

Jim Collins shows us how to focus on God's promises to realize our **unlimited potential**.

—JORDAN RUBIN, *New York Times* Bestselling Author, *The Maker's Diet*

# BEYOND POSITIVE THINKING

SUCCESS & MOTIVATION  
in the SCRIPTURES

How to Tap Into  
**THE FORCE** that  
Created the Universe!

JIM COLLINS



This book will inspire you to stretch beyond a positive mindset and experience God's power in a new dimension.

—BOB HARRISON  
AMERICA'S INCREASE ACTIVIST

In *Beyond Positive Thinking*, Jim Collins shows us how to focus on God's promises found in the scriptures to realize our unlimited potential and purpose. From revealing how the "Power Twins," Faith and Love, unleash God's purpose in our lives to positive habit formations essential to living a life of joy, *Beyond Positive Thinking* is a compelling book full of insights and encouragement. Jim shows us a practical step-by-step approach implementing tools such as visualization, imagination, and confession of God's Word, which can help us claim our inheritance and see God's plan for our lives become a reality. This is a truly important work for anyone who wants to cultivate a victorious life through Jesus Christ.

—JORDAN RUBIN  
NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF *MAKER'S DIET*  
FOUNDER AND CEO, GARDEN OF LIFE

Jim Collins takes the greatest success book ever written, the Bible, and breaks it down into principles that any person can activate in their life. *Beyond Positive Thinking* shows you that while positive thinking and optimism are important and will help you reach great achievement, true success is so much greater and only comes through God's Word. I would encourage anyone interested in reaching their full potential to read this book.

—DR. DAVE MARTIN  
AMERICA'S #1 CHRISTIAN SUCCESS COACH

Jim Collins's anointing and skill have come together to give us his absolute best in this book. As a believer and student of Scripture, Jim draws from the richest storehouse of wisdom we have, the Bible; and he does it in a way that is sensible, accurate, and safe. I am now in my sixtieth year of ministry, yet found myself plunging into Jim's Bible truth as if for the first time. This text is excellent for private study as well as for classroom teaching. I recommend it to churches, Sunday schools, small group study, and everywhere that people want motivation to rise from within. This book is not cosmetic and external in motivating the reader. Instead, it contains motivation that is effortless

motivating the reader. Instead, it contains motivation that is energetic, inspirational, fun, and it will springboard out of you. What more can I say? I was motivated!

—CHARLES CARRIN  
CHARLES CARRIN MINISTRIES

I loved reading *Beyond Positive Thinking*. Whether sitting down with Jim or reading his book, I always come away inspired to believe God for bigger things and with a renewed sense of God's purpose in my life. As I read, I found myself underlining whole paragraphs and writing exclamation points in the margins. I would highly recommend *Beyond Positive Thinking* to anyone who is serious about taking life to the next level. Make sure you have your pen ready as you will want to underline and revisit many of Jim's points.

—DAN PLOURDE  
SENIOR PASTOR, CALVARY CHURCH, JUPITER, FLORIDA

In *Beyond Positive Thinking*, Jim strategically lays out powerful principles that will help anyone get to a place of unparalleled godly success. Each chapter is rich with insight and easy to understand. For anyone who wants to become better at living out God's best, this is the book to help you in your journey!

—BISHOP FRITZ MUSSER  
TABERNACLE INTERNATIONAL CHURCH

The truth within this book can change your life and the lives of those around you. I highly recommend it.

—PASTOR BILL EARLEY  
THE GLORY CHURCH

Words like *faith* and *success* have often become clichés in the church's vocabulary, but in this book Jim Collins defines these principles in a tangible and practical way bringing fresh understanding and clear application for implementation and activation into our lives.

—RICK KENDALL, PRESIDENT  
VICTORY MINISTRIES AND THE BODY NETWORK

Like all successful pastors, Jim is a great teacher. But I believe that more than anything else, part of his call is to be an encourager. That gift is on display in

this book. Many believers become discouraged when their prayers aren't answered in *their* time frame. Jim teaches how to pray and stay in faith until the answer comes. He doesn't just tell you *what* to do, but he tells you *how* to do it. This book will encourage and uplift anyone who reads it.

—TOM BARRETT  
SOUTHEAST FLORIDA DISTRICT COORDINATOR,  
GOSPEL CRUSADE MINISTERIAL FELLOWSHIP

Jim Collins has been a voice for positive thinking for many years. *Beyond Positive Thinking* is a current, relevant God-word for today. Jim succinctly articulates the necessity of speaking what God has already said and applying what He has already accomplished. Anyone reading this book and practicing these principles will be more successful and prosperous. In a season of difficulties and limited vision, this book helps you actualize your God-given potential.

—DR. NORMAN BENZ, PASTOR  
COVENANT CENTRE INTERNATIONAL

There are many good motivational and success authors and speakers, but Jim Collins takes you to a different level in his new book, *Beyond Positive Thinking*. He doesn't just tell you how to be successful, he shows you with 100 percent proof.

—PAUL FITZPATRICK, DIRECTOR  
PHD HEALING ROOMS

*Beyond Positive Thinking* is a must read for every born-again believer, and it will help anybody who is struggling in everyday life. I have been a born-again Christian since 1954, and as I was reading, I learned and relearned the principles of God's Word for my life. *Beyond Positive Thinking* is a book of challenge for change. It was changing me as the words leaped from its pages to my heart.

—PASTOR BOB DAILEY  
BACK TO SQUARE ONE MINISTRIES  
“FROM THE HEART OF THE PASTOR” TV INTERNET PROGRAM

*Beyond Positive Thinking* is a fresh revelation of God's Word. As I was reading I found myself saying, “I knew that, but never thought of it that way.” This book will impart the principles of Christianity into the hearts of people seeking more

success and motivation in their lives.

—STEPHEN ZOELLER  
ZOELLER MOTORSPORTS MINISTRIES

*Beyond Positive Thinking* will challenge your personal faith as you embark on a journey to a satisfied, joyful life. Jim's grasp of God's Word is unparalleled, and his application of it to our everyday, modern lives is refreshing. Thank you for your inspiring approach on these time-honored scriptures and for reminding us that we must do more than simply hear and read God's Word; we must also speak God's Word. By speaking God's Word, and sharing it with others, it is only then that we become truly aware of its meaning and are able to apply it to our own lives.

—GREG PROVENZANO  
PRESIDENT AND CO-FOUNDER, ACN, INC

This book is needed today more than ever before. As a business owner, this is a great reference book for anyone in business or desiring to start a business. The principles in this book will guarantee anyone's success in life because it is founded on the Word of God.

—JACINTH WALDRON, CEO  
R.E.I.G.N. MARKETING & CONSULTING LLC

Pastor Jim Collins is a truly inspired and prolific writer. He provides a depth of expression that is both insightful and moving. *Beyond Positive Thinking* is a powerful classic and a must read.

—DAVE GERHARDT  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
BIOMETICS INTERNATIONAL

*Beyond Positive Thinking* is a must read for anyone who has a dream, for anyone who desires to achieve, and for anyone who just wants more out of life. Each year dozens of self-help books are released that provide nothing more than recycled platitudes. It is refreshing to see the real source of positive thinking so clearly spelled out in a clear, concise format. Equally refreshing is the acknowledgement that true power does not come from quantum physics or a godless universe, but comes from the love of a merciful God. Jim Collins will teach you how to tap into the force that created the universe. His concepts are

scripturally sound and documented. This book will change your life.

—JOHN WHITTAKER  
LIEUTENANT COLONEL, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS, (RET.)  
NUSKIN ENTERPRISES TEAM ELITE DISTRIBUTOR AND  
MILLION DOLLAR CIRCLE EARNER

Although we are daily bombarded with the advancement of technology, *Beyond Positive Thinking* demands our attention. By reading this book we have to evaluate and then re-evaluate every aspect of our lives, and then instructed by Jim and strengthened by God's Word, our lives can become dynamic and successful.

—JACK WELLS  
FOUNDER, SCHOOLIFE

Jim Collins gives you all you need to know in order to begin to fulfill your God-given destiny and achieve success in the marketplace. Your character, faith, perseverance, and love of God are keys to the life you seek. Jim tells us that character is directly tied to the condition of your heart, and I agree. Have you had a spiritual EKG recently? This book could save your spiritual life and destiny.

—JACK A. SERRA, SR.  
1988 ERNST AND YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR  
FOR NEW JERSEY  
AUTHOR OF *REVEALER OF THE ENEMY AND MARKETPLACE* AND  
*MARRIAGE & SUCCESS: THE SPIRITUAL CONNECTION*

I have seen Pastor Jim go from business owner to leader of his own congregation to inspiring professional speaker. He mixes faith and action in everything he does (not to mention, being one of life's true "good guys"). He can show you how to plug into the biblical principles he both preaches and practices in order to achieve massive success in your own life.

—BOB BURG  
CO-AUTHOR, *THE GO-GIVER*

Move beyond positive thinking and into a powerful walk of faith. Jim Collins's new book will show you how to embrace all that God has in store for you.

—TOM CRATON, GENERAL MANAGER

WCNO RADIO

Jim Collins has taken the faith message to another level in *Beyond Positive Thinking*. His unique way of linking the love and power of God with faith will transform you from glory to glory. This book will train you to speak, think, and walk in the promises that belong to every believer.

—RICK MADISON  
INTERNATIONAL EVANGELIST, AUTHOR, TV HOST

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JIM COLLINS

**Excel**  
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# CONTENTS

[Acknowledgments](#)

[Introduction](#)

[1 The Power Twins](#)

[2 You and the Force That Created the Universe](#)

[3 Receiving Your Heart's Desire](#)

[4 Your Thoughts Run Your Life](#)

[5 Living on God's Frequency](#)

[6 How to be Successful in Life](#)

[7 Programming Your Success Mechanism](#)

[8 The Emotional Roller Coaster](#)

[9 Keys to Setting and Achieving Your Goals](#)

[10 The Power Within You](#)

[Conclusion](#)

[Appendix: Receiving the Presence and Power of God](#)

[Notes](#)

[Bibliography](#)

[About the Author](#)

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- Finally, I thank my heavenly Father for His unending love. I thank my personal Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for calling me into the ministry, and I thank the Holy Spirit for equipping me to preach the Word of God so that lives will be changed.

## INTRODUCTION

**T**HE CONCEPT of positive thinking was put into writing around 1400 B.C. by the author Moses. Later authors through the first century A.D. elaborated on the concept of positive thinking; their works are a collection of sixty-six books collectively known as the Holy Bible. The biblical concept of positive thinking is called “faith.”

Positive thinking and faith are similar, but different. Positive thinking attempts to use your own power or an ambiguous higher power to fulfill your own personal agenda. Faith relies on God’s power. Positive thinking is all about your agenda and you manipulating your environment. Faith is all about God’s agenda and allowing God to fulfill His will and purpose for your life. Positive thinking is all about yourself and what you can get. Faith is all about God and what He can do through you. Positive thinking is filled with pride due to personal manipulation of the spiritual realm. Faith is filled with humility due to the recognition that your power comes from God. Positive thinking is all about the creation; faith is all about the Creator. Positive thinking is about satisfying self; faith is about glorifying God.

The purpose of your life on the earth is to glorify God. Jesus said that He had brought glory to God here on the earth by completing the work that God the Father had given Him to do (John 17:4, AMP). You can also glorify God while you are on the earth by completing the work that God has given you to do. Completing the work that God has assigned to you includes realizing your God-given dream. Realizing your God-given dream glorifies God!

You were created to have fellowship with God through the process of realizing your God-given dream. Daily fellowship with God begins that process. During your times of fellowship with God, He will give you the details, the plans, and the necessary steps you need to realize your God-given dream. Your God-given dream represents the work that God has given you to do while you are on the earth. Your fellowship with God facilitates the process of realizing your God-given dream.

There are three truths that will enable you to get the most benefit from this book: First, the Bible contains the writings that are inspired by God. (See 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:19–21.) This collection of sixty-six books contains the information that God considered important enough to be preserved through the ages. The efficacy of the Bible as God’s Word is based on overwhelming historical, archeological, and prophetic proof.

There is more manuscript support for the Holy Bible, and specifically the New Testament, than for any other body of ancient literature. The Christian’s New Testament (books) were the most frequently copied and widely circulated books of antiquity.<sup>1</sup> There are 5,686 Greek and 10,000+ Latin included in 24,970+ total extant (current existing) manuscripts attesting to the integrity of the Holy Bible.<sup>2</sup> Two of the most important manuscripts were written within 300 years after the New Testament was completed, and some virtually complete New Testament books, as well as extensive fragmentary manuscripts of many parts of the New Testament date back to one century from the original writings.<sup>3</sup> In comparison, Homer’s Iliad is second (in manuscript support) with only 643 manuscripts that still survive. The first complete preserved text of Homer dates from the thirteenth century.<sup>4</sup> The thirteenth century is 2,100 years after Homer died. No documents of the ancient period are as well attested bibliographically as the New Testament.<sup>5</sup> Nothing is even close.

