be the Son of man to justify this divine arrangement!

I also discovered this from Hebrew 2:14-18 (MSG): "Since the children are made of flesh and blood, it's logical that the Savior took on flesh and blood in order to rescue them by his death.

By embracing death, taking it into himself, he destroyed the Devil's hold on death and freed all who cower through life, scared to death of death. It's obvious, of course, that he didn't go to all this trouble for angels. It was for people like us, children of Abraham. That's why he had to enter into every detail of human life. Then, when he came before God as high priest to get rid of the people's sins, he would have already experienced it all himself—all the pain, all the testing—and would be able to help where help was needed."

Paul also in Romans 1:13 described Jesus' identity as a Son of man and a Son of God in this passage, "Concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh" (MSG). In Galatians 4:4 "But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law". His connection to the roots of David was a divine arrangement to support or authenticate His mission of coming to the earth to die for the sins of the world.

Chapter 11: Jesus is the Word of God

In the beginning, precisely in Genesis 1:1, the Bible tells us something about God and His products – the heavens and the earth. "In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth" (Genesis 1:1)(emphasis mine). They were raw products at this chapter and verse of the Bible. Subsequent verses in chapter 1 however, narrated the actual polishing or refining work on these products. God actually used a great "Tool" to polish or refine these products – His word.

The Bible points to this great fact in the following Bible passages: "And God said, Let there be light: and there was light" (Genesis 1:3) (emphasis mine). "And God said, let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters..." (Genesis 1:6) (Emphasis mine). "And God said, let there be waters under the heaven..." (Genesis 1:9) (Emphasis mine). "And God said; let the earth bring forth vegetation..." (Genesis 1:11) (Emphasis mine).Genesis 1:11

These continued in Genesis 1:20, Genesis 1:24, Genesis 1:26, Genesis 1:29. Yes, God's great "Tool" (His word) was responsible for the polishing of these products.

Now, what is the significance of this to us?

At the beginning of the creation process, the earth was of no form – it was far from that great finished product that God had in mind. In order to make it one, His word must be used. The Bible says in the book of Hebrews 11:3, "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God...". His word was used all through and the earth became very beautiful –Genesis 1:3. I can rightly tell you His word acted as the great solution to the initial formless and ugly earth!

What or who then is the "Tool"?

I believe that in your search for success in life, you want to be in possession of this great "Tool" so that you can write your success story just as God wrote His own success story during the creation of heavens and the earth. I am sure you want to know what or who this "Tool" is.

One of the writers of the gospel books – John, supplies the answer. He came out boldly (under inspirations) to tell the whole world what or who this great "Tool" is. I will be quoting from two Bible versions: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made, without Him nothing was made that has been made" (John 1:1-3) (NIV). "Before anything else existed, there

was Christ, with God. He has always been alive and is Himself God. He created everything there is – nothing exist that He did not make” (John 1:1-3) (TLB).

Jesus is the great “Tool”!

Jesus was the “Tool” that was used by God to refine the earth product I mentioned earlier on and is still the great “Tool” that can make you become the good product that you desperately desire to be! Jesus is the Word of God and a Christian is the good product! Just as the earth was of no form at the beginning of the process of creation, everybody newly born into this world has “no form”. Just as the Word of God (Jesus) turned the earth into that good product, Jesus can also turn every human being into a good product if only you will believe in Him (Romans 1:16)

The interesting narration of the Bible in the entire Genesis chapter 1 is just a wonderful description of any human being’s path on this earth from a “formless and ugly” creation or 'raw material' to a good product. John wrote that, “The word became flesh and made His dwelling among us” (John 1:14) (NIV). Yes, the Word became flesh (part of the divine arrangement) in order for anybody who receives Him and believe in Him to become that good product. An eight year old child, according to a Bible illustration, when asked why Jesus was called the Word, said, “Because Jesus is all God wanted to say to us”!

Chapter 12: Jesus is the Solid Foundation for Your Success

The Bible started with the beautiful narration of the creation of heaven and the earth and the first couple. We have read the summary of the activities of this first couple in the beautiful Garden called “The Garden of Eden”. What happened there and then is available for your reading pleasure in the book of Genesis 1, 2 and 3 if you have not read the story before. However, something significant happened in this Garden that should interest you and me. “And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.” (Genesis 3:6). Eve (the first woman) made from Adam (the first man) disobeyed God by eating the fruit God commanded them not to eat. He also transferred this fruit to Adam (from whom she was made) and he ate the fruit. Now we are going to look at the significance of this simple story to our success aspirations today in two steps:

STEP 1: I want you to observe that nothing happened when Eve took the fruit. She was alone with the serpent (Genesis 3:1-5) and Adam was absent. Now the story in Genesis 3:6 where the Bible described how Eve ate the fruit and also transferred it to her husband in one single verse must have included the time Eve ate the fruit and waited for her husband (from whom she came) to come around to eat the fruit. Now you should note that nothing actually happened when Eve took the fruit but something actually happened when Adam (Eve’s source and foundation) took the fruit!

