

Lifelines

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Topic: *Four Keys to Successful Living*

Four Keys to Successful Living

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Almost everyone desires to be successful in life, but success means different things to different people. For Americans, success comes from developing your full potential and thereby achieving your life goals, using your individual gifts to better your family, friends, and customers. For communists, success comes by surrendering their lives to the government, and becoming mindless servants of the government; it is believing that life is easier when you don't have to work hard, and don't have to make decisions or be responsible for anything. For Christians, success is discovering God's unique journey for your life, doing the things to move further along that road, cultivating your continual dialogue with God, and how to best do that. A Christian's fulfillment and success is found in becoming the unique person God created one to be, hourly cooperating with God as He reveals how to grow in faith, and how to bless others through your attitudes, actions, and character.

Your philosophy of life will influence who you become, and what you accomplish in life. So we are all encouraged to take our life seriously, and live it fully for the glory of God. This is because our physical life is a small portion of our life in eternity. What we do now affects our own life, our families, churches, communities, country and world. Success requires wise decision making in order to be successful.

In Psalm 37:3 we discover four interlocking keys that contribute to successful living. Psalm 37:3 (NASB95) states: "Trust in the LORD and do good; Dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness."

A successful life begins with "Trust in the LORD." To trust in the Lord means to rely upon Him, depend upon Him, and to be confident in His love and goodness. Life with God is an interactive state of existence; God journeys through life with us, leading, guiding, protecting, and empowering us, as we trust Him each step of the way.

The second key to success is to "do good." This means more than just doing good deeds. "Good" pertains to things which God declares to be good, things which are morally good, which build up and strengthen us, and empower us to maintain a meaningful relationship with God and with all others. Do what is good in the eyes of God, and do it to everyone you meet.

Why is it so hard to do "good?" Mainly, it's difficult because we are sinful and self-absorbed. All too often we are only concerned about ourselves; our priority is to do what benefits us. But when we put ourselves before God, the good life will elude us.

The third key to success in the verse above is to "dwell in the land" meaning to become fruitful wherever God plants us. Whether in our geographical place, our family, our workplace, or our community, success in life comes as we embrace the life God has given us to live. He created you to be you; if you don't live your life, who will accomplish the things God has given you to accomplish?

Each of us has special gifts that work best in the life God designed for us to live. That doesn't mean that situations and places in our lives don't ever change. But it's a special kind of misery when we rebel against what God created us to be and do, and instead waste our life away, wishing to be someone else, do something else, or be someplace, anyplace, else. Put some roots down where God plants you; be the person God created you to be. That is one key of successful living.

The fourth key is to live your life cultivating faithfulness. Faithfulness literally is “the state of living full of faith.” Faithfulness includes consistency. Our life is not determined by fate, but rather by our ongoing trust and belief that God is working all things together for good, to those who love God and live according to His values. When wonderful things happen we are filled with joy and delight. When horrible things happen, we can seek God’s instructions on how to proceed. We can learn to be faithful in either situation.

Four keys to living a successful life: Trust in the Lord for wisdom, strength and power. Do good, put goodness into action all the time, everywhere, in every way. Dwell where God puts you; enjoy your life whatever may come. Daily immerse your life in God’s faithfulness, live faithfully in the relationships of your life, and continually encourage faithfulness to sprout and grow in the lives of others.

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