

J.J.

GOD'S FORMULA FOR SUCCESS

Joshua 1:1-19

***INTRODUCTION :**

Today is a special day for our family, this is the 6th year we are celebrating “God-dependence Day”

Story : To cut a long story short, it was on a Sunday of January 9, 2005 that everything was pulled under our feet, source of income, ministry, shelter, pride and etc. and then we were accused unfairly. Lies were thrown against us and some people even want to hurt me physically.

Why am I sharing this, it is because to encourage you brothers and sisters that when God allows a deep crisis in your life, He is just saying, “Don’t worry, it is in order for me to show you My glory. That I am a God who can be depended on.” You just don’t give up.

During this crisis time, this song gave me the correct perspective and encouraged me.

(Music Ministry will sing “Blessed Be Your Name”)

Today : We’re going to talk about the success formula

The secret of a successful marriage :

One couple was celebrating their 50 years anniversary and was asked, “What’s the secret of your successful marriage?” The woman replied, “Oh it’s easy, we eat out in restaurants every Tuesdays and Thursdays.” “Really?” asked the reporter. “Yes” the man replied, “She eats out on Tuesdays, I eat out on Thursdays.”

The world’s definition of success : Prosperity or Power or Popularity alone

***But the Bible says :**

Mark 8: 36 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?

Quote : I have never seen a hearse pulling a U-haul

***What is successful man?**

It is the man who has the greatest possession AND enjoys it.

Illustration : It is like a man who is poor and just tries to get by everyday but has a very rich uncle who sent him a check for \$10M and yet when he received the envelope, he never opens it.

Before you get confused about this, what is this possession that makes you successful.

***Look at this :**

Psalm 73

- ¹ Surely God is good to Israel,
to those who are pure in heart.*
- ² But as for me, my feet had almost slipped;
I had nearly lost my foothold.*
- ³ For I envied the arrogant
when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.*
- ⁴ They have no struggles;
their bodies are healthy and strong.*
- ⁵ They are free from common human burdens;
they are not plagued by human ills.*

It is talking about the “success” of God-less people and the person writing the psalm was envious of their worldly “success”.

***But look :**

- ¹⁸ Surely you place them on slippery ground;
you cast them down to ruin.*
- ¹⁹ How suddenly are they destroyed,
completely swept away by terrors!*
- ²⁰ They are like a dream when one awakes;
when you arise, Lord,
you will despise them as fantasies.*

***This is what happens to those who’s idea of success is just accumulating wealth.**

Luke 12: ¹⁶ And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. ¹⁷ He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’ ¹⁸ “Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. ¹⁹ And I’ll say to myself, “You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.”’

²⁰ “But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’

²¹ “This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.”

***But now, here's what a successful man is! (continuing with Psalm 73)**

²³ Yet I am always with you;

you hold me by my right hand.

²⁴ You guide me with your counsel,

and afterward you will take me into glory.

²⁵ Whom have I in heaven but you?

And earth has nothing I desire besides you.

²⁶ My flesh and my heart may fail,

but God is the strength of my heart

and my portion forever.

Etymology : portion “chaleq” which means, “share,” “possession”

Illustration : There was this wealthy man who is so rich he owns a lot of super-expensive paintings like the Monet, Rembrandt, Picasso and etc. He also has a son that he loves so much but the son went to war and died in the war. He asked a local unknown artist to paint his son and he put the painting of the son in the middle of his house. When the wealthy man died, he wrote in his will that everything will be up for auction. The people knew that this man owned a lot of super-expensive paintings and furniture. So everyone was excited to bid for the Rembrandts and Picassos. But when the auction came, the first one to be auctioned was the painting of the son of the wealthy man. The people got agitated and said to get on with it because nobody would want that painting by a local artist. But the gardener of the wealthy man loved this family so he was the one who bidden out for the painting for a few dollars and the people were relieved that it was done and over with it telling the auctioneer, to get on with the other “good” stuff. But to their surprise, the auctioneer said that the auction was closed. The people got angry and asked why. The auctioneer said that in the will of the wealthy man, it says, “He who gets the Son, gets everything.”

Note : Beloved, if you have Jesus Christ in your life, you have everything.

***Now the question is :** How to benefit from Christ being in you.

Colossians 1:27 To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Note : So many Christians are living like they don't have Christ in them

Now : Knowing that we have everything in Christ, we are going to talk about how you can take “possession” of the what God has given you already.