Now let us go to STEP 2.

STEP 2: Eve came from Adam and he was her foundation or source. Nothing happened when she took it because she was not her own foundation but something happened when Adam took it because Adam was her source or foundation! What then happened? The Bible describes it in Genesis 3:7, “And the eyes of them both were opened and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons”. I want you also to understand that

you and I were represented in Adam at this point in time. The meaning of Adam is 'mankind' – so all men were actually in the loins of Adam when he sinned. Therefore, when he sinned, Eve's world and our world (or any man that will be born into this earth) fell apart because our foundation sinned and got contaminated!

The type of foundation you have is very important to your success in life. A house built on a weak foundation will collapse in no distant future but the one built on a firm foundation will not collapse, it will be strong enough to support the building for a longtime. Eve's foundation (and our foundation) – Adam sinned and her world (and our world) collapsed! If she had taken the fruit and Adam had restrained himself from doing the same, then there should still have been a great hope for her! However, it was not so. Her foundation took the same action and their world (and our world) fell apart immediately. Adam was a weak foundation! A foundation that could not support or ensure the success of Eve (and our success)! Now, if the first Adam turned out to be a poor foundation, then God knew that there must be the last Adam who will be strong in every aspect of it. This is the reason why Jesus must come as the last Adam (1Corinthians 15:45) and as a firm foundation to us (today's Eve). This was also part of the divine plan.

Jesus is to us today what Adam was to Eve (and us) in the past before Jesus died and resurrected but Jesus is the Solid Foundation that will always be solid no matter the circumstances (remember that Jesus committed no sin when He lived on the earth) Even if you eat the forbidden fruit, your foundation will never eat the fruit (He came to live on the earth sinless). Therefore, your firm foundation for your success in all spheres of life remains. All kings of Israel had one snag or the other, Jesus was the only King who came, walked on the surface of the earth without any snag or blemish.

I know that the question that may arise from my last statement above is “Should a Christian continue to enjoy the ‘forbidden fruit’ because you have Jesus as your Solid Foundation?” I want you to read what Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 3:10-15 (NKJV). "According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire"

The simple answer is “NO”. You should not. Just as anybody can commence the building of a house by erecting a firm foundation at the initial stage, what you build on it afterwards is still very important to the final appearance of the building. If you like, you can place on your solid foundation structures made with wood or clay or glass or plastic or cemented blocks. It is your choice! Whatever you sow (placed on your solid foundation); you will reap (Galatians 6:7). The good thing about having Jesus as your solid foundation is that this foundation, with the help of the Holy Spirit is ever ready to help you to constantly keep your distance from the “forbidden fruit”. The Bible says “Blessed are they who do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled” (Matthew 5:6). If you are reading this book, you can ask yourself this simple question; “Do I have Jesus (who never sinned) as my foundation or Adam (who sinned) as my foundation?” Answers will flood your heart the moment you are sincere enough to ask yourself this question. I must however inform you that your success in every aspect of your life is not guaranteed except you have Jesus as your Firm Foundation!

Chapter 13: Our Search for Success

I have observed that many people have different success aspirations in life. The success aspiration of a husband is to become a good and successful husband. A wife also desires to be a successful wife. Students in the higher institution of learning desire to pass out from school in flying colors. Parents also desire to be very successful parents to their children. Likewise, a farmer desires to reap greatly during the harvest seasons. A politician wants to contest and win elections. A sportsman or sportswoman wants to reach the peak of his or her career.

We all have different success aspirations. I have also observed that the success aspirations or goals of every individual changes from time to time. Today, a student in the higher institution is aiming to come out in flying colors from school. Tomorrow, the same student is seeking to be either a successful employee or employer. Likewise, a woman is today aspiring to be the best mother in the world and by tomorrow, she is aspiring to be the best grandmother in the world. Our success goals change from time to time during our lifetime. Because of these reasons, we are always in search of success principles that will ensure our success in any task we get ourselves involved in. Some have taking their search abroad. Some have taken theirs to the sea. Some under the ground and some to the air. Some have found theirs in a mortal being and some in the government. It is disturbing that many self-confessed Christians have also joined in this fruitless search for success to these places mentioned above!