Second, the Bible is *God’s Master Success Book*—His blueprint for your success in life. The principles contained in *God’s Master Success Book* will work for you to the degree that you believe they will work for you. Approach the Bible not as the word of men, but as a divinely inspired message from God to you (1 Thess. 2:13). Accepting God’s Word as the source of truth for your life will provide guidance for you. The principles in *God’s Master Success Book* will work effectively in your life because the words that God speaks are alive and full of power (Heb. 4:12, AMP). You can be confident that when you act on the principles contained in *God’s Master Success Book*, they will become active, operative, energizing, and effective in your life. There is power within the pages of the Bible because those pages contain more than just knowledge and facts; they contain the essence of life itself.

Third, the Bible reveals the will of the Creator of the universe. God’s Word was written for you. Look up the scriptures personally and study them for yourself. Always confirm with chapter and verse whenever anyone tells you what the Bible says. Any speaker or writer who is accurately pointing out

what the Bible says. Any speaker or writer who is accurately pointing out biblical truths must have taken those truths from the Bible and therefore should know where in the Bible those truths are stated.

As you learn and apply the principles in *God's Master Success Book* you will experience an increased level of motivation and inspiration. Your personal success will be catapulted to a level you have never before known. You will be able to tap into the force that created the universe by understanding who you are, what you have, and what you can do because God made it possible for you to enjoy His life, His nature, and His ability. The power of God makes it possible for you to tap into the force that created the universe.

The answers you need for your success and motivation are already in Scripture. The power that created the universe has always been available to you. This is your time to learn how to tap into the force that created the universe.

## Chapter 1

### THE POWER TWINS

**P**OSITIVE THINKING is similar to what God calls “faith.” However, positive thinking is limited by the abilities of the individual. Faith has no limits because God has no limits. Faith allows an individual to tap into the force that created the universe.

#### POSITIVE THINKING AND FAITH

Positive thinking begins and ends with the human mind. Faith is a product of the human spirit. Positive thinking attempts to attain happiness as a result of thinking positive thoughts. Faith provides joy under all circumstances. Positive thinking focuses on thinking positive thoughts. Faith thinks according to the Word of God. Positive thinking hopes to possess the objects of its thoughts. Faith possesses the rights, privileges, and benefits that God has already provided. Positive thinking gives the credit to man. Faith gives the glory to God. Positive thinking strives to win in life based on the ability to maintain a positive attitude. Faith has already secured the victory and responds to the circumstances in life with thanksgiving.

You are an individual miracle of God. You came into this world as pure potentiality. You are the only person with the potential to accomplish a specific task, the realization of your God-given dream. God created you to do something during your life that only you can do. No other person can fulfill your unique assignment here on the earth. There is no other person to do the work that has been assigned exclusively to you. Realizing your God-given dream requires that you develop your faith. Faith makes it possible for you to receive God’s best for your life



you are.

You were created to have fellowship with God through the process of realizing your God-given dream.

God created you to have fellowship with Him through the process of realizing your God-given dream. Your dreams are God seeking expression through you. God has provided you with everything you need in order to realize your God-given dream. God loves you, God has blessed you, and God has made provision for your success in life.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

—JEREMIAH 29:11, NIV

God has a future planned for you. That future includes prosperity, hope, and love. You have been given free will; you can choose to accept the future God has made available to you. You accept the future God has for you through faith. Faith stays focused on the One who is faithful to perform His Word in your life. It is faith that enables you to receive all the provisions that God has already made available for you. Living a life of faith releases God’s ability as you realize your God-given dream.

Part of your success in life includes the person you become in the process of realizing your God-given dream. Faith enables you to become everything God says you are, to possess everything God says you have, and to accomplish everything God says you can do.

## FAITH RECEIVES GOD’S REWARDS AND BLESSINGS

All things are possible to the person who has faith. Faith accepts God’s promises and receives God’s rewards and blessings.

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

—HEBREWS 11:6, NIV

God’s realm is a faith realm. Believing that God exists and believing that God will reward you both require faith.

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

—MATTHEW 6:33

Jesus stated that when you put God and His kingdom first in your life, you will receive the things you need in your life. Jesus stated that when you live right the door to God's provision is opened to you. You seek both God and His kingdom by diligently studying the principles in *God's Master Success Book*. Seeking God includes spending time with Him. Whenever you spend time learning God's Word you are spending time with God. Seeking God includes learning God's Word by hearing God's Word.

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

—ROMANS 10:17

Faith in God is faith in His Word. Your faith will grow as you diligently study God's Word. Your confidence in God's success principles will increase in direct proportion to your knowledge and understanding of those principles. Your knowledge and understanding will increase as you hear God's Word. The results you obtain from the study of God's Word will be in direct proportion to your application of God's success principles in your daily life.

It is faith in action that receives the rewards and blessings of God. The success principles in God's Word will work for anyone who acts on them. Action is the catalyst that releases the power of God.

## THE POWER TWINS—FAITH AND LOVE

Faith is the first half of the Power Twins.

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

—HEBREWS 11:1, NIV

Faith is being sure of what you hope for. Hope is confident expectation that you will realize your God-given dream. Your faith is an essential element in the realization of your God-given dream. Faith sees your dream as a reality before your eyes see the end result. Faith releases the ability of God and causes events and circumstances to unfold according to the image of your dream. Faith does not wait for the five physical senses to confirm your dream because faith knows that God's promises are trustworthy. Faith is knowing that you will realize your God-given dream.

Love is the second half of the Power Twins.

For [if we are] in Christ Jesus, neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith activated and energized and expressed and working through love.<sup>1</sup>

—GALATIANS 5:6, AMP

Love activates your faith.<sup>2</sup> Love is what empowers your faith to receive the rewards and blessings of God. Love is what energizes your faith to realize your God-given dream.

The phrase “love your neighbor as yourself” is repeated eight times in the Bible. (See Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 19:19; 22:39; Mark 12:31; Luke 10:27; Romans 13:9; Galatians 5:14; James 2:8.) The first person you need to love is yourself. You must have love for yourself in order to effectively share your love with others. A healthy self-image and a high level of self-esteem enable and empower you to give love to others. God is love and Jesus commanded His followers to love one another with the God-kind of love.

This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

—JOHN 15:12

Jesus’ quote, “as I have loved you,” refers to the God-kind of love. Jesus expressed the character of God, and He also exhibited the characteristics of the God-kind of love.

## Action is the catalyst that releases the power of God.

The Greek word for the love that Jesus spoke of is *agape*, which refers to the God-kind of love.<sup>3</sup> The characteristics of the God-kind of love, agape love, are found in 1 Corinthians chapter 13:

Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

—1 CORINTHIANS 13:4–8

The characteristics of agape love culminate with the victory cry “Love never fails.” God is love and God never fails. As you live a life of faith and express that faith by walking in love, you never fail. Love never fails; love always succeeds. When you walk in love, you always succeed!

## THE POWER TWINS AT WORK

Love, agape love, is what makes faith effective. Faith grows as you practice walking in love.

And if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing.  
—1 CORINTHIANS 13:2, NLT

Were you to possess the faith that could remove the problems, challenges, and obstacles from your life, but were lacking in love, you would have accomplished nothing in the eyes of God. You must practice the God-kind of love to fully develop your faith. Unless you walk in love, your faith will always be shallow and ineffective.

### When you walk in love, you always succeed!

So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them. And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses."

—MARK 11:22–25

Jesus begins in Mark 11:22 by saying you must have faith in God. He then says to release your faith with your words. The grand finale of faith takes place by believing that you have received the things you asked for when you prayed. Next, you are cautioned to search your heart to see if you are harboring any unforgiveness or ill will toward any other person. One of the highest forms of love is to forgive someone. You are admonished to forgive the offenses of others so that you will receive forgiveness for your own trespasses. Love, in the form of forgiveness, makes your faith even more effective. The faith that pleases God says what it wants, believes that it has it, and forgives others.

We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other.

—2 THESSALONIANS 1:3

Intimate fellowship with God becomes available to you as you grow in faith and love. The Power Twins, Faith and Love, will lead you into fellowship; not just fellowship with other people but fellowship with God. Intimate fellowship with God is available to you in each of the following areas:

With His Life (John 10:10)

With His Nature (2 Pet. 1:4)

With His Nature (2 Pet. 1:7)  
With His Ability (Phil. 4:13)  
With His Victory (Rom. 8:37)  
With His Love (Col. 1:13)  
With His Health (1 Pet. 2:24)  
With His Authority (Luke 10:19)  
With His Righteousness (2 Cor. 5:21)  
With His Success (3 John 2)  
With His Riches (Phil. 4:19)

Your intimacy with God grows deeper as your faith and love grow. The Power Twins, Faith and Love, will lead the way for your life-changing experience.

And we also [especially] thank God continually for this, that when you received the message of God [which you heard] from us, you welcomed it not as the word of [mere] men, but as what it truly is, the Word of God, which is effectually at work in you who believe [exercising its superhuman power in those who adhere to and trust in and rely on it].

—1 THESSALONIANS 2:13, AMP

God's Word will work its superhuman power in you and produce results in your life that are far over and above all that you dare ask or think, infinitely beyond your highest prayers, desires, thoughts, hopes, or dreams (Eph. 3:20, AMP). When you take action on the principles contained in *God's Master Success Book* your faith and love will experience tremendous growth. The Power Twins will release the ability of God, and God's ability will assist you in achieving your goals and realizing your God-given dream. The Power Twins, Faith and Love, make God's power effective in your life.

Faith and Love make God's power effective in your  
life.

As you learn how to tap into the force that created the universe, the same power that created the heavens and the earth will be available to help you realize your God-given dream. Your life will never be the same again!

## CHAPTER PRINCIPLES

1. You were created to have fellowship with God through the process of realizing your God-given dream.
2. God has a future planned for you that includes prosperity, hope, and love.
3. God created you to do something during your life that only you can do. There is no other person to do the work that has been assigned exclusively to you.
4. Your dreams are God seeking expression through you.
5. God has provided you with everything you need in order to realize your God-given dream.
6. Part of your success includes the person you become in the process of realizing your God-given dream.
7. Faith enables you to become everything God says you are, to possess everything God says you have, and to accomplish everything God says you can do.
8. Faith in God is faith in His Word.
9. Faith accepts God's promises and receives God's rewards and blessings.
10. Action is the catalyst that releases the power of God.
11. Love, agape love, is what makes faith effective.
12. Your faith grows as you practice walking in love.
13. One of the highest forms of love is in forgiving someone.
14. The faith that pleases God says what it wants, believes that it has it, and forgives others.
15. Faith working through love allows you to tap into the force that created the universe.
16. The Power Twins. Faith and Love. make God's power

For the power of faith, love and hope, make God's power  
effective in your life.

## Chapter 2

# YOU AND THE FORCE THAT CREATED THE UNIVERSE

**G**OD HAS DESIGNED a foundation for you to build your life upon. Building on this foundation will allow you to realize your God-given dream. This foundation will help you reach your full potential and ensure lasting success. The following scripture lays the foundation that will enable you to tap into the force that created the universe:

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

—2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

A new creation has the ability to tap into the force that created the universe. The answers to the following four questions will help you understand the significance of being a new creation:

1. What does it mean to be “in Christ”?
2. What does it mean to be a new creation?
3. What are the old things that have passed away?
4. What things have become new?

### **1. What does it mean to be “in Christ”?**

The phrase “in Christ” refers to a relationship between God and an individual. It is not because you belong to a particular church or attend a particular religious meeting that you have the benefits of God; it is because you belong to Jesus. To be in Christ is to be a child of God, a son or daughter of the Creator of the



universe.

For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

—GALATIANS 3:26, NLT

You are in the family of God through faith in Jesus Christ. God is your spiritual Father, and it was He who created the universe. God created everything, and you, as a child of God, have become an heir to it all. God created mankind to have fellowship with Him, to have dominion over all the earth, and to enjoy life in union and communion with Him. Fellowship includes intimate conversation and communion. One of the greatest desires of an earthly parent is to have fellowship, intimate conversation, and communion with his children, and so it is with your heavenly Father. You can talk to God just as you would talk to a loving parent.

To be in Christ is to be a son or daughter of the Creator  
of the universe.

And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!”

—GALATIANS 4:6

The phrase “Abba, Father”<sup>1</sup> refers to a close, intimate relationship with God. “Abba, Father!” is expressive of an especially close relationship between a child and a loving father. God the Father is a God of love, and you are an heir of God through Christ.

Therefore, you are no longer a slave (bond servant) but a son; and if a son, then [it follows that you are] an heir by the aid of God, through Christ.

—GALATIANS 4:7, AMP

You have been given an inheritance to enjoy. As a son or daughter of God, your inheritance is revealed to you in Christ. (See Ephesians 1:11.) You have become an heir to everything God says you are, everything God says you have, and everything God says you can do. As a child of God, you have access to all God’s resources. As God’s heir, you can claim what He has provided for you.