Joshua 1: ¹After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, it came to pass that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying: ² "Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them—the children of Israel. ³ Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses. ⁴ From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your territory. ⁵ No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you. ⁶ Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. ⁷ Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. ⁸ This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. ⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

Pray

- I. GOD'S PERSON FOR SUCCESS Joshua 1:1**
- II. GOD'S PREPARATION FOR SUCCESS Joshua 1:1-2**
- II. GOD'S PROMISE OF SUCCESS Joshua 1:2-5**
- III. GOD'S PROCESS FOR SUCCESS Joshua 1:6-9**

I. GOD'S PERSON FOR SUCCESS Joshua 1:1-2

- *1. The successful person of God has the Lord in his heart.**

Joshua 1: ¹After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, it came to pass that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying:

Who is Joshua?

Note : There are 4 Joshua in the OT, we are going to talk about the most famous one.

Ice-breaker : In this verse, does this show he has a father? Of course not... it says, "Joshua son of Nun (none)..." (joking of course)

Etymology : Nun "fish", nothing much is said about "Nun" except he is in the tribe of Ephraim and when his name is mentioned, it is always connected with "Joshua, the son of Nun"

Application : Isn't such a wonderful thing to hear your name connected with a son that brings honor? One day, the greatest honor that Zak will give me is when people see that he loves and honors God and His Word and people will say, "He is Zak, the son of Ptr Jerry"

Note : In the Philippines, we have a school of discipleship which trains pastors. By God's grace, I train also other pastors and my area of study is in "Discipleship". Before I start, I always tell the pastors, that your number one priority, your first ministry is your family. The best pastors I've known are the ones who put their family first as a priority.

Proof : I believe Joshua has learned this principle early on.

***Look :** At the end of his conquest of Canaan, he said these words :

Joshua 24: ² Joshua said to all the people, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says:

¹³ So I gave you a land on which you did not toil and cities you did not build; and you live in them and eat from vineyards and olive groves that you did not plant.'

*¹⁴ "Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵ But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. **But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.**"*

Application : Brothers and sisters, we have to make sure that our families are following the Lord. Yes, we cry for our parents or our brothers and sisters that are not saved but they are the household of my own father. If you have a wife and children, that is "our" household. If they are following the Lord, praise the Lord, if they are not, you have to fall down on your knees everyday and beg God for their souls...

***This is what Job does...**

*Job 1: ⁵ When a period of feasting had run its course, Job would make arrangements for them to be purified. Early in the morning he would sacrifice a burnt offering for each of them, thinking, "Perhaps my children have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." **This was Job's regular custom.***

***My encouragement to parents :**

Augustine himself, one of the church fathers was said to have been saved because of his mother's earnest prayers. Even at an early age, his mother was teaching him already about Jesus "*From my tenderest infancy, I had in a manner sucked with my mother's milk that name of my Saviour, Thy Son; I kept it in the recesses of my heart; and all that presented itself to me without that Divine Name, though it might be elegant, well written, and even replete with truth, did not altogether carry me away*" (*Confessions, I, iv*)

Note : Remember that Augustine before he was saved was living a debaucherous life but because his mom told him about Jesus even when he was a baby, it was kept in his heart and at God's right timing, God used it to open the heart of Augustine. Just keep on praying for them!

Share : When I pray for my kids, I pray that they will know God, love God and have a holy fear of God.

Important note : Beloved, if there is one thing you should leave your family as an inheritance "pamana", it's good to leave them with money, and etc but these things can be taken away and will eventually be gone. Our greatest "pamana" to our children is God Himself. Without God, our children is bankrupt.

***2. The successful person of God has a servant heart.**

*After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, it came to pass that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying:*² "Moses My servant

Observe : The Bible never calls Joshua, "Moses servant..." He calls him "assistant"

Etymology 1: assistnat, minister "sharath" one who waits, who ministers, who serves.

In short : Moses "assistant" "aide"

Etymology 2 : Moses my "servant" is "ebed" - "slave", also means "a worshipper"

Important to note : I love it when God lovingly calls "Moses, MY servant". He did not talk with Joshua saying, "Moses, your leader..."

What church is all about?

Church is not an organization were there is a hierarchy. Church is a servant community.

Which means : We all serve, wait or "assist" or "aide" one another but we are all "slaves" of Christ.

***II. GOD'S PREPARATION FOR SUCCESS**

***1. God showed Joshua that victory comes to those who persevere in Him.**

Exodus 17: ⁹ Moses said to Joshua, “Choose some of our men and go out to fight the Amalekites. Tomorrow I will stand on top of the hill with the staff of God in my hands.”

