

HOW TO SUCCEED IN LIFE

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."
Romans 12:1.

We admire, appreciate and love our young people. Each young person faces three important questions.

1. What must I do to be saved?
2. What can I do to achieve happiness?
3. What can I do to succeed in life?

Confident that each of you wants to be happy, successful and useful in life. You expect to succeed and you do not doubt that you will. Success is desirable and possible. You can succeed if you are willing to pay the price. I am delighted to share with you some ideas which will help you toward your goal of success. These lessons I have learned from study, observation and experience. It is a joy to give you the benefit of what I have learned, thereby enabling you to know these things without having to learn them the hard and expensive way.

If it is your desire to succeed in life, let me suggest that you:

I. Give God His Rightful Place In Your Life.

For you God is an absolute necessity. Just as your physical nature is dependent upon food and drink, so is your soul dependent on the living God. There is simply no getting along without God. You will never outgrow your need of God. You are foolish if you imagine that you can get along and get the most and best out of life without the strength and help of God. You may try to get along without God, but some day you will be struck with the realization of the impossibility of life without Him. Then you will ask yourself, "What is the use of living such a life? What good is life without God?" You just can't get along indefinitely without God. You will never be satisfied without Him. He is the only One Who can satisfy the needs of your soul. Your soul does not have a single need that is beyond His ability to supply. If you give Him His rightful place in your life, God will never disappoint you. If you leave God out of your life, you are doomed to failure. Give Him your whole life - personality, possessions and plans. He will do so much more with it.

II. Have A Plan For Your Life.

The reason many people fail in life is that they do not have a plan. They muddle through life, hoping for the best and usually getting the worst.

Successful people have clearly established the goals they desired to reach and then have followed some intelligent plan toward the attainment of those goals. The first step toward success is fixing clearly in your mind a clear picture of exactly what you want.

What has been done can be done again. Many have succeeded under difficult circumstances. You can do likewise. If you feel defeated, look around you at those who faced the same conditions you face, yet have come out all right. What has been done by others can be done by you. Get rid of the things which stand in your way, such as uncontrolled temper, evil desires and the memory of past defeats and failures. No matter what has happened in the past, start over and look to a brighter tomorrow. The prodigal son made mistakes. He thought he knew everything and that he was fully capable of running his life without anybody's help or suggestion. But he lost out and went down. Sometimes God lets a person get flat on his back so that he will look up. That boy thought of his father, came back home and started again.

III. Get A Thorough Education.

An education is no longer a luxury, but a necessity. It is both desirable and profitable. It will teach you to think along independent lines, bring you into touch with the greatest personalities of the past and the present, broaden your sympathies, enable you to do more and better work, and make you more useful. It is possible for you to get a thorough education, if you want it. People admire a young person with an iron determination and will help you. Take advantage of every opportunity to learn.

IV. Choose Your Vocation Early And Carefully.

There are nearly ten thousand vocations from which to choose. You can be more happy and successful in one than in any other. Get information about the ones in which you are interested from reading, observation and interviews. Then analyze yourself without overestimation or underestimation, and choose the vocation for which you are best suited. Discover God's plan for your life and then conform to it. When you have chosen the right vocation, any degree of success is attainable if you are willing to pay the price for it. You will succeed in proportion to your ability and industry. If you will do your work better than others, people will find it out and seek your services. There is always room at the top. There is no unrecognized talent or unappreciated genius. Illustration: Barber worth a dollar.

V. Cultivate The Art Of Making Friends.

A friend is a person who is known, respected, esteemed and loved by another. Friendship is one of the best things in life. It makes life rich and full, bright and joyous, tender and sweet. Cicero spoke the truth when he said, "Friendship is the only thing in the world concerning the usefulness of which all mankind are agreed." Friendship makes life really worth living. Mrs. Elizabeth Barrett Browning said to Charles Kingsley, "Tell me the secret of your life that I may make mine beautiful too." He replied, "I have a friend." That made all the difference. Constantius, father of Constantine the Great, said, "My treasures are my friends." Plautus said, "Nothing is there more friendly to a man than a friend in need."

Every person needs faithful friends. "A friend in need is a friend indeed." Emerson said, "The only way to have a friend is to be one." If you want friends, be complimentary. Lincoln began a letter with the statement, "Everybody likes a compliment." William James said, "The deepest principle in human nature is the craving to be appreciated." Will Rogers said, "I never met a man whom I could not like." That is why he had so many friends. Make all the friends you can of the right sort. You will never have too many. You will be rich in proportion to the number of true friends you have. Make friends of older people. They know the meaning of life, would like to help you, will boost you, will glory in your success and will boast of your achievements.

VI. Do Your Best In Every Undertaking.

Nothing good is gotten or held by an easy means. Nothing worthwhile is accomplished without work. Edison said, "Genius is 99% perspiration and 1% inspiration." The price of success is hard work. Any degree of success is attainable if you are willing to work. Do work better than others and people will find it out and seek your services. Do your best and the world will give you an honorable and useful place. Anything worth doing at all is worth doing well. Give your very best in service of others. The way to be great is to be great in service. So live and serve that when your life comes to a close you will leave more than an obituary notice in a newspaper and an epitaph on a tombstone.

Face your day:

1. Confidently.

"Have faith in God." Trust Him implicitly. "According to your faith, so be it unto you." Moody said, "If God be your partner, make your plans large." Judson said, "The future is as bright as the promises of God."

2. Courageously.

Have enough courage to live for Christ, to witness for Him, to serve Him and to glorify Him both with your lips and your life regardless of what anybody else may do.

3. Consistently.

Practice what you advocate to others. Never tell anybody, "Don't do as I do, but as I say." Be willing to do what you ask others to do.

4. Consecratedly.

God has a will. To make it known and get it accomplished has been His biggest undertaking. Our Saviour wanted the Father's will to be done regardless of what it was. God's will is always for our highest good. "Thy will be done" -- whatever it is, wherever it leads, whatever it means and whatever it costs! God's will for us is right and best. Stonewall Jackson, the great Christian soldier, was wounded accidentally by one of his own men. As he lay dying at the battle of Chancellorsville, he said: "If I live it will be for the best; if I die it will be for the best. God knows and directs all things for the best of His children. God's will be done." That is the way to pray. The will of God for us is something glorious.