You are God’s child; you have been adopted into His royal family (Eph. 1:5, NLT). Your inheritance includes all the blessings of God. You have the ability to receive the provision God has already provided for you. You can live an enjoyable and satisfying life. God’s will for your life is that you embrace the

rights, privileges, and responsibilities of a child in God's family.

For we are God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew] that we may do those good works which God predestined (planned beforehand) for us [taking paths which He prepared ahead of time], that we should walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live].

—EPHESIANS 2:10, AMP

The Greek word translated *workmanship* is the word *poiema*, from which we get the English word poem. It literally means “a work of art.” God created you, His work of art, with the potential to accomplish the work He gave you to do. Your work, the path you are to take, is the realization of your God-given dream. God made provision for you to be able to realize your God-given dream, and that provision was made before you were placed on this earth. You receive the blessings of God into your life as you fulfill the plan He has for you on this earth.

You are a loved and cherished one-of-a-kind creation. You are special, unique, and irreplaceable. God has specific plans for you that nobody else can accomplish. Only you can complete the work that has been assigned to you. Only you can realize your God-given dream.

You were created not just to exist, but to live a fulfilled and significant life. God prearranged and made available everything that is necessary for you to live the good life. The “good works” God planned ahead of time for you to accomplish include the realization of your God-given dream.

You are a loved and cherished one-of-a-kind creation.

## **2. What does it mean to be a new creation?**

To understand the new creation, you must first understand the new birth, because out of the new birth comes the new creation. Your interpretation of the new birth will determine your perspective on your entire Christian experience.

There was a man named Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader who was a Pharisee. After dark one evening, he came to speak with Jesus. “Rabbi,” he said, “we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miraculous signs are evidence that God is with you.” Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God.” “What do you mean?” exclaimed Nicodemus. “How can an old man go back into his mother's womb and be born again?” Jesus replied, “I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life. So don't be surprised when I say, ‘You must be born again.’”

—JOHN 3:1–7, NLT

Jesus told Nicodemus that he must be born again to be able to see and enter the kingdom of God. Nicodemus was confused about how a grown man could be born a second time. Jesus ended Nicodemus' confusion by explaining that he did not need to be born physically a second time, he needed to be born again spiritually.

The new birth takes place in the human spirit. It is the human spirit, the part of man that communicates with God, which needs to be reconnected to the source of all life. It is not the physical part of a person that needs to be born again, but the spiritual part of a person. To be born again is to become a new creation. The new birth is the recreation of the human spirit.

### The new birth is the recreation of the human spirit.

That whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

—JOHN 3:15–16

I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, he who believes in Me [who adheres to, trusts in, relies on, and has faith in Me] has (now possesses) eternal life.

—JOHN 6:47, AMP

Eternal life (also translated as everlasting life) is the life and nature of God, which is imparted to a person's spirit at the new birth making them a new creation. It is the life and nature of God that makes a person a new creation. This new creation has spiritual union with Deity.

Eternal life does not begin after physical death. Eternal life is a present possession, not something that is obtained at a future date. Eternal life begins at the new birth and continues for eternity. Eternal life starts here on the earth the moment a person becomes a new creation.

### Eternal life is the life and nature of God.

A born-again Christian is one who has received eternal life; one who has received the life and nature of God. Receiving eternal life is a supernatural experience that occurs during the rebirth of every child of God.

### **3. What are the old things that have passed away?**

The biblical story of the creation of mankind includes the account of the fall

of mankind. The old things are a direct result of the fall of mankind. The story of the creation of mankind and the account of the fall of the human race are found in the first book of the Bible, Genesis.

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

—GENESIS 1:26–27

God created mankind to be a reflection of His own image, a reflection of His own nature. God created human beings to be like Him and to be the agents of His authority on the earth.

Then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath or spirit of life, and man became a living being.

—GENESIS 2:7, AMP

It is at this point in the story of the creation of mankind that God created man physically. God had already created man in His own image and likeness, a spiritual being. God then put the spirit (man) He had created into a physical body.

God then put the man, the spirit with a physical body, into the Garden of Eden and gave him a specific command.

The LORD God put the man in the garden of Eden to care for it and work it. The LORD God commanded him, "You may eat the fruit from any tree in the garden, but you must not eat the fruit from the tree which gives the knowledge of good and evil. If you ever eat fruit from that tree, you will die!"

—GENESIS 2:15–17, NCV

God's specific command was to refrain from eating the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God warned that disobedience would result in death. This type of death would cause the fall of mankind and the fall of mankind would bring the onset of the old things.

The next event recorded in the creation story of mankind led to the dilemma the human race finds itself in today.

The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the LORD God had made. One day he asked the woman, "Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?" "Of course we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden," the woman replied. "It's only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said, 'You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die.'" "You won't die!" the serpent replied to the woman. "God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you

will be like God, knowing both good and evil.” The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too.

—GENESIS 3:1–6, NLT

God had made a woman to be a helper and companion for the man. The actions taken by the man and the woman resulted in disobedience.<sup>2</sup> Both the man and the woman knew that disobedience would result in death. However, the consequence of their disobedience, death, did not happen immediately.

At that moment their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves. When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man and his wife heard the LORD God walking about in the garden. So they hid from the LORD God among the trees. Then the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?” He replied, “I heard you walking in the garden, so I hid. I was afraid because I was naked.” “Who told you that you were naked?” the LORD God asked. “Have you eaten from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat?” The man replied, “It was the woman you gave me who gave me the fruit, and I ate it.” Then the LORD God asked the woman, “What have you done?” “The serpent deceived me,” she replied. “That’s why I ate it.”

—GENESIS 3:7–13, NLT

The type of death Adam and Eve experienced was not physical death, but spiritual death. God had warned that death would be the result of disobedience. Spiritual death was the immediate consequence of violating God’s command. Physical death was the delayed consequence of spiritual death. Just as God created mankind twice, first spiritually and then physically, there are two kinds of death, spiritual death and physical death.

Spiritual death occurred when Adam and Eve disobeyed God. Spiritual death resulted in broken fellowship with God. Adam and Eve had always known the privilege of regular conversation with God. Their intimate fellowship with God was now ended. The loss of that privilege was extended to the future generations of the human race. All future generations of humanity became subject to the same spiritual death that Adam and Eve experienced.

**Spiritual death is separation from God.**

Spiritual death caused separation from God. When God created Adam, Adam possessed spiritual life, the life and nature of God. Due to Adam’s disobedience (sin) all of humanity became as he had become, separated from God and spiritually dead.

When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned....Still, everyone died—from the time of Adam to the time of Moses—even those who did not disobey an explicit commandment of God, as Adam did. Now Adam is a symbol, a representation of Christ, who was yet to come.

—ROMANS 5:12, 14, NLT

The human race is separated from God and spiritually dead because of Adam's sin. Sin caused spiritual death, and spiritual death separated the human race from God. The old things that have passed away are spiritual death and being separated from God.

#### **4. What things have become new?**

Spiritual death and being separated from God have passed away. God, the Creator of the universe, has once again become the spiritual Father of those who choose to be spiritually reborn (born again). When a person is reunited with God, he or she receives eternal life (spiritual life).

For just as [because of their union of nature] in Adam all people die, so also [by virtue of their union of nature] shall all in Christ be made alive.

—1 CORINTHIANS 15:22, AMP

Every person who is in Christ is spiritually alive. The things that have become new include a recreated spirit filled with eternal life and an inheritance as an heir of God. The inheritance of a child of God includes immediate entitlement to the blessings of God. The blessings of God include the promises of God.

For as many as are the promises of God, they all find their Yes [answer] in Him [Christ].

—2 CORINTHIANS 1:20, AMP

The promises of God make the benefits of God available to the child of God. The benefits of God are threefold. First, who you are in Christ; second, what you have in Christ; and third, what you can do because you are in Christ. Your inheritance—who you are, what you have, and what you can do—is found within the “in Him” scriptures. There are more than one hundred “in Him” scriptures in the New Testament. The “in Him” scriptures contain the following, or similar, phrases:

In Christ, in Christ Jesus, in Him, in Himself, in the Beloved, in the Lord, in Whom, in His Son, by Christ, by Him, by Himself, by His Blood, by His Grace, from Whom, of Christ, of Him, of His Love, through Christ, through Him, with Christ, with Him, in Me, in My Love, in My Name, in His Name.

The rights and privileges of your inheritance are also found within the “in

Him” scriptures. Most of the “in Him” scriptures are found in the Gospel of John and in the Epistles.<sup>3</sup> The Epistles are found in the New Testament from the book of Romans through the book of Jude. The Epistles are letters that were written to established churches or for the church as a whole.<sup>4</sup> The Christians of today are the modern day church. The Epistles are timeless, they were written for the benefit of all Christians throughout all time. The principles expressed in the Epistles are as relevant today as they were two thousand years ago.

The things that have become new include who you are; you are a child of God. The things that have become new include what you have; you have eternal life and an inheritance from God. The things that have become new include what you can do; you can realize your God-given dream.

Your inheritance is found within the “in Him”  
scriptures.

Enjoying these new things starts with your relationship with God. When you choose to receive eternal life, your human spirit is recreated and filled with God’s life and nature. The life and nature of God give you access to God’s ability. You can have that same ability within you in the person of the Holy Spirit. You receive the Spirit of God when you are born again and filled with the Holy Spirit. You can be born again and filled with the Holy Spirit today!<sup>5</sup>

## CHAPTER PRINCIPLES

1. God planned a foundation upon which you can realize your God-given dream.
2. A new creation has the ability to tap into the force that created the universe.
3. To be in Christ is to be a child of God, a son or daughter of the Creator of the universe.
4. As a child of God, you have access to all God's resources. As God's heir, you can claim what He has provided for you.
5. God's will for your life is that you embrace the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of a child in God's family.
6. Your work, the path you are to take, is the realization of your God-given dream.
7. God has specific plans for you that nobody else can accomplish.
8. It is the human spirit, the part of man that communicates with God, which needs to be reconnected to the source of all life.
9. The new birth is the re-creation of the human spirit.
10. Eternal life, the life and nature of God, is a present possession.
11. There are two kinds of death, spiritual death and physical death.
12. Your inheritance—who you are, what you have, and what you can do—is found within the “in Him” scriptures.
13. The benefits of God are threefold. First, who you are in Christ—you are a child of God. Second, what you have in Christ—you have eternal life and an inheritance. Third, what you can do in Christ—you can realize your God-given dream!



## Chapter 3

### RECEIVING YOUR HEART'S DESIRE

**P**ART OF REALIZING your God-given dream is receiving your heart's desire.<sup>1</sup> You will be able to receive the desires of your heart to the degree that you delight yourself in Him. To delight yourself in Him requires that you make a decision to live according to who you are in Christ.

Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.

—PSALM 37:4

To delight yourself in the Lord is to be in Christ and to enjoy that reality. To delight yourself in the Lord requires that you make a decision to live according to God's will for your life. God's will is that the reality of who you are in Christ becomes the dominant desire of your heart.

May He grant your heart's desires and make all your plans succeed.

—PSALM 20:4, NLT

It is encouraging to know that it is God's will to give you your heart's desire. It is encouraging to know that it is God's will to make all your plans succeed. When you make a decision to live according to who you are in Christ, God will cause your thoughts to become agreeable to His will. Your plans will succeed, you will receive your heart's desire, and you will realize your God-given dream.

Your heart's desire includes what you have a passion to be, to do, and to have.

Your heart's desire includes what you have a passion to be, to do, and to have. Your heart's desire includes the improvements you want to make in your life. Your heart's desire may include a closer relationship with your family or a stronger marriage. Perhaps your heart's desire includes improving your health. You may desire more prosperity in your business or career. You may desire to give more money to your church or your favorite charity. Perhaps identifying your God-given dream and implementing God's plan for your life would be your heart's desire.

## VISUALIZE YOUR IDEAL DAY

If you had no limitations on your income or your life, what would your ideal day be like? Create an image of your ideal day in your mind. What time would your day start? Imagine the start of your ideal day with waking up at your personal ideal time.

How will you start your day? Perhaps the first thing you do is thank God for all the blessings He has given you. One of those blessings might be the ability to start your day when you want because God has blessed you with a flexible schedule. Will you spend some quiet time in fellowship with God reading His Word? The Bible is not only the "Owner's Manual" for your life, it is also the "Success Manual" for your life!

Will the rest of your morning include some kind of exercise? Perhaps some light stretching and a walk or a bike ride. You may prefer working out at your favorite health club. Your body was created to be active, and it feels good to exercise once you start to get in shape.

Your ideal day may start with a nice refreshing shower and then a nutritious breakfast. Your breakfast may include enjoying some fresh fruit, some oatmeal, or perhaps some eggs with a fresh baked bagel.