Well, some years ago, as a newly converted Christian, I desperately wanted a quality set of success principles that I can always follow at every stage of my life to be successful and I stumbled upon this great statement of Jesus Christ in the Bible. “I am the Vine, you are the branches: He that abides in Me, and I in him, the same brings forth much fruit: for without Me you can do nothing” (John 15:5) (emphasis mine). I was surprised a Man could be so confident to tell me and anyone straight to our faces that, “We cannot be successful in our lifetime if we neglect His success principles” (see underlined words above). From that time, I took the decision to know more about Him and His success principles.

I turned to the Bible for this set of success principles. From careful observations of the lives of people who have turned to other directions to obtain their set of success principles, I have found out that they have been led to their destructions by the negative principles they trusted. The Bible even confirms this in the book of Job 5:3-5 (TLB): “Those who turn from God may be successful for the moment, but then comes sudden disaster. Their children are cheated with no one to defend them. Their harvests are stolen and their wealth slakes the thirst of many others, not themselves!” Therefore, my only option was to check out the success principles as laid down by Jesus Christ.

Jesus and Your Success

So far, in this book, I have shared great information with you about the Man called Jesus and I am sure you have been blessed by His story. Furthermore, I will be sharing what I have called the only success secret that contains all the success principles as demonstrated by Jesus and lots of other successful men (living or dead) that I have investigated. In the older versions (1st and 2nd editions) of this book, I listed 10 of the many success secrets of Jesus. However, due to continuous investigations into the Bible and an investigative look into the stories of successful Godly men who have graced this earth and those who are still living, I discovered that all the principles they used (or are still using) to have record-breaking achievements all come down to just one simple secret! You can still have access to these 10 success secret shared in these

editions by visiting <https://www.smashwords.com/profile/view/infobooks> to download it free of charge. This discovery helped me to become more focused on my resolution to affect my world positively. I can assure you that it will do this for you too. Note: I got very excited about this discovery that I have recorded it as an audio workbook and it is available free of charge to you if you place a request for it by either sending an email to me at contact@infobookscash.com or send a text message to 08034300979 with the message, 'Jesus Audio'.

Let us see what this only success secret that has all the success principles is in the next chapter.

Chapter 14: The Only Success Secret You Need to Know (The John 3:16 Chart)

The Spirit of God helped me to investigate the great Bible passage of John 3:16 and I discovered that it contains the only success secret that contains all the success principles that Jesus used during His stay on earth and which lots of very successful people (living or dead) have used or are still using. Well, it all started from God almighty and how He used this success secret is contained in the Bible passage of John 3:16. I have called it, "The John 3:16 Success Chart". Let us look at the simple chart below:

Love ===Giving===Success

1st 2nd 3rd

On the chart above, the first level is a nature called Love. The second level is an action called Giving while the third level is a result called Success. I am sure you will not be surprised why the last level of success is a result. It is a result because this is a success chart which contains the only success secret that has all the other success principles.

I will pick and write more on these levels one by one.

Love

"He that loves not knows not God; for God is love" (1 John 4:8). The Bible says God is Love Himself. He does not have to develop or cultivate this nature. The great nature of love is Him and He just rightly started this success chart with His nature. The Bible says, "For God so loved the world..." (John 3:16). He first loved the world before He moved to the next level. He did not just love the world, He so loved the world. Well, I am not surprised by this; He is love Himself so He just demonstrated Himself in loving the world so much.

More About Love

Let me write more about this great nature called love. Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 12:31 and 1 Corinthians 13:1 called it "a more excellent way". He had just described the many gifts of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 13) and their usefulness to Christians and the audience had been thrilled by his sermon. However, he ended the sermon in the last verse of 1 Corinthians with the introduction of an excellent nature that his listeners must or thirst and hunger greatly to have. His great introduction of the topic of love by Paul shows its importance to any Christian who wants to succeed in Christ. He said "Though you work all the miracles and you don't have love, you have not done well"!

I also observed another inspired writing of Paul in Galatians 5: 22 where he listed love as the first fruit of the Spirit. Love is the first fruit of the Spirit and it is a more excellent way when we talk about the gifts of the Spirit. I believe this should tell you and I that there is something unique about love. One of my mentors once said, “You can't love and go to hell; hell will turn to heaven if you mistakenly get there”. He said this to show the importance of love as a nature on the part of Christians. There are some success moves you will never be able to start and complete if you are not walking in love! The zeal to start and go ahead to finish it will not just be there. Jesus would never have faced the cross if He did not love us, the people He came to die for. He was even praying for those who nailed Him to the cross!