¹⁰ So Joshua fought the Amalekites as Moses had ordered, and Moses, Aaron and Hur went to the top of the hill. ¹¹ As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning. ¹² When Moses’ hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up—one on one side, one on the other—so that his hands remained steady till sunset. ¹³ So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword.

¹⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses, “Write this on a scroll as something to be remembered and make sure that Joshua hears it, because I will completely blot out the name of Amalek from under heaven.” ¹⁵ Moses built an altar and called it The LORD is my Banner.

Remember this : Jehovah Nissi (The Lord is my Banner),
Explain what this means.

Illustration : Mark Hatfield tells of touring Calcutta with Mother Teresa and visiting the so-called "House of Dying," where sick children are cared for in their last days, and the dispensary, where the poor line up by the hundreds to receive medical attention. Watching Mother Teresa minister to these people, feeding and nursing those left by others to die, Hatfield was overwhelmed by the sheer magnitude of the suffering she and her co-workers face daily. "How can you bear the load without being crushed by it?" he asked. Mother Teresa replied, "My dear Senator, I am not called to be successful, I am called to be faithful."

Application : How can you be successful if you easily give up when the going gets tough. You just have to be faithful to God and let God take care of the victory!

Philippians 3: ¹² I don’t mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. ¹³ No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us. (NLT)

***I love this :** Success is more than initiative, it is “finishiative”.

In short : It is not how you start, it is how you finish. You may have many projects but you have to finish what you’ve started. In order to finish well, you have to be faithful.

***2. Joshua learned to look at what God can do instead of what man can or cannot do**

Remember : Joshua must have heard or seen for himself the power of God in Egypt. He has seen the parting of the Red Sea, how the Lord saved them from the pursuing Egyptian army in full battle gear, how God has fed them in the desert and etc.

Note : Something interesting about the name of Joshua

Biblical Background : When they were already near the Promised Land, God has asked Moses to send 10 people which included Joshua to spy on the land and send a report on how the land looked like.

***Apparently :** The original name of Joshua before is Hosea and before he sent them, he changed the name of Hosea, the son of Nun to Joshua.

Numbers 13 : ¹⁶These are the names of the men whom Moses sent to spy out the land. And Moses called Hoshea the son of Nun, Joshua.

¹⁷Then Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan,...

Important Etymology : Joshua from Jehoshua “The Lord saves”
Moses changed his name from Hoshea to Jehoshua “Hoshea” or Osea or Hosea means “salvation”

Note : I believe Moses changed the name of Joshua in order to emphasize him that true victory comes from the Lord and not on what he can do.

***That's why look at the different reports after these ten men came from Canaan :**

The other 8 spies report :

Numbers 13 : ²⁶They came back to Moses and Aaron and the whole Israelite community at Kadesh in the Desert of Paran. There they reported to them and to the whole assembly and showed them the fruit of the land. ²⁷They gave Moses this account: “We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit. ²⁸But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there. ²⁹The Amalekites live in the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live near the sea and along the Jordan.”

³⁰Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, “We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it.”

³¹But the men who had gone up with him said, “We can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are.” ³²And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, “The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. ³³We saw the Nephilim there (the

descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them."

Joshua and Caleb's report :

Numbers 14: ⁶ Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had explored the land, tore their clothes ⁷ and said to the entire Israelite assembly, "The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good. ⁸ If the LORD is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us. ⁹ Only do not rebel against the LORD. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will devour them. Their protection is gone, but the LORD is with us. Do not be afraid of them."

In short : Joshua is looking at what God can do and not the situation

***Classic quote :** If you have a problem, don't tell God how big your problem is. Tell your problem, how big your God is.

Note : This is the reason why our Lord commands us "Do not worry", or "Do not be afraid". Worry or fear shows how little we think of God.

***Note :** God has prepared Joshua for success and that's the reason why he asked Moses

Numbers 27: ¹⁸ And the LORD said to Moses: "Take Joshua the son of Nun with you, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him;

***And when Moses died, :**

² Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them—the children of Israel.

Etymology : now therefore arise "quwm" it means arising from a seat or from a bed.

In short : He is now ready to take action because God has prepared him already.

***Challenge :** God is calling you to arise because you have Jesus already in you. Are you to "arise" for the Lord...no more "arays" please.

Next week :

- III. GOD'S PROMISE OF SUCCESS Joshua 1:2-5
- IV. GOD'S PROCESS FOR SUCCESS Joshua 1:6-9

S.D.G.