Will you be doing some form of work today, or is today going to be a relaxing day off? What kind of work will you be doing, and who will you be working with? Will you be working from your home office or at a location outside your home? Perhaps your day will be filled with the work of ministry. In the Bible, the words *ministry* and *service* are synonymous. If you are a Christian you are a minister, and when you are serving you are ministering. Serving those less fortunate than yourself will send your self-esteem soaring and give you the deep inner satisfaction that comes with knowing that you are really making a

difference.

Do you have a busy evening planned with your family, or will it be a quiet evening alone with that special person in your life? Will you eat dinner out or enjoy a home cooked meal together? Perhaps tonight is a special night for you and your spouse because you are celebrating the financial freedom that you achieved together.

There are three good reasons for creating and visualizing your ideal day. First, to reinforce that your dreams are God seeking expression through you. Second, to know that God wants to grant your heart's desire and make all your plans succeed. Third, creating your ideal day is a vital discovery because a successful life is a series of successful days.

A successful life is a series of successful days. Your  
daily habits are creating your future.

Your daily habits are creating your future. You must discover where you want to go before you can develop the habits that will take you there. Use some of your quiet time to allow yourself to visualize your ideal day. Slip away occasionally on a mind relaxation journey by imagining where you want your habits to take you.

### CREATE THE KIND OF LIFE YOU WANT

You can create the kind of life you really want. Many people have a difficult time deciding what kind of life they want to live, and because they never figure out what they want from life, they leave this life with their music still inside of them.

A better approach to finding out what you want from life is to start the process by finding out what God's will is for you during your life. The general answer to this personal dilemma is found in *God's Master Success Book*. God's general will for your life is contained within the principles outlined in His Word. The specific answer to this personal dilemma is found by identifying the unique talents, gifts, skills, and abilities that will allow you to receive your heart's desire and realize your God-given dream.

God gave you talents, gifts, skills, and abilities that will allow you to receive your heart's desire and realize your God-given dream. You have unique talents, gifts, skills, and abilities that nobody else possesses. It is your responsibility to

gifts, skills, and abilities that nobody else possesses. It is your responsibility to identify those talents, gifts, skills, and abilities and then focus on becoming excellent at them. When you become excellent at them, you will be using them for God's glory. As you develop your potential, you will discover what God specifically intends for you to do with your life.

At first, being so concerned with what you want may appear to be a little self-centered. However, discovering what you want is not leaving God out and it is not being concerned with only yourself. Discovering what you really want is not about being selfish; it is about taking responsibility for the life that God has prepared for you to live. If the kind of life you want is in agreement with God's will, then it will bring glory to God. The ultimate goal of your existence is to glorify God by doing what He has called you to do, which is realizing your God-given dream!

Living the kind of life you want is very different from pursuing wants solely by acquiring material things. Many people are living lives void of love, joy, peace, and contentment. It is important to realize that these qualities cannot be obtained through the pursuit and accumulation of things, but they can be obtained by living a life according to God's will.

The best way to predict your future is to create it! Creating your future starts with knowing what kind of life you want, knowing what your future is supposed to look like, and knowing what you must become in order to receive everything you want. The following seven questions will help you identify what it is you want to be, to do, and to have:

1. What kind of life do you want?
2. What have you always dreamed of doing, but were afraid to attempt?
3. What kind of work would you do if you did not need the money?
4. What are your unique talents, gifts, skills, and abilities?
5. What has God called you to do?
6. What does your ideal day look like?
7. What one great thing would you do if you knew you could not fail?

Writing the answers to those questions is proof that you can live your dreams. You just need to identify what kind of life you want. If you can see it with your imagination, you can experience it in your life. Your answers to those questions will help you identify what you love to do and encourage your passion for the desires that God has placed within you.

desires that God has placed within you.

The rich and satisfying life you are destined to live starts with what you want to do with your life. God gave you His life, His nature, and His ability so that you could tap into the force that created the universe. You can harness that power as an aid to help you live your dreams. God created you to have fellowship with Him so that the two of you could work together as you fulfill your God-given potential on this earth. God created you to have fellowship with Him through the process of realizing your God-given dream. God has already provided you with an abundance of life; now it is up to you to create your own abundant life here on earth.

I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows).

—JOHN 10:10, AMP

The word *life* that Jesus is speaking of refers to the God-kind of life. The Greek word that is translated as *life* is *zoe*. The word *zoe* refers to life as God has it.<sup>2</sup> Jesus came to give you an abundance of God's life. He gave you abundant life from heaven so you could create your own abundant life here on earth. Jesus came to the earth so you could have *and* enjoy life, and have it in abundance!

Most people desire to have abundant life, and Jesus said that He came to make abundant life available. You will personally experience the reality of abundant life as you learn how to tap into the force that created the universe.

**The best way to predict your future is to create it!**

The formula that will enable you to receive your heart's desire and realize your God-given dream is contained in *God's Master Success Book*. Everything you need for the rest of your life has already been provided for you in Christ. It is your responsibility to receive that entire provision into your life. That provision begins with your salvation.

Your salvation was made available through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ more than two thousand years ago. However, you did not receive your salvation until you acted according to God's Word. You received the provision of salvation only after you took action. All of God's promises are available to you, and all of those promises can be received by acting according to God's Word. Two of those promises include prosperity and health (3 John 1:2). To receive any of God's promises, including prosperity and health, you must put God's Word into

practice in your life. The Word of God will work for anyone who acts according to the instructions contained in *God's Master Success Book*.

If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

—ROMANS 10:9, NLT

You received your salvation by confessing that Jesus is your Lord and believing in your heart that God raised Him from the dead. You received your salvation by confessing and believing, and now the rest of your Christian life is to be based on that truth. You will continue to receive everything that God has promised you by confessing and believing. When you acted on God's Word, by confessing and believing, God supernaturally removed your old sinful nature of spiritual death. Spiritual death prevented you from having and enjoying abundant life. God replaced the old nature of spiritual death with a new nature filled with spiritual life (God's life, which is eternal life). Now God's ability is available so that you can enjoy an abundant life.

When you received eternal life, the same power that spoke the earth and the sun into existence came to make its home in you. The same power that raised Christ from the dead came to live on the inside of you in your re-created spirit. The same power that created the heavens and the earth became available to you. Your spirit is alive with the force that created the universe and that power is waiting for you to take action by believing and speaking. (See 2 Corinthians 4:13.)

For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, "Be removed and be cast into the sea," and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will come to pass, he will have whatever he says.

—MARK 11:23

Creating the kind of life you want starts by speaking words out of a believing heart. You are going to have whatever you believe in your heart and say with your mouth. This is the key to manifesting the promises of God and enjoying your provision in Christ. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Heb. 13:8). Believing and speaking will work just as wonderfully today as it did when Jesus told His disciples, "whoever says...and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will come to pass, he will have whatever he says." Believing and speaking is how you receive all of God's promises. Whatever the heart believes, the mouth confesses.

For with the heart one believes unto righteousness. and with the mouth confession is made unto

salvation.

—ROMANS 10:10

When you acted according to God's Word you changed your eternal destiny. You changed the location of where you are going to spend your eternal future. You are going to live in the presence of God forever. This change took place by believing and speaking. You can also change your future here on the earth by believing and speaking. The way you change your life today and tomorrow is with words spoken out of a believing heart. You can live "a rich and satisfying life"! (John 10:10, NLT).

Jesus addressed the issue of what you will have in your life; you will have what you believe in your heart and say with your mouth.

You can speak your future into existence the same way you spoke your salvation into existence. When you learn how to put your words to work in your life by creating the life you want, then according to Jesus, that is what you will have. Jesus addressed the issue of what you will have in your life; you will have what you believe in your heart and say with your mouth.

If you believe in who you are in Christ, you can do anything! Believing is acting according to God's Word. *To believe* means "to live in accordance with." The principles in *God's Master Success Book* work in your life as you live in accordance with them. *Believing* is an action verb. What you do is the real proof of the kind of life you really want to live. After all the excuses, the proof of how motivated you are is revealed by what you do.

## THE ATTITUDE OF FAITH

The secret to receiving all the benefits of your salvation is to adopt an attitude of faith. Faith is the receptive power of your re-created spirit that takes what God offers you in His Word. The proof that you will receive your heart's desire and realize your God-given dream is based on the integrity of God's Word. Faith declares that God's Word is true in your life today.

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

—HEBREWS 11:1

Faith is the substance that makes what you see out of what you do not see.

Faith gives substance to your heart's desire. The only evidence you need is the picture you hold in your mind of you being in possession of your heart's desire. The thought-image of your heart's desire is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen. Faith provides the assurance that your mental image will become a reality. Faith is the proof that your mental images will manifest in the physical realm.

God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did.

—ROMANS 4:17

God speaks of nonexistent things as if they already existed. You are to follow God's example to create the kind of life you want.

Creating your future starts with your words. You can speak your future into existence. It is up to you whether or not you follow God's example. It is up to you whether or not you receive your heart's desire and realize your God-given dream. Your words are the proof of how certain you are of what you do not see. What you confess with your mouth and believe in your heart is what will come to pass in your life. Jesus said, "The mouth speaks the things that are in the heart" (Matt. 12:34, NCV). Your words are the proof of what you really believe. If you go around saying, "I don't feel good," "I'm sick," "I can't do it," "I don't have enough money to pay my bills," etc., you are going to have what Jesus said you are going to have; whatever you say.

Now faith is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses].

—HEBREWS 11:1, AMP

Faith believes it has something before the five senses give confirmation. Just because something is not revealed to the five physical senses does not mean it does not exist. God is always doing something in your life that you cannot see. Faith makes invisible things real. Faith is the proof that what you cannot see will eventually become a reality in your life.

For we walk by faith, not by sight.

—2 CORINTHIANS 5:7

The phrase *not by sight* means you should not conduct yourself solely according to the sense realm. You are to be governed by faith and not solely by what you see or feel. If God had waited until He could see the sun before He



said, “Let there be light” (Gen. 1:3), nothing would have happened. The same is true in your life. You can change your life starting with your words. Change takes place by faith. Change takes place as you call those things that do not exist as though they did.

God used the principle of speaking things into existence to create the material universe. You were created in the image of God, and you can follow God’s example by using the same principle to create the kind of life you want.

By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

—HEBREWS 11:3

There are two sources of information: the physical realm that can be seen and the spiritual realm which cannot be seen. The things which are visible refer to the physical realm; the things that are not seen refer to the spiritual realm. The physical realm was *not* made out of things we see. According to Hebrews 11:3, the spiritual realm (things that are not seen) created the physical realm (things that are visible).

The entire universe was formed at “God’s command” (Heb. 11:3, NLT). The pattern of creation in Genesis chapter one took place as follows: “God said... God called... and God saw” (Gen. 1:9–10). God called the universe into existence out of nothing; He declared that it was to be and it was. Speaking words preceded seeing results.

The spiritual realm created the physical realm; the  
spiritual realm can change the physical realm.

God made you in His image, to be like Him, and you can follow His example. You can use your words to create your future. Genesis 1:1 states: “In the beginning God created.” You can follow the same example in order to create the kind of life you want.

The spiritual realm created the physical realm. Therefore, if the spiritual realm created the physical realm, then the spiritual realm can change the physical realm. God’s Word and your re-created spirit represent the spiritual realm. Faith is a product of your re-created spirit, and faith is released when you speak God’s Word. It is up to you to release your faith with your words in order to change the course of your life.

## FAITH AND WHO YOU ARE IN CHRIST

The creative ability that made everything we can see and everything we cannot see (including everything in heaven and on earth) is found in Christ.

For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

—COLOSSIANS 1:16

The word *Him* refers to Jesus. God created everything in the universe through Jesus Christ, the living Word of God. (See John 1:1–3, 14.) The most powerful change agent in all of history was Jesus Christ. Jesus is the reason God’s Word is alive and full of power (Heb. 4:12, AMP). Jesus is the Word of power that is upholding and maintaining and propelling the entire universe. (See Hebrews 1:1–3, AMP.) Jesus rose from the dead and He is alive, now seated at the right hand of God.<sup>3</sup> Understanding the present-day ministry of Jesus Christ will help you develop the necessary belief to create the kind of life you want.<sup>4</sup>

Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus.

—HEBREWS 3:1

Jesus is alive at the right hand of God as your High Priest. The high priest in the Old Testament brought the sacrifice to God on behalf of the people. A high priest goes before God on behalf of the people. Jesus went before God on your behalf to secure an eternal redemption for you (Heb. 9:11–12). Now He waits to confirm that redemption in your life through the words you speak.

You can have confidence that the Word of God will work for you because Jesus is the High Priest of your confession, the words you say. If you will put God’s Word in your heart and speak it out of your mouth, God will perform His Word on your behalf. Jesus is living today to confirm the words you say when you speak God’s Word. You can have confidence in the words you say because every time you say something that agrees with the Word of God, Jesus brings your words before the Father so He can make them good in your life. God, your heavenly Father, is faithful to do what He has promised in His Word.