From my investigations, all the great faith walkers in the Bible and in our time would not have carried out their tasks successfully if they did not love God and loved the people they were sent to. Let us look at the second level on our success chart as demonstrated by God.

Giving

God so loved the world and He gave His only-begotten Son to die for the sins of the world. God showed that the greatest demonstration of love is giving. He gave Himself (Jesus is God) to a sinful world! He walked the first level perfectly and I am not surprised he also walked the second level perfectly. Jesus gave His life despite the fact that He knew no sin. Those individuals who have done great things in God have been great givers. If you love and you are not giving, you should check yourself – you may not be walking in love! A man we had a relationship with sometimes ago and who claims to be working for God always claimed he loved people but found it difficult giving. Instead, he was always after what he would receive from the people. He even went to the extent of lying to collect things from those who come around him! Yes he could go to such terrible extent because he was originally not walking in love; he was only confessing what he was not! You will observe from our story at the beginning of this book, Timothy Anderson showed why he was different from Johnson Idiok with his generous initiatives in the society. This is the reason why we have called him a more successful person.

Now to the third level on our success chart.

Results (Success)

There is no way you will walk the first two levels effectively that you will not end up having Godly results to show. You will make your journey a success on this earth if you can walk in love and embrace the action of giving. It was like that for God. God gave one Son; He has many sons today (and will have more before Jesus comes back)!

How to Walk in Love

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). “Beloved let us love one another: for love is of God; and everyone that loves is born of God, and knows God. He that loves not knows not God; for God is love” (1 John 4: 7 and 8)

You can't walk in the type of love I have described so far in our chart if you have not received it. That is, you must first receive God through Jesus Christ to have it or walk in it. Remember that God is love - He is the love you must first receive before you begin to demonstrate the kind of love described above. John captured it perfectly in the passage above, “...everyone that loves is born of God...”. You can't get this love outside Christ. If you have not given your life to Jesus Christ to accept the love of God that He gave so much in our success chart above, you cannot

walk in true love! You cannot give what you don't have! You will be saying a simple prayer soon to accept this love so that you can begin to walk in love. After you have said this prayer and you have become a child of God who is qualified to receive God's love in order to have the capacity to also give it out, God's Spirit will begin to bring to you constant revelation of His love for you through your heart. This provision gives you the capacity to also give love to others. You should read Galatians 4:6 "And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" Love is relevant to your (and my) success aspiration in life. Love is the nature you must have, giving is the activity you must do to express it, success is the reward you will reap.

What Are You Expected to Start Giving?

The question now is, "If giving is the action we must carry out regularly to express our love and record outstanding success in life, then, what do we have to give to express this God-kind of love?" This question is answered below:

1. Give In the vineyard of God

There are 3 love commandments that I have observed in the new testament of the Bible, read them below: "And He answering said, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and with all your strength and with all your mind..." (Luke 10:27)

"...and (love) your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10:27b). "So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies..." (Ephesians 5:28). I observed that it is only the love for God (number one above) that is not compared with anything or anybody. You will still have to love your neighbor as yourself and also love your wife as your own body but you have only one option when you love God and that is to love God with all you have got. There is nothing that must compare with the love you must have for God! You must give your time, talent, resources for the use of God's work on this earth. I love this statement of Jesus in Matthew 6:33, "But seek you first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things (every success) shall be added unto you" (emphasis mine). When you love God, every success you will ever desire will come running after you. I have observed how God has blessed me with lots of ideas because I have loved Him passionately. If you love Him and the gospel of Jesus Christ passionately, He will always inspire you with great ideas to prosper you.

You must also ensure you make yourself available to God. Even if you are not in any ministry work, you should remember that we all have the ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18). Work in your church with all your heart. Talk to people about Christ. Share this book and any other relevant ones on the gospel of Jesus Christ with your friends.

2. Add values to lives

"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on the hills cannot be hid" (Matthew 5:14). You can't really taste real success if you are not adding values to lives or solving problems in your society or for the people. I want you to look at all the clean successful people and organizations that you have come across, they are all adding values to lives and solving one problem or the other in the society. The more problems you solve for the people or the society in your lifetime, the more success stories you will tell. Don't shy away from solving problems – it is your gateway to the land of success and great exploits.