So let us seize and hold fast and retain without wavering the hope we cherish and confess and our acknowledgement of it, for He Who promised is reliable (sure) and faithful to His word.

—HEBREWS 10:23, AMP

The first part of the above verse is your responsibility; you are to maintain your confession of God's Word. The second part of the above verse is God's responsibility; when you continually speak God's Word, God promises you that He is faithful to perform it. God performing His Word in your life starts by accepting God's Word as the source of truth for your life. Your faith becomes effective when you say the same things about yourself that God says about you in His Word.

That the sharing of your faith may become effective by the acknowledgment of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.

—PHILEMON 1:6

You should verbally acknowledge every good thing that belongs to you in Christ. Start saying the same things about yourself that God says about you. You should continually make a positive confession of who you are, what you have, and what you can do because you are in Christ. Then, act on the "in Him" scriptures in every area of your life. Live your life in accordance with the "in Him" scriptures.

Your faith becomes effective when you say the same things about yourself that God says about you in His Word.

All the benefits of your inheritance are available, but you must claim them. You claim your inheritance and receive your benefits by confessing (speaking) and then acting (believing) according to what you have spoken. Confess God's Word and act on God's Word to manifest the benefits of your salvation. The promises of God will become a reality in your life when you confess them and act on them.

### **Verbally confess who you are:**

I am a child of God. (Galatians 3:26)

I am a partaker of God's divine nature. (2 Peter 1:4)

I am a new creation. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

I am more than a conqueror. (Romans 8:37)

### **Verbally confess what you have:**

I have eternal life. (1 John 5:11-12)

I have eternal life. (1 John 5:11-12)

I have the victory. (1 John 5:4)

I have abundant life. (John 10:10)

I have divine health. (1 Peter 2:24)

I have divine provision. (Philippians 4:19)

### **Verbally confess what you can do:**

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. (Philippians 4:13)

I can fulfill God's plan for my life. (Ephesians 2:8-10)

I can live by faith. (2 Corinthians 5:7)

I can walk in love. (1 John 3:14)

I can forgive others. (John 20:23)

I can realize my God-given dream. (John 17:4)

The same Jesus who said you will have whatever you say also told you how you can increase your faith. Your faith can be increased by what you say because faith is released in words.

And the apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith." So the Lord said, "If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea,' and it would obey you."

—LUKE 17:5-6

According to Jesus, with just a little faith, whatever you speak to is going to obey you. You increase your faith by saying the same things that God says in His Word. Instead of talking about what the TV says, instead of talking about what the rest of the world says, instead of talking about what other people are saying, talk about what God says in His Word. God says His plans for you include prosperity, hope, and love. God says He will give you the desires of your heart. God says He is going to make all your plans succeed. Remain obedient by saying the same thing about your life, your success, your heart's desire, and your God-given dream that God says about them. You can have confidence that what you speak to will obey you because Jesus said so!

**Jesus is the High Priest of your positive confession of  
God's Word.**

Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession

You can keep your confidence high in the face of contradictory circumstances by holding fast to your confession. You can stay motivated when the evidence of the sense realm suggests that you are not going to receive your heart's desire by holding fast to your confession. You can remain inspired when it looks like your dreams are not going to come true by holding fast to your confession. Keep on saying what God's Word says! This is the essence of faith; continually saying what God says regardless of what is revealed to the senses. You reinforce your faith when you agree with God's Word by speaking it.

Your success in life is going to be measured by the tenacity with which you hold fast to your confession under all circumstances, regardless of whether those circumstances are positive or negative. Jesus said that you will have whatever you say because when you speak faith-filled words of life and blessing, it is Jesus the living Word, who is guaranteeing the efficacy of God's Word. (See Hebrews 7:22, AMP.) When you made Jesus the Lord of your life, He became the High Priest of your positive confession of God's Word.

Your success in life is going to be measured by the  
tenacity with which you hold fast to your confession of  
God's Word.

## YOUR WORDS AND YOUR FUTURE

One of the ways you can put your faith into practice is by using your words to paint a picture of the kind of life you want. Your tongue is the brush that paints the portrait of your future.

My heart is overflowing with a good theme; I recite my composition concerning the King; my tongue is the pen of a ready writer.

—PSALM 45:1

Think of your tongue as the pen that writes the script of the life you desire. You are either speaking your heart's desire or you are speaking the lack of its reality in your life. Your words are either bringing the supernatural power of God into action in your life or keeping God's power idle in your life. Your tongue is the pen that describes with words what your future will look like. Your tongue has in it the power of life and death.

The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

—PROVERBS 18:21, NIV

You decide whether you are going to grow a crop of success or a crop of failure with the words that come out of your mouth. The kind of fruit growing in your life is determined by the words you speak. The fruit you are growing with your words produces the results you are experiencing in your life. Speaking positive words like “I love you” will attract life into your world. Speaking negative words like “I hate you” will attract death into your world.

## Speaking God’s Word always produces prosperous results!

Speaking your heart’s desire would be analogous to speaking words of life. Speaking the evidence of your five senses when it contradicts the realization of your God-given dream would be analogous to speaking words of death. Whether you speak words of life or words of death, you will reap a harvest from your words just as a farmer enjoys the crops he planted. The farmer can only reap from what he plants. You can only reap from what you plant with your words.

Make sure your words are taking you in the right direction. Continue to believe and confess what God says you are. Continue to believe and confess what God says you have. Continue to believe and confess what God says you can do. Continue to believe and confess your heart’s desire. Continue to believe and confess your God-given dream.

Your life and your future will be enhanced by or limited by the words that come out of your mouth. The outcomes that will take place in your future will be created by the words that come out of your mouth today. You are responsible for the results your words are producing.

So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

—ISAIAH 55:11

Living in agreement with God means living in accordance with His Word. When you speak your heart’s desire in accordance with God’s will, you are agreeing with God. When you are in agreement with God’s Word, your life will prosper with the results. You please God when you speak words that produce prosperous results. Speaking God’s Word always produces prosperous results!

You have given him his heart’s desire and have not withheld the request of his lips. Selah

You have given him his heart's desire and have not withheld the request of his lips. Selah  
[pause, and think of that]!

—PSALM 21:2, AMP

Pause and think about the responsibility God has taken for you to receive your heart's desire. Your heavenly Father has already made provision for you to realize your God-given dream. Next, pause and think about the responsibility you have to receive your heart's desire and realize your God-given dream. The request of your lips will not be withheld. Your responsibility includes maintaining a positive faith confession concerning your heart's desire and the realization of your God-given dream. Be sure your words remain operative by saying the same thing about you and your life that God says about you and your life.

## CHAPTER PRINCIPLES

1. God's will is that the reality of who you are in Christ becomes the dominant desire of your heart.
2. Your heart's desire includes what you have a passion to be, to do, and to have.
3. A successful life is a series of successful days. Your daily habits are creating your future.
4. God gave you His life, His nature, and His ability so that you could tap into the force that created the universe.
5. Jesus came to the earth so you could have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance!
6. Everything you need for the rest of your life has already been provided for you in Christ.
7. Jesus said that you are going to have whatever you believe in your heart and say with your mouth.
8. The principles in God's Master Success Book work in your life as you live in accordance with them.
9. The proof of how motivated you are is revealed by what you do.
10. Faith is the substance that makes what you see out of what you do not see.
11. The spiritual realm created the physical realm; the spiritual realm can change the physical realm.
12. The most powerful change-agent in all of history was Jesus Christ. Jesus is the reason God's Word is alive and full of power.
13. Your faith becomes effective when you say the same things about you and your life that God says about you and your life.
14. You reinforce your faith when you agree with God's Word by



14. You reinforce your faith when you agree with God's word by speaking it.
15. You can paint a picture of your future with your own words.
16. Speaking God's Word always produces prosperous results!

## Chapter 4

### YOUR THOUGHTS RUN YOUR LIFE

**M**ODERN SOCIETY is very problem conscious. Most people focus on their problems, their trials, and the difficulties in their lives. Dwelling on problems promotes negative thinking and produces negative results. Dwelling on solutions to problems promotes positive thinking and produces positive results. The battle between positive thoughts and negative thoughts takes place in your mind.

The way you think is important because a thought takes place before a word is spoken and Jesus said you will have whatever you say. Words spoken out of a believing heart influence the future events in your life. However, your believing and your speaking are based on your thinking. Therefore, if your thinking is wrong, your believing will be wrong, and if your believing is wrong, then your speaking will be wrong. The way you think begins the process.

Be careful what you think, because your thoughts run your life.

—PROVERBS 4:23, NCV

Your life will tend to move in the direction of your dominant thoughts. The way you think is the beginning of future events that will take place in your life. Enjoying life begins with what you do with your thoughts. Overcoming the challenges of life starts when you learn to control your thoughts.

Learning to control your thoughts is an integral step toward tapping into the force that created the universe. The ability of the Creator of the universe is within you. Developing your potential by accessing that ability requires that you control your thoughts. Your victory has already been secured, but enjoying that

victory requires that you learn to recognize God's thoughts.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

—JOHN 1:1

God's Word contains God's will. God's Word contains God's thoughts.<sup>1</sup> Knowing what God thinks about any given matter, and applying that knowledge, moves you toward the enjoyment of a victorious life. Victorious living begins when you tap into the force that created the universe by thinking God's thoughts. What God thinks is found in *God's Master Success Book*.

### God's Word contains God's thoughts.

There are two primary sources from which thoughts are generated. First, the physical realm. What you can see, hear, smell, touch, and taste represent the physical realm. Thoughts are generated from the input of the five physical senses. You see something and a thought is generated, you hear something and a thought is generated, you smell something and a thought is generated, you touch something and a thought is generated, you taste something and a thought is generated. The majority of your thoughts are coming into your mind through your five physical senses. Second, the spiritual realm. God's Word and your re-created spirit represent the spiritual realm. The Word of God shows you what God put in your re-created spirit at the new birth when you became a new creation. You can obtain your thoughts from *God's Master Success Book*. Fill your mind with God's Word and God's thoughts will become your thoughts. Set aside some quiet time each day for your fellowship with God and God's thoughts will become an ever increasing source of your thoughts.

The spiritual battle is between the physical realm (what the five senses indicate) and the spiritual realm (what God's Word says). From the day you were born physically, you were programmed to think according to your five physical senses; but now that you are born again spiritually, you should start thinking according to your re-created spirit.

Tap into the force that created the universe—think  
God's thoughts!

Thoughts can come into your mind from both the physical realm and the spiritual realm. The direction your thoughts take you is determined by the

thoughts you allow yourself to entertain. The amount of influence any source of thoughts has on you is determined by how much you permit that source to influence you.

Casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.

—2 CORINTHIANS 10:5

It is your responsibility to do something with the thoughts that come into your mind. Any thought that opposes the knowledge of God must be dealt with. You should discard every thought that does not agree with God's new creation picture of you. "Bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ" means that you are to replace every thought that opposes the truth of God's Word. If a thought does not agree with the Word of God, remove it from your mind; let it go and do not dwell on it. You are to bring your thoughts under your control and make your thoughts conform to the teachings of Christ. You have the ability to think God's thoughts because God gave you the mind of Christ.

But we have the mind of Christ (the Messiah) and do hold the thoughts (feelings and purposes) of His heart.

—1 CORINTHIANS 2:16, AMP

The mind of Christ will influence your life as you allow God's thoughts to become your thoughts. Your thoughts are to reflect the principles contained in *God's Master Success Book*. An obedient thought life is one that focuses on who you are, what you have, and what you can do because you are in Christ. An obedient thought life allows the Holy Spirit to renew, reeducate, and redirect your thinking. An obedient thought life is one that agrees with your re-created spirit.

Everything you need for the rest of your life already exists in your re-created spirit, including the mind of Christ. Manifesting in the physical realm what already exists in your re-created spirit is called living out of your re-created spirit. Once you are born again, the rest of your Christian life is learning how to live out of your re-created spirit.<sup>2</sup> God's thoughts, as outlined in God's Word, currently reside in your re-created spirit. The mind of Christ resides in your re-created spirit.

Transformation begins when your mind is brought to  
the understanding of God's Word.

You are on a mental and spiritual journey. You are on the way to things and things are on their way to you, and it all starts with your thoughts. Promoting healthy positive thoughts requires discipline. One of your daily disciplines should include renewing your mind. Renewing your mind is a process, not a single event. Set aside some time each day to renew your mind by reading and studying *God's Master Success Book*. As you renew your mind with God's Word, you will be better able to control every thought that enters your mind.

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

—ROMANS 12:2

Meditating on God's Word changes the way you think. Let the Holy Spirit transform you by changing the way you think. Transformation takes place when a person with a renewed mind lives according to the good, acceptable, and perfect will of God. The good and acceptable and perfect will of God includes filling your mind with the thoughts that are contained in *God's Master Success Book*.

God's thoughts become your thoughts as you learn who God says you are, what God says you have, and what God says you can do. Old habits of thinking negative, unproductive thoughts get replaced by new habits of thinking positive, productive, God-type thoughts. The more time you spend meditating on God's Word, the sooner the principles in *God's Master Success Book* will become productive in your life. As the principles in *God's Master Success Book* become productive in your life, you will experience transformation.

## The way God changes your thinking is through His Word.

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts."

—ISAIAH 55:8-9

God's thoughts are higher than your thoughts because God operates in the spiritual realm, not the physical realm as we do. Think according to God's Word and you will find yourself living according to God's will. God's thoughts include living in victory, health, and prosperity. When you visualize yourself living in victory, health, and prosperity, you are thinking God-type thoughts.

Whenever you are confronted with a negative situation, get God's counsel on

whenever you are confronted with a negative situation, get God's counsel on that situation. What God thinks about a particular situation is what you should think about that situation. God can see the before, the during, and the after of your situation. God does not stagger at the challenges that come along. He does not go by whether the situation appears to be getting worse. God goes by the victory He has already secured for you through Jesus Christ. Jesus won the victory for you, and now He is waiting for you to accept and enjoy your victory. The source of information that prevents you from enjoying your victory comes from the sense realm. The sense realm can stimulate your mind into negative thinking or positive thinking. Every situation in your life comes with the choice to entertain negative thoughts or to entertain positive thoughts. Thinking according to God's Word removes the negatives and leaves room for only the positives.

When you visualize yourself living in victory, health, and prosperity, you are thinking God-type thoughts.

If you continually think about the problems in your life, this pattern of thinking will have a negative impact on the peace and happiness in your life. Conversely, if you think about the solutions to your problems, this pattern of thinking will have a positive impact on the peace and happiness in your life. Holding God-type positive thoughts in your mind, by visualizing solutions to your problems, will result in a significant increase of peace and happiness in your life. Most of the misery that you have experienced in your life was the result of the thoughts you allowed to be entertained in your mind. Negative thoughts can enter your mind at any time, but it is up to you to decide whether you are going to dwell on them. It is up to you whether you will act on those negative thoughts. The biblical response to negative thoughts is to replace negative thoughts with God's thoughts. Replace negative thoughts with the principles found in *God's Master Success Book* and your mind will be filled with the peace of God.

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

—PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7, NLT

The cause of worry is dwelling on problems. The cause of anxiety is worrying. Anxiety begins in your mind due to negative thoughts. Anxiety is a negative force that will attract problems into your life. Allowing negative

negative force that will attract problems into your life. Allowing negative thoughts to remain in your mind causes you to take a journey to the place you fear to go. Anxiety is the opposite of God's peace. God's Word encourages you to exchange anxiety for prayer and thanksgiving. The result of exchanging anxiety for prayer and thanksgiving is God's peace. God's peace is not merely a psychological state of positive thinking; it is an inner tranquility based on peace with God through Jesus Christ (Rom. 5:1). As you live according to who you are in Christ, you will experience peace with God. Peace with God is perfect peace!

You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!

—ISAIAH 26:3, NLT

The degree to which your mind is filled with God's thoughts is the degree to which you will experience the perfect peace of God. You must keep your mind filled with God's thoughts, not your problems. The battle between peace and anxiety is being waged in your mind. Exchanging anxiety for peace requires you to maintain your trust in God and His Word.

Many people suffer from stress and anxiety because they meditate on failure. Entertaining defeatist thoughts is contrary to God's Word because God has already secured the victory for you. Your thought-life should be characterized by the principles in *God's Master Success Book*.

Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.

—PHILIPPIANS 4:8

Make a conscious effort to fill your mind with thoughts that are true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. Keep your mind filled with Philippians 4:8 thoughts!

You can apply the principles in *God's Master Success Book* to your life by replacing negative thought patterns with positive thought patterns. Replace negative thoughts with positive thoughts of who you are in Christ. See yourself the way you want to become. Change the way you think to become what you want to be.

Change the way you think to become what you want to  
be.

Your thought patterns determine your ability to break bad habits such as negative thinking. The key to victory over bad habits is refocusing your thoughts, not resisting negative thoughts. Resisting negative thoughts forces you to focus on the very thoughts you are trying to resist. Resisting negative thoughts actually reinforces bad habits. Focusing on any thought, positive or negative, reinforces the related habit. You can break an old bad habit by creating a new good habit. Once your thoughts focus on the new habit, the old habit starts to fade away. Replace your old bad habit caused by negative thoughts with a good habit caused by positive thoughts.

Your mind will always be occupied with thoughts. You can discontinue a thought by replacing it with another thought. Whatever you focus on will tend to increase in your life. The more you think about something, positive or negative, the more the outcome of that thought will be attracted into your life. This new way of positive thinking will allow you to enjoy the victory that God has already provided for you.

The way you think will create the habits that will move you toward the realization of your God-given dream.



## CHAPTER PRINCIPLES

1. The battle between positive thoughts and negative thoughts takes place in your mind.
2. Your believing and your speaking are based on your thinking.
3. The way you think is the beginning of future events that will take place in your life.
4. God's Word contains God's thoughts.
5. Victorious living begins when you tap into the force that created the universe by thinking God's thoughts.
6. The direction your life takes is determined by the thoughts you allow yourself to entertain.
7. An obedient thought life is one that focuses on who you are, what you have, and what you can do because you are in Christ.
8. The more time you spend meditating on God's Word, the sooner the principles in *God's Master Success Book* will become productive in your life.
9. Entertaining defeatist thoughts is contrary to God's Word.
10. Jesus won the victory for you, and now He is waiting for you to accept and enjoy your victory.
11. The result of exchanging anxiety for prayer and thanksgiving is God's peace.
12. Change the way you think to become what you want to be.
13. The key to victory over bad habits is refocusing your thoughts, not resisting negative thoughts.
14. You can discontinue a thought by replacing it with another thought.
15. Focusing on any thoughts, positive or negative, reinforces habits.

16. Whatever you focus on will tend to increase in your life.
17. The way you think will create the habits that will move you toward the realization of your God-given dream.

## Chapter 5

### LIVING ON GOD'S FREQUENCY

**W**HAT HAPPENS WHEN you try to listen to Christian music on the rock music station? What happens when you try to listen to country music on the jazz station? If you do not tune in to the station you want to listen to, you will not hear what you want to hear. When a station broadcasts on 89.9 but you tune in to 90.1, what you hear from the station is mostly muffled noise. Wrong station or slightly off on your tuning, the end result is about the same; you cannot receive what the station is broadcasting. The problem is that you are on the wrong frequency. The sender is in control of the frequency. If you want to hear the sender's program you must tune in to the correct frequency, the sender's frequency.

God is the sender and you are the receiver. You could be doing everything else right, but if you are not tuned in to God's frequency, you will not be able to receive from God. You must be living on God's frequency to tap into the force that created the universe. God is the sender and He is in control of the frequency. It is your responsibility to adjust your frequency to match God's frequency. God is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. God never changes, so that only leaves you. God's frequency is revealed in *God's Master Success Book*.

#### GOD'S FREQUENCY IS A LOVE FREQUENCY

God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them.

—1 JOHN 4:16, NLT

Love is God's nature; love is God's frequency. Both the precept and the principle of love point to the Person of God Himself. The degree to which you continue to live in love is the degree to which you continue to live on God's

Continue to live in love is the degree to which you continue to live on God's frequency. When you walk in love, you are living on God's frequency.

Walking in love is living on God's frequency.

It is important to understand how the Bible uses the word *love* in the New Testament. The original language of the New Testament is Greek. The Greek language uses different words for different types of love. The Greek word *phileo* and the Greek word *agape* are both translated as *love*. Although *phileo* and *agape* are different Greek words, the English translation for both words is *love*. The Greek word *phileo* refers to natural human love. The Greek word *agape* refers to the God-kind of love.<sup>1</sup>

Natural love is a friendly affection, an emotional response to appreciation for the qualities of a person. The God-kind of love is sacrificial and selfless. Natural love cherishes a person. The God-kind of love values and esteems a person. Natural love gives love when it receives love. The God-kind of love constantly gives love; it is unconditional.

There are significant differences between unconditional love and love that is withheld unless it is also received. Agape love is much deeper than phileo love. Agape love is constant, selfless, and sacrificial. Agape love is given by choice and perceives a sense of value and worth in a person. Agape love is unconditional. Agape love is the God-kind of love.

Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

—1 JOHN 4:7–8, NLT

Love comes from God because God is love. Your re-created spirit has already received the God-kind of love. This agape love that is now within you is meant to be directed toward other people. Agape love promotes cooperation and helps you to get along with other people. Life becomes easier and more productive when you get along with others, and getting along with other people means loving them. Adjust your frequency and enjoy the benefits.

Agape love, the God-kind of love, is unconditional.

Walking in love, living on God's frequency, will improve your interpersonal

relationships. The fundamental concept, “love your neighbor as yourself,” is repeated eight times in the Bible.<sup>2</sup>

For the whole Law [concerning human relationships] is complied with in the one precept, You shall love your neighbor as [you do] yourself.

—GALATIANS 5:14, AMP

To be effective loving others, the first person you must love is you. The phrase, “as you do yourself” is predicated upon a healthy positive self-image. As a child of God, the basis for your self-esteem is found in knowing who you are in Christ. God chose to have agape love for you. God decided that you are of worth and value, and that you are to be esteemed. Your self-image should reflect the unlimited potential that is yours because the life, nature, and ability of the Creator of the universe reside within you.

The whole law concerning human relationships is summed up in one word: *love*. Love is God’s frequency. Living on God’s frequency is the key to developing successful human relationships. To enjoy a successful life, you must learn how to be successful in your relationships. Approximately 80 percent of the joy and happiness in life involve other people. Conversely, approximately 80 percent of the pain and anguish in life also involve other people. When you have love for other people, it is much easier to get along with them. Success in life depends upon your ability to get along with other people.

Developing your people skills is one of the most important things you can do to enhance your life. As your people skills improve, getting along with others keeps getting easier. Successfully interacting with other people is one of the greatest challenges you will face, both in your business relationships and in your personal relationships. When you are living on God’s frequency, your people skills improve, and then your relationships with other people improve.

Success in life depends upon your ability to get along  
with other people.

Agape love unlocks the solutions to human relationship problems. Love is the key to improving human relationships. When you walk in love, you release the power of God into your life. When you step out of love, you are off of God’s frequency and His ability remains idle in your relationships.

If we love our Christian brothers and sisters, it proves that we have passed from death to eternal life.

—1 JOHN 3:14, NLT

Your love for your brothers and sisters in Christ is proof that you possess eternal life. Love is the inward indicator that assures you of your passage from spiritual death to eternal life. Love is the outward indicator that displays your relationship with God. When you received eternal life, you received the nature of God, and that nature includes agape love.

The entire new covenant is based on love; God's love for us, our love for Him, love toward others, love toward ourselves, and even love for our enemies (Matt. 5:43–44). God would not admonish you to do something that you are not capable of doing. You have the ability to walk in love. You have the ability to live on God's frequency, and that ability can be developed by following the instructions in *God's Master Success Book*.

## YOU HAVE THE ABILITY TO LIVE ON GOD'S FREQUENCY

The confirmation that you have the ability to walk in love comes from knowing that you received the God-kind of love at the new birth. Agape love resides within you because you are a new creation.

For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.

—ROMANS 5:5, NLT

The Holy Spirit has filled your heart with agape love, and now the role of the Holy Spirit includes helping you manifest that love in your life. You have the ability to give away that which you possess. You possess the God-kind of love, and you have the ability to walk in love toward others.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

—GALATIANS 5:22–23, NIV

Your re-created spirit is filled with agape love. When the Holy Spirit controls your life, His presence within you produces the God-kind of love in your life. God has given you the ability to walk in love and now you have the opportunity to do it!

No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us. And God has given us his Spirit as proof that we live in him and he in us.

—1 JOHN 4:12–13, NLT

You experience God’s presence when you walk in love. Other people are able to see an expression of God’s presence through you when you are living on God’s frequency. You have the ability to love other people with the God-kind of love, and that ability is released within you by the Holy Spirit as you practice living on God’s frequency.

## OBSTACLES TO LIVING ON GOD’S FREQUENCY

Remove the obstacles to living on God’s frequency, and walking in love is almost automatic.

And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

—1 JOHN 4:16

The first obstacle to living on God’s frequency is not knowing *and* believing how much God loves you. You must understand the God-kind of love and believe that God has unconditional love for you before you can walk in love toward others. Both knowledge *and* belief are necessary to put the ability to live on God’s frequency into practice. You must first accept the love of God personally for yourself.

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

—1 JOHN 4:18, NIV

The second obstacle to living on God’s frequency is fear. Fear would be justified if you were not a child of God. You are a child of God and you have received a new nature filled with eternal life. You will not be punished, you will be shown grace, undeserved mercy. You will not receive God’s judgment because you have already received God’s unconditional love. You are not God’s sinful child; you are God’s forgiven child!