Find out from God your purpose in life and set up platforms to provide solutions to people's problems based on your discovery. My mentor, Sam Adeyemi, Senior Pastor of Daystar

Christian Centre, a Christian ministry that is transforming lives and raising role models in Nigeria and all over the world always advise us "to solve problems on a monumental scale". Our website at www.sesanoguntade.com is a platform that has been set up to solve problems and add values to lives (it has done that for the past seven years now sharing free Christian books and articles). This is the reason why I am sure that I cannot be stranded in life! There will always be a way out for me to continue my success journey on this earth in the midst of many obstacles as long as I keep on solving problems and adding values to lives!

You have a potential deposited in you when God created you, find it out and reach out to the world. Remember that the potential is not yours; you are holding it in trust for God. God is waiting on you to use it to affect the world for good. You are condemned to give it out. Learn from the story of the parable of talent (Luke 19:12-27). The only success secret that has all the success principles is contained in the John 3:16 success chart above. If you hold on to this alone, you will never lack any success zeal in life. You will also record lots of outstanding success stories in your lifetime! Let me end this interesting chapter with this piece of advice from the inspired writer of the most books in the Bible, Paul the Apostle, in Philippians 2:3-4 "Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others".

Chapter 15: Seven Reasons Why You Need Jesus

I have just shown you the only success secret that you need to know to record famous achievements in your lifetime just like Jesus and so many others have done and are still doing in our society today. Jesus was very successful because He accomplished His major goal of coming to the earth. He also left a group of people behind who had received great training from Him to spread the good message of what He came to do. This people did a good job (read the book of ACTS to see), we are all beneficiaries of their handwork today, and generations yet unborn will continue to draw inspirations from their writings in the Bible. I am saying a big thank you to Jesus for choosing and mentoring these disciples.

I know you have learnt so much from this book and you just want to know how you can reach out to this Jesus immediately if you have not known Him yet. Don't worry, I will show you how to do that in a moment. In the meantime, let me give you seven great reasons why you need this Jesus Christ that I have written so much about throughout this book. This will greatly help your decision to make Him Lord and Saviour over your life.

1.He Has The Ability To Save

"Come unto ME, all you that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). This is an open invitation to you from Jesus. If you are unsure of what tomorrow holds for you because of the many problems that are present in the society where you live, Jesus is asking you to give Him a trial. This also applies to you if you are a Christian already but have a weak belief in the ability of Jesus to help you. If you also think you are very "dirty" (just like prophet Isaiah in Isaiah 6:5) and believe nothing is "capable of cleaning you up", I want you to give Jesus a trial. He has so much confidence in His saving ability to invite you to come to Him!

2. He Will Give You The Spirit of God

“Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send Him unto you” (John 16:7). You will receive what I call the Gift of gifts when you give Jesus a trial. After the baptism in the Holy Spirit experience, the Holy Spirit of God makes your inside His dwelling place! I am telling you, this one is enough incentive for you to give your life to Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit of God is also in the business of empowering Christians to do exploit (Acts 1:8). You can't really have Godly success without this empowerment.

Note: You can receive information about my upcoming book, 'Holy Spirit and Your Success' by either subscribing to our newsletter at <http://www.sesanoguntade.com/shortreports.html> or send a text message, 'HolySpirt' to 07066360364. He is my Mentor, my Teacher, my Counselor, my Comforter, my closest Friend, He is just everything to me and I wonder what would have been my lot if I have not voted some years ago to give my life to Jesus to obtain Him as a GIFT.

3. He Only Has All the Power and Authority

“And Jesus came and spoke unto them, saying, all power is given unto Me in heaven and in the earth” (Matthew 28:18). With this statement confidently declared by Jesus after His resurrection, you should know that no other source has any power or authority with them; Jesus has all the power with Him. Therefore, will you run and stick to the ONE who has all the power with Him?

4. He Gives Us God's Righteousness

Accepting Jesus as your Lord and Saviour gives you God's righteousness. God is clean and right all through. This invaluable cleanness and righteousness is imputed to you if you give your life to Jesus Christ. This is a passport you need to live a victorious life on this earth. I want you to read the statement of Daniel to the king after the king and thrown him into the lion's den because he voted for the Lord. "Then Daniel said to the king, “O king, live forever! My God sent His angel and shut the lions’ mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him; and also, O king, I have done no wrong before you.” Now the king was exceedingly glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den and no injury whatever was found on him, because he believed in his God." Daniel 6:21-23 New King James Version (NKJV).