If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.

—1 JOHN 4:20–21

The third obstacle to living on God’s frequency is not walking in love. You prove your love for God by loving others. When you hurt others, you are hurting God. The next time you are tempted to say something bad about someone or do

something bad to someone, ask yourself, “Do I really want to do this to God?” That question and your answer are powerful incentives to encourage you to choose a course of action that shows love toward others.

## DEVELOPING THE ABILITY TO LIVE ON GOD’S FREQUENCY

You have the God-kind of love, agape love, within you. The God-kind of love gives you the ability to love others. However, that ability needs to be developed. You can develop your ability to walk in love by understanding the characteristics of the God-kind of love and then practicing those characteristics. The characteristics of the God-kind of love are found in 1 Corinthians chapter thirteen. The thirteenth chapter of 1 Corinthians is commonly referred to as the love chapter.

You experience God’s power when you walk in love.

Love endures long and is patient and kind; Love never is envious nor boils over with jealousy, is not boastful or vainglorious, does not display itself haughtily. It is not conceited (arrogant and inflated with pride); it is not rude (unmannerly), and does not act unbecomingly. Love (God’s love in us) does not insist on its own rights or its own way, for it is not self-seeking; it is not touchy or fretful or resentful; it takes no account of the evil done to it [it pays no attention to a suffered wrong]. It does not rejoice at injustice and unrighteousness, but rejoices when right and truth prevail. Love bears up under anything and everything that comes, is ever ready to believe the best of every person, its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances and it endures everything [without weakening]. Love never fails [never fades out or becomes obsolete or comes to an end].

—1 CORINTHIANS 13:4–8, AMP

The characteristics of agape love are descriptive of God because God is love. These characteristics are part of who God is. This is God’s frequency, the love frequency. These characteristics also reflect God’s attitude. Your attitude toward others should reflect God’s attitude toward you. Attitude influences behavior. Your behavior should reflect the God-kind of love. You are living on God’s frequency when your attitude and your behavior reflect the characteristics of the God-kind of love.

You are living on God’s frequency when your attitude  
and your behavior reflect the characteristics of the God-  
kind of love.



*Love endures long and is patient and kind*

Your patience with yourself and others is indicated by the amount of complaining you do while you are in the process of realizing your God-given dream. Patience endures without complaining. Sometimes people have no choice but to endure, but they are neither patient nor kind along the way. Persevere and remain kind toward others even during the difficult times in your life.

*Love never is envious nor boils over with jealousy*

Both envy and jealousy will prevent you from tuning in to God's frequency. Envy and jealousy are different but related. Envy desires to deprive another of what he has. Jealousy craves to have the same or the same sort of thing for itself. Envy and jealousy are both filled with resentment over the advantages, possessions, or attainments of someone else. Envy and jealousy are detrimental to your success and either one will inhibit the realization of your God-given dream.

*Love is not boastful or vainglorious, does not display itself haughtily*

An inflated ego flaunts its own perceived excellence. Those who consider themselves better than others only fool themselves. Bragging about possessions or achievements will not impress others, but it will make an impression on them, albeit a negative one. A good impression is made by following the example that was provided by Jesus. Walk in love; that is what will please God.

*Love is not conceited, arrogant, and inflated with pride*

People who overly value their own importance appear to others as being arrogant and conceited. People who are full of pride tend to base their worth on what they have and what they do. Your source of worth should not come solely from people. Your source of worth should come first from God.

Your worth has already been established by who God says you are. You are a child of God. Your worth and value are based on God's love for you. Your relationship with God is the basis of your worth.

*Love is not rude, unmannerly, and does not act unbecomingly*

Bad manners offend others. Rude behavior insults others. Courtesy and polite behavior both show respect for others. Unbecoming people rarely care about manners and usually have little concern for saying "please" or "thank you." There is power in a hand-written thank you note. When you exhibit good

manners you show others the love that is within you.

*Love does not insist on its own rights or its own way; it is not self-seeking*

Love does not attempt to force its preferences on others. Love does not manipulate attention to itself. Love is charitable and takes an interest in other people. Love maintains a generous, giving attitude.

*Love is not touchy or fretful or resentful.*

People who are touchy, fretful, or resentful are easily irritated and quick to express their displeasure. Love is not critical and does not get upset easily. Love is even-tempered, good-natured, and accepting of others.

*Love takes no account of the evil done to it; it pays no attention to a suffered wrong*

Love promotes forgiveness. Forgiving the offenses of others is often the most challenging barrier to success. The reason this barrier is often the most challenging is because it tends to be the most personal. Receiving a personal offense hurts, and retaliation may appear to be justifiable. Your personal situation may involve imperfect parents, physical or emotional abuse, being lied to or about, being cheated out of money, or being disappointed or betrayed by someone you fully trusted. Whatever your personal situation may be, withholding forgiveness has consequences. Forgiveness sets you free from dwelling on past hurts, real or imagined. Forgiveness does not require you to permit continuing abuse or maintain ongoing association. Forgiveness brings freedom from anger, self-pity, and bitterness. Forgiveness allows you to experience peace. Forgiving yourself and others is a key ingredient to success. Forgiveness could be the key that unlocks your full potential.

*Love does not rejoice at injustice and unrighteousness, but rejoices when right and truth prevail*

Love does the right thing for the right reason. Love does not gossip or take pleasure at the misfortune of others. There is no room in success for a malevolent attitude. Love rejoices when truth and justice prevail.

*Love bears up under anything and everything that comes, is ever ready to believe the best of every person, its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances, and it endures everything without weakening*

Love does not give up. Love never quits. Love refuses to surrender to failure.

Love believes in people. Love desires to bring out the best in others. Love does not jump to negative conclusions. Love helps others through challenging circumstances. Love inspires others to realize their God-given dreams.

Living on God's frequency connects you to the source  
of power that can transform your life.

Love overcomes discouragement and frustration with hope for the future. Love provides the strength to successfully go through the trials of life. There is no limit to what you can accomplish when you are motivated by the God-kind of love.

*Love never fails*

Love never fails. Love will always succeed. Living on God's frequency connects you to the source of power that can transform your life.

## RELEASING THE ABILITY TO LIVE ON GOD'S FREQUENCY

Releasing the ability to live on God's frequency requires action on your part; action that includes speaking, listening to, and practicing the love scriptures.<sup>3</sup> Living on God's frequency, walking in love, will improve your personal, family, and business relationships.

Jesus said that you will have whatever you say (Mark 11:23). Speaking the love scriptures will cause the characteristics of agape love to become a reality in your life. You can personalize the characteristics of the God-kind of love by saying them in the first person. Substitute the word "I" for the word "love." "I endure long and am patient and kind." "I am ever ready to believe the best of every person." "I never fail." Speaking the love scriptures is part of the process that enables you to tap into the force that created the universe.

Listening to the love scriptures helps you tune in to God's frequency.<sup>4</sup> Listening to the love scriptures helps you live on God's frequency by increasing your faith. Faith increases as you hear God's Word, and the love scriptures are part of God's Word. You increase your belief in the love scriptures by hearing them. When you speak you are hearing your own words. When you listen, or

speak and listen, to the love scriptures you are acting on God's Word. Results come as you exercise your faith by acting on God's Word.

God's power becomes effective in your life as you practice living on God's frequency.

Practicing the love scriptures will cause the characteristics of the God-kind of love to manifest in your life. God's power becomes effective in your life as you practice living on God's frequency. Acting on God's Word by practicing the love scriptures releases the power that created the universe. God's power operating in your life gives you the ability to receive your heart's desire and realize your God-given dream.

And we will receive whatever we request because we obey him and do the things that please him.

—1 JOHN 3:22, NLT

The confidence to receive your heart's desire and realize your God-given dream comes from obeying God and doing the things that please Him. Obeying the instructions in *God's Master Success Book* includes walking in love, and walking in love is necessary in order to please God.

Those who obey God's commandments live in fellowship with him, and he with them. And we know he lives in us because the Holy Spirit lives in us.

—1 JOHN 3:24, NLT

Walking in love and fellowship with God are connected. Walking in love maintains fellowship with God. The Holy Spirit facilitates fellowship with God as He increases your desire to walk in love.

You have free will. You choose whether or not to allow agape love, the God-kind of love, to influence your behavior. Living on God's frequency encourages your success in life because love never fails. Love always succeeds!

You can make dramatic changes in your life during the next thirty days. For the next thirty consecutive days, first thing in the morning and last thing at night, recite the following statements:

Agape love resides in my re-created spirit.

I allow the God-kind of love to influence my behavior.

I am a kind person who perseveres without complaining.

I am content as I pursue the realization of my God-given dream.  
I am modest and clothed with humility.  
I maintain a loving attitude that is free from conceit, arrogance, and pride.  
I am polite and courteous.  
I act appropriately in every situation.  
I am tolerant and show respect for other people.  
I am a generous giving person.  
I am calm and even-tempered.  
I release to God all wrongs ever done to me.  
I bless those who have hurt me, disappointed me, and let me down.  
I tell the truth and stand up for what is right.  
I am a winner who continually walks in love.  
I believe the best of every person by seeing them the way God sees them.  
I have hope for the future no matter what happens.  
I stay strong as I am motivated by the God-kind of love.  
I succeed when I walk in love because love always succeeds!

## CHAPTER PRINCIPLES

1. You must be living on God's frequency in order to tap into the force that created the universe.
2. Love is God's nature; love is God's frequency.
3. When you walk in love, you are living on God's frequency.
4. The God-kind of love is unconditional.
5. When you received eternal life, you received the nature of God, and that nature includes agape love.
6. Getting along with other people means loving them.
7. To be effective loving others, the first person you must love is you.
8. The basis for your self-esteem is found in knowing who you are in Christ.
9. Living on God's frequency is the key to developing successful human relationships.
10. Success in life depends upon your ability to get along with other people.
11. When you walk in love, you release the power of God into your life.
12. When you step out of love, you are off of God's frequency and His ability remains idle in your life.
13. You experience God's presence when you walk in love.
14. The ability to love other people is released by the Holy Spirit as you practice living on God's frequency.
15. You prove your love for God by loving others.
16. You are living on God's frequency when your attitude and your behavior reflect the characteristics of the God-kind of love.

17. Love promotes forgiveness. A lack of forgiveness hurts you and prevents you from reaching your full potential.
18. Love inspires others to realize their God-given dreams.
19. God's power becomes effective in your life as you practice living on God's frequency.
20. Walking in love is necessary in order to please God.

## Chapter 6

### HOW TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN LIFE

**E**VERYONE HAS A desire to be successful in life. Whether it is succeeding at work, at school, or in personal relationships, everyone wants to be successful. The Old Testament book of Joshua contains principles that reveal how to be successful in all areas of life. God told Joshua how to be prosperous and successful. The success principles God gave to Joshua will also work for you when you apply them to your life.

Be strong and courageous, for you are the one who will lead these people to possess all the land I swore to their ancestors I would give them. Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the instructions Moses gave you. Do not deviate from them, turning either to the right or to the left. Then you will be successful in everything you do. Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do. This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.

—JOSHUA 1:6–9, NLT

The presence of God brings the blessing of God. When the Lord is with someone the Lord's blessing is usually visible. Two of the indicators of the Lord's blessing are prosperity and success. You can be confident because the Lord is with you. Wherever you go, you can be strong and courageous because the presence and power of God are within you.

**The presence of God brings the blessing of God!**

Being strong and courageous is so important that it is repeated three times,



once in verse six, once in verse seven, and once in verse nine. Being strong and courageous equates to being persistent and consistent toward the realization of your God-given dream. The confidence to be strong and courageous comes from knowing that God has provided a way for you to become prosperous and successful.

The phrases “Be careful to obey” in verse seven and “be sure to obey” in verse eight indicate that success requires action. Success in life is not unconditionally guaranteed. You are responsible for the realization of your God-given dream. Realizing your God-given dream will require more than action, it will require persistent and consistent action. After taking action, your prosperity and success will require persistence and determination.<sup>1</sup> There is power in perseverance; never give up!

## PROSPERITY AND SUCCESS DEFINED

Prosperity is having enough of God’s resources to realize your God-given dream. Prosperity is not necessarily an amount, but the provision that is received each day as you need it. Success is making measurable progress toward the realization of your God-given dream. Success is not solely the end result of achieving your goals, but making measurable progress toward achieving your goals.

Success is not measured by how well you do compared to how well someone else does. Success is measured by how well you do compared to your own potential. If you have the potential to earn one million dollars and you earn only one hundred thousand dollars, you have failed to reach your potential. If you have the potential to earn thirty thousand dollars and you earn thirty thousand dollars or more, you have succeeded in reaching your potential. The satisfaction and fulfillment you experience from your success are directly related to your progress versus your potential. The person you become during the journey of life is an integral part of achieving your goals and realizing your God-given dream.<sup>2</sup>

Prosperity is having enough of God’s resources to  
realize your God-given dream.