He (Daniel) was found innocent (clean and right) before God and so the king and the land had no reason to accuse him of any offence. As a result of his righteousness, the lions in the den could not harm him! You need God's righteousness to go through this earth without 'injuries'. Jesus gives you this righteousness if you surrender your life unto Him as your Saviour.

5. You Can't Know the True God Except Through Him

Many people desire to know the true God and have struggled with this. They have been frustrated and some have ingloriously ended their lives in their bid to know God through other means. Jesus said in John 17:25-26: "O righteous Father! The world has not known you, but I have known you; and these have known that you sent Me. And I have declared to them your name, and will declare it, that the love with which you loved Me may be in them, and I in them." He also said in John 10: "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life". Jesus is the only option anyone has to know the only true God. God made this arrangement this way, It is His divine plan. Only Jesus can reveal the identity of the Father to anyone who seeks to know Him.

6. He Gives You the Light to Live

God's Word says, "Darkness covers the earth..." If you want to walk through the surface of this dark earth without stumbling, you need the real Light. The real Light is Jesus Christ. John the Apostle was inspired to write, "In Him there was life and the life was the light of men" (John 1:4). Jesus is the only one who can give you this light.

7. He Will Make You Not To Miss the First Resurrection

Hmmn! This one is also very important and I want you to read this with all attention. The Bible says, "Blessed and holy is he that has part in the first resurrection: on such the second death has no power, but they shall be priest of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years"(Revelation20:6). I believe the message from this passage is clear enough. Those of us who will, by His grace, be part of the first resurrection will reign with Jesus for 1000 years! This will be a great reign. Can you imagine a "United Nation" where Jesus is the Head of all? I want to know how it will look like and I believe you should be interested too. You only need to give your life to Jesus Christ and you will automatically become a participant of that first resurrection if you stay with Him until the time of His second coming.

You do not have to listen to your heart that keeps telling you that what I have quoted in the Bible passage above is not real. Even if you are not sure whether it is real or not, you can still give Jesus a trial (since it will not cost you a dime to do it) so that you will not be betrayed by your heart if you are unfortunate not to be part of that great reign during the period described above by the Bible passage. I hope this will not be your lot in Jesus name.

I believe in the Bible passage described above because God spoke to me in clear terms to "teach the goodness that is in the second coming of Jesus Christ and also to teach about His ability to save the lost". He would not have wasted His time to ask me to do this if Jesus is not coming back. I hope I have been able to give you seven good reasons why Jesus is the answer to you now and in the future. Let me now take you to how you can have this precious Jesus that I have spoken glowingly about since the beginning of this book, as your Lord and Savior.

The Ultimate Decision

"For with the heart man believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Romans 10:10). If you have not known Jesus but you have enjoyed the success principles described in this book and you want to give your life to Jesus so that these principles can start working in your life, you can say the following in prayer: "Father in heaven, forgive my sinful past. I believe Jesus Christ died for my sins and His shed blood has wiped away my sins. I believe He is the Son of the Living God. I accept Him as my Lord and Saviour. I want Him to begin to rule in my life as from now on. I believe I am saved. Thank you God for hearing my prayer".

Congratulations! This is going to be the greatest decision you will ever take. This is the reason why I called it the ultimate decision. Congratulations once again! Now begin to enjoy Christ unlimited and good success will never elude you again. Please let me read from you about your experience or how this book has helped you. You can contact me in either of these ways:

Phone: 234-08034300979, 234-07066360364. Email: <mailto:contact@infobookscash.com>
<mailto:infobooks@sesanoguntade.com>

Chapter 16: The Danger of Second Option!

I have written this book for the use of both Christians and non-Christians. Everyone will find this book useful. I am writing this particular chapter with Christians in mind. If there is a dangerous trend that I have observed among Christians, it is their reliance and trust in a second option to the methods and principles of Jesus Christ. Yes, they have become Christians and are active members and leaders in churches but they still allow the 'second option' syndrome to dominate their Christianity. Let me use these examples to tell you what I mean by a second option syndrome.

1. Mrs. A have trusted and prayed to God for the fruit of the womb for a long time but because the result fails to come on time, she embraced and succumbed to a second option where she used ungodly and fetish means to get the required result. In my part of the world, people use fetish and occultic methods to get pregnant and deliver children.
2. Mr. B has been a tithe-paying and faithful member of his church for many years but has not really been doing well financially. He then embraced a second option where he formed an evil partnership with colleagues in his office to embezzle the company's money.
3. Mr. and Mrs. D do not understand why their child has continually failed the O level examination so they made arrangement for someone to write the examination on behalf of their child. In my part of the world, parents and schools engage crooked professionals to write external examinations for their children and students.
4. Pastor E have pastored a church fellowship for many years which has refused to grow in membership. He decides to embrace a second option to use occultic means to increase the membership of his church fellowship.
5. Miss F noticed her two eldest sisters struggled to conceive after their wedding ceremonies and she decided to embrace a second option to get pregnant before her wedding day. She embraced an ungodly second option of fornicating before her wedding day!

These are really silent but dangerous trends among Christians today which potentially can make many miss God's Kingdom when Jesus returns! Successful living in Christ is all about complete reliance on Him and His instructions to solve any problem even when the solution lingers! The three Hebrews boys in the book of Daniel in Daniel 3, all demonstrated a one-option stance in a foreign land when faced with problems that threatened their lives! No matter what you are facing, God is faithful and He is capable of solving any problem. The one who made a virgin to conceive can solve all problems! The author of the book of Hebrew wrote, "Don't be obsessed with getting more material things. Be relaxed with what you have. Since God assured us, "I'll never let you down, never walk off and leave you," we can boldly quote, God is there, ready to help; I'm fearless no matter what. Who or what can get to me?" Hebrew 13:5-6 (MSG). Psalm 118: 6 also reads "The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"

A 'Second Option Christianity' is dangerous; you should check your ways today. Jesus said in Matthew 12:30, "He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad". You don't shake the devil's hands and extend a kiss unto Jesus just like Judas did, it doesn't lead anywhere!

Chapter 17: The End Point of Any Success Journey

God said in Haggai 2:6, "Once more (it is a little while) I will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land; and I will shake all" and explained further in Hebrew 12:27 (the Message translation) what God will surely do when it is time for the end to come: "The phrase, 'one last shaking' means a thorough housecleaning, getting rid of all the historical and religious junk so that the unshakable essentials stand clear and uncluttered". Apostle John also quoted Jesus in Revelation 22:12-13 to confirm the event that will surely happen when the end comes, Jesus testifies to the Churches, "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.". God will yet shake the earth and the heavens and everyone will be rewarded for his or her activities on this earth. No matter how successful you think you are on this earth outside Christ, you will understand how you have walked off course from the true success route when the end comes. The end point of any success journey in life is when your success on this earth qualifies you to be part of God's kingdom when Jesus comes back.

Jesus is the only One who can guarantee your membership of this glorious kingdom. He said in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me". Take some time off to check if your success aspirations can make you to be part of this success kingdom when Jesus returns. You need to do this because the book of Mark 8:36-37 says: "For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?". The Rich man in Luke 16:19-31 had all the successes according to the world's standard but ended up in hell - he failed woefully!

You can have all the success stories you desire on this earth and still be part of God's Kingdom when Jesus comes back if you embrace Jesus as your Lord and Savior and stay in Him all through your years on this earth. Remember that it is only in Him you can truly succeed (John 15:5b). Great provisions have been made available for you and I to live successfully on this earth in preparation to reign with Christ in God's Kingdom when He returns. The writer of the book of Hebrews show us these provisions in Hebrew 12: :18-29: "But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel."

Chapter 18: The Great Handing Over

When Jesus was on the earth, His disciples had gotten so used to Him and had trusted in His ability and presence to make them a success. Now when Jesus, from the book of John 13, began to speak more clearly about his departure, they became sad and afraid about what the future held for them. They were not ready to give any consideration to a life on the earth without Jesus Christ! They did not want to live to see those days!

However Jesus used the opportunity of this discussion on His departure to also talk about an interesting handing over ceremony that will take place so that the success journey of his disciples (and us) will not be truncated or put in jeopardy and also to allay their mounting fears. He said in John 14:16-18: "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever - the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

Jesus introduced an important future ministry that will be of great use to the success aspirations of His disciples (you and I inclusive) - the ministry of the Holy Spirit. In Acts 1:8 just before he ascended to heaven, He made a final statement to His disciples on the same issue: "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth". He further advised His disciples to wait to receive the Holy Spirit. In other words, they can't get anything done if they venture out without a connection to this important ministry. The Holy Spirit finally came on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2). My dear friend, you can't truly succeed on this earth, even as a Christian, if you are not intimately connected to this Spirit of truth and exploits. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God and of Christ. Jesus left the earth but His Spirit came back in another form and He has been here ever since helping lots of people to write great success stories. I have benefited immensely from His Lordship and leadership and I have always giving Him all the glory for all the things I have done in God's vineyard so far. He will always take the glory for every other thing I will ever do.

This was the great handing over. I thank you God for this arrangement. The Holy Spirit gets you convicted of sins, "And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:" (John 16:8). He also gets you convinced of your sonship, "But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" (Galatians 4:4-6).

He gives you the power to succeed on your tasks (Acts 1:8). He raises standard against the enemy, "When the enemy comes in like a flood, The Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him" (Isaiah 59:19). He shares great ideas with you: "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come". (John 16:13)

He does many more things.

Note: Subscribe to receive information about my book, Holy Spirit and Your Success. Visit <http://www.sesanoguntade.com/shortreports.html>

He won't stop this great work until He has handed over you and I to Jesus during rapture. If you are born again but you have not really experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit, you should ask Jesus to baptize you with His Spirit and then begin to relate intimately with Him as you relate with the people around you. You can't truly succeed without His help on this earth!

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this book. I hope you have been blessed by it. I would like to read from you. I want to know how this book has helped you. I also want to read from you on how you have used Biblical principles and methods to achieve success stories. Your testimonials and comments will surely gladden my heart and they will be published on the Faith Stories section of our website so that it can bless other lives.

Please send your comments through the following feedback mechanisms:

SMS: 234-08034300979 or 234-07066360364 Email: infobooks@sesanoguntade.com. Twitter: @SesanOguntade

BSR Prayer Sessions

1. God, I thank you for the righteous information that you have given to us in your Word as we have it in the Bible. (2 Timothy 3:16).
2. Oh God, I thank you for the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross at Calvary.
3. Oh God, thank you for the salvation of my soul.
4. Oh God, henceforth help me to embrace only the truth from your Word about my success in Jesus name.
5. Holy Spirit of God, from now begin to guide my success aspiration. I submit all my success aspirations to you in Jesus name.
6. Oh God, help to spread the tentacles of this book series from Success Christian Home. Let it continue to do your will and to bless lots of lives. Continue to strengthen the author and other staff of Success Christian Home.
7. Thank you God for answered prayers.

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You can check out You Can Stop Masturbation by reading simple stories and charts.

Have you struggled without end to put a stop to masturbation and any form of addiction? Do you really want a complete Christian guide that uses simple stories and simple charts to describe step by step methods to put a stop to masturbation or any addiction problem? This practical Christian book will be of great use to you as it has been to many others online.

Due to readers' positive reactions to the story-telling and chart-illustration strategies used in the first edition of this book to provide simple steps to solve the problem of masturbation, Author, Sesan Oguntade produced a bigger edition which consist of several readers' reactions, more charts illustrations, 13 Christian notes for parents on solving teenage addiction problems and a book bonus: a Podcast which relates the popular story-illustration in the book.

Christians and anyone who really desire to stop masturbation or any addiction problem should not pass up the opportunity to download this book immediately. Please visit <https://www.smashwords.com/profile/view/infobooks> to download a sample and obtain the full copy today. It is also available at most major online ebook retailers.

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About The Author



Sesan Oguntade is an insightful teacher of the word, bible success researcher, Success Motivator and author of many books amongst which is the popular “Jesus and Your Success” (available free at www.sesanoguntade.com). He believes that the solution to ANY problem lies in the WORD of GOD. His central message to the world is "without Jesus, you cannot succeed" (John 15:5b).

He presides over Success Christian Home, headquartered in Lagos, Nigeria, a Christian organization with the vision of raising problem solvers in the society.

He is also the founder of The Success Laboratory International Seminars, a platform where pure bible principles that solve practical societal problems are taught.

You can add him on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/successebooks>.
<http://www.facebook.com/successchristianhome>. You can follow him on twitter, @SesanOguntade

He is married to Olutoke Success Oguntade and they are blessed with children.

About Success Christian Home

...Shining the light. Solving Problems (Genesis 1:17)

This is a Christian ministry that is devoted to the sharing of the goodness that is in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Message

Without Jesus, you cannot succeed (John 15:5b)

Vision

To raise men and women who will be light shiners (problem solvers) in the society.

Mission

To accomplish the above vision, we hope:•to teach and preach the ability of Jesus to save the lost.•to teach and preach the goodness that is in the second coming of Jesus Christ.•To teach and preach success principles in Jesus Christ that will make you and I put to use our God-given potentials.

Contact

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Website: www.sesanoguntade.com

All About Bible Success Principles (<http://www.sesanoguntade.com>)...teaching practical success principles from the Bible

This online platform was set up to share with the whole world on a regular basis, success principles I have discovered through the help of the Holy Spirit from the Bible. On this website, I share practical Bible success principles in these categories:

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