One of the best ways to develop a pattern of success is by setting and achieving one small goal after another. Setting and achieving goals develops a pattern of accomplishment. Patterns of accomplishment establish habits. habit-

pattern of accomplishment. Patterns of accomplishment establish habits, habits patterns of accomplishment. As a result of establishing habit-patterns of accomplishment, you will have programmed yourself with the thoughts, disciplines, and activities that are involved with accomplishing your goal. Establishing and maintaining habit-patterns of accomplishment program you for success. You will be able to achieve one worthwhile goal after another for the rest of your life.

Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do.

—JOSHUA 1:8, NLT

The word *continually* and the phrase *day and night* mean you are to focus on the principles in *God's Master Success Book* on a daily basis. You are responsible for your prosperity, your success, and the realization of your God-given dream. It is up to you to do something if you are going to be successful. Often while you are waiting for God to do something, God is actually waiting for you to do something.

God is waiting for you to do three things. There are three success principles in Joshua 1:8 that will enable and empower you to prosper and succeed in all that you do:

1. Study God's success principles: "Study this Book of Instruction continually."
2. Meditate on God's success principles: "Meditate on it day and night."
3. Practice God's success principles: "Be sure to obey everything written in it."

### **1. Study God's success principles.**

The first principle is to study the instructions contained in *God's Master Success Book*. Studying God's Word is the starting point for your success in life. To become prosperous and successful, study God's Word.<sup>3</sup>

Success is making measurable progress toward the realization of your God-given dream.

You have available to you the success principles found in the Old Testament and the success principles in the New Testament. The New Testament success

principles are found in the Gospels, the Acts of the Apostles, the Epistles, and in the book of Revelation. All of the Epistles were accepted as being for the benefit of the church as a whole, of which you are a part. The success principles in the Epistles include the love scriptures and the “in Him” scriptures.

Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth.

—JOSHUA 1:8, NIV

To empower your success, combine your study of God’s success principles with speaking God’s success principles. Speaking God’s Word releases the power in God’s Word. Focus on speaking the love scriptures and the “in Him” scriptures. Speak three things: who God says you are, what God says you have, and what God says you can do. Studying and speaking the love scriptures and the “in Him” scriptures will give you a good start on the road to prosperity and success.

## **2. Meditate on God’s success principles.**

The second principle is to meditate on the instructions contained in *God’s Master Success Book*. To become prosperous and successful, meditate on God’s Word. Meditating on God’s Word will help you internalize God’s success principles.<sup>4</sup>

Keep the success principles found in *God’s Master Success Book* in the forefront of your mind. To prosper and be successful, meditate on the scriptures that address the issues you are currently working on.

Blessed is the man  
Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,  
Nor stands in the path of sinners,  
Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;  
But his delight is in the law of the LORD,  
And in His law he meditates day and night.  
He shall be like a tree  
Planted by the rivers of water,  
That brings forth its fruit in its season,  
Whose leaf also shall not wither;  
And whatever he does shall prosper.

—PSALM 1:1–3

Your associations are a major source of your meditation. The people you associate with provide you with a source of information that you will meditate on because you are listening to what they have to say. Who and what you listen

to is what you meditate on. The highest and best possible association is with God. When you meditate on God's Word, you are associating with the Creator of the universe. When you meditate on God's Word, you are programming yourself with the success principles contained in *God's Master Success Book*.<sup>5</sup>

### **3. Practice God's success principles.**

The third principle is to practice the instructions contained in *God's Master Success Book*. To become prosperous and successful, practice God's Word. Until you act, God lies dormant. Action brings God on the scene. Success is based on obedience to the will of God. The successful person is the one who seeks God's will and delights in doing what God says in His Word.

Who and what you listen to is what you meditate on.

Practicing God's Word with diligent obedience causes the blessings of God to overtake you. The Old Testament book of Deuteronomy, written by Moses, contains many of the success principles that Joshua was to study, speak, meditate, and practice in order to prosper and be successful.

Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the LORD your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the LORD your God.

—DEUTERONOMY 28:1-2

It is one thing to be above, but it is quite another for God to set you *high* above. It is one thing to receive the blessings of God into your life, but it is quite another for those blessings to come upon you and overtake you. The prerequisite for these blessings to occur is presented as an opportunity, as indicated by the word *if* in Deuteronomy 28:1. Seizing opportunities effectively requires diligent obedience to the voice of the Lord. God's voice is heard through His Word. To obey God's voice is to obey God's Word. You enable success in your life when you seize the opportunity to not only hear God's Word, but to obey God by putting His Word into practice.

Practicing God's Word causes the blessings of God to overtake you.

The love scriptures and the "in Him" scriptures give you an excellent starting

point for studying, speaking, meditating, and practicing God's Word. When you diligently obey and carefully observe the love scriptures and the "in Him" scriptures, blessings will come upon you and overtake you. God's idea of success is that the blessings overtake you!

## PROSPERITY AND SUCCESS INCLUDE INCREASE AND ABUNDANCE

God is a believer in prosperity and success. Prosperity and success include increase and abundance.

Now so it was, as the multitude pressed about Him to hear the word of God, that He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret, and saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fisherman had gone from them and were washing their nets. Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat. Now when He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net." And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.

—LUKE 5:1-7

So many people had come to hear Jesus speak that Jesus had to sit in a boat away from the shore so everyone could see and hear him. A multitude of people heard what Jesus said, saw what Jesus did, and witnessed the series of events that followed. Simon (Peter)<sup>6</sup> had worked very hard during the prior night; he was exhausted, and he had caught nothing. When Jesus told Peter to let down his net, Peter, although exhausted, acted on God's Word (the instructions of Jesus). Peter and his partners caught so many fish that they needed a second boat to handle the catch. This display of God's abundance was done openly. Peter and his partners followed God's instructions and the blessings of God overtook them. All those present were shown that God is a God of prosperity and success, increase and abundance. Prosperity and success here are synonymous with increase and abundance.

Occasionally you may find yourself lacking accomplishment, similar to Peter's situation in verse five above. It may appear to you that you are doing everything right. You may be walking in love and living the "in Him" scriptures, but your circumstances may still look bleak. However, you are instructed not to live by what you see, not to live by what you feel, and not to live by the

confinement of your present circumstances.

We live by faith, not by sight.

—2 CORINTHIANS 5:7, NIV

You are admonished in *God's Master Success Book* to live by faith. Living by faith means doing what God says in His Word and trusting Him to take care of the rest. Trust God to bring the desired results into your life. You are a child of God and you are to live by faith. Your instructions come from God's Word, and you are to be obedient to those instructions. Take command of your circumstances by correctly using the words that come out of your mouth.

The words of Jesus tell you the impact your words will have on your success. You will have what Jesus said you would have; whatever you say (Mark 11:23). The challenge that plagues many people is that they are bellyaching, complaining, and murmuring about one thing or another while they blame God and everyone else for the problems in their life. Instead of blaming, take full responsibility for your success in life by controlling your words. You should always agree with God by speaking prosperity and success over your own life.

Another example of increase and abundance took place shortly after the resurrection of Jesus. (See John 21:1–11.) Jesus appeared to some of His disciples while they were fishing. Once again, the disciples had been out fishing all night and had caught nothing. The next morning Jesus appeared to the disciples and told them to cast their net on the right side of the boat. The disciples acted on God's Word and caught a multitude of large fish.

### Agree with God—speak prosperity and success.

At first, the disciples did not know that it was Jesus who spoke to them, but as a result of catching a multitude of fish they recognized that it was Jesus (who spoke to them). The presence of God (Jesus) brought the blessing of God. Wherever Jesus was, prosperity and success were there. Wherever Jesus went, increase and abundance followed. Supernatural results like those experienced by the disciples can still be experienced in the lives of the modern-day disciples.<sup>7</sup>

God's will for your life includes prosperity and success. You can receive the blessings of prosperity and success into your life by acting on the principles contained in *God's Master Success Book*.

## CHAPTER PRINCIPLES

1. The presence of God brings the blessing of God.
2. You are going to have to take continual action to realize your God-given dream.
3. There is power in perseverance; never give up!
4. Prosperity is having enough of God's resources to realize your God-given dream.
5. Success is making measurable progress toward the realization of your God-given dream.
6. The person you become on the journey to success is more important than the end result of reaching your goal.
7. Often while you are waiting for God to do something, God is actually waiting for you to do something.
8. Studying God's Word is the starting point for your success.
9. Speaking God's Word releases the power in God's Word.
10. Meditating on God's Word will help you internalize God's success principles.
11. Your reference group, the people you spend time with, will be one of the most influential factors in determining your success in life.
12. Practicing God's Word with diligent obedience causes the blessings of God to overtake you.
13. The love scriptures and the "in Him" scriptures give you an excellent starting point for studying, speaking, meditating, and practicing God's Word.
14. Living by faith means doing what God says in His Word and trusting Him to bring the desired results into your life.
15. Agree with God by speaking prosperity and success over your

own life.

16. You can receive the blessings of prosperity and success into your life by acting on the principles contained in *God's Master Success Book*.



## Chapter 7

### PROGRAMMING YOUR SUCCESS MECHANISM

**I**N ORDER TO be successful in life, it is important to understand your success mechanism—the part of you that produces success. Some success philosophers say your success mechanism is your mind. Some success philosophers say it is your subconscious mind. Other success philosophers say it is a combination of your mind and your subconscious mind. The way you think does have a huge influence on your success in life. However, your success does not solely begin and end with your mind.

Many books have been written on the subject of success, and most of them deal with man on two dimensions, physical and mental.<sup>1</sup> There is one book that surpasses all the others on the subject of success. The ultimate success book is *God's Master Success Book*, the Holy Bible. *God's Master Success Book* identifies your success mechanism and provides the instructions necessary to program your success mechanism.

*God's Master Success Book* identifies man on three dimensions. *God's Master Success Book* includes the physical and mental dimensions of man, and additionally includes one more dimension, the spiritual dimension. The three-dimensional approach found in *God's Master Success Book* provides a fuller and more complete understanding of your success mechanism and how you can program it. This three-dimensional approach is much more comprehensive and much more effective than a two-dimensional approach.<sup>2</sup> To effectively program your success mechanism, follow the programming instructions from the Creator of the universe.

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

—1 THESSALONIANS 5:23

Man is an eternal spirit, he possesses a soul, and he lives in a physical body. *God's Master Success Book* refers to the whole person as containing three distinguishable sets of characteristics:

1. Spirit—The *spirit* is the life principle bestowed on man by God.<sup>3</sup> It is the reflection of the image and likeness of God. The spirit is the part of man that communicates directly with God.

Your success mechanism is how your spirit, soul, and body are influenced by the condition of your heart.

2. Soul—The *soul* is the immaterial invisible part of man's existence that gives individuality to each person; it is what makes you, you! It is the sentient (conscious) element in man. While the spirit is the life principle bestowed on man by God, the soul is the resulting life constituted as an individual.<sup>4</sup> Soul and spirit are linked to each other, but are plainly distinguished from each other.

3. Body—The *body* is the physical body man lives in while he is here on earth.

There is one other aspect of man, a grouping of characteristics and functions that is essential to the success mechanism, the biblical heart:

Heart—The *heart* is a metaphor for the core self, the inner being of man, the man himself. As such, it is the fountain of all he does.<sup>5</sup> The heart is the innermost spring of personal life; the source of all thoughts and plans, attitudes and desires, motives and choices. The heart is the source and deep seat of the intellect, emotions, and will. It is the center of cognitive and imaginative processes. The heart is the inner part of a person's being where decisions, obedience, intentionality, and devotion are formed. A person's character is determined by the condition of his or her heart.

Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.

—PROVERBS 4:23

You keep your heart with all diligence by controlling the thoughts that continually occupy your mind. Control the door to your heart and the outcomes (issues) in your life will tend to be positive. Whatever you permit to go through

that doorway will eventually be incorporated into programming your success mechanism. Your success mechanism is how your spirit, soul, and body are influenced by the condition of your heart.

The condition of your heart is extremely important to your success. You are to “keep” your heart, diligently guard and protect it. The condition of your heart is instrumental to your success in life, for out of the heart spring the issues of life. The condition of your heart affects everything you do. Your heart is facilitating the results, or lack thereof, that you are experiencing in your life. Guard your heart, for it determines the course of your life.

God living in you is your connection to the Creator of  
everything.

Your re-created spirit has within it the same creative ability that created the universe. The Holy Spirit within you is available any time you need creative assistance. The Holy Spirit will teach you how to use your creative ability. You can use your creative ability to program your success mechanism. When you make a regular confession of your identity as a child of God (who you are, what you have, and what you can do), you are confirming that God’s ability is at your disposal, and you are reinforcing your success mechanism.

Effectively programming your success mechanism requires communication with God. God is a spiritual Being (John 4:24, AMP). To effectively communicate with God, to have meaningful fellowship with God, requires a spiritual connection. God leads you and guides you through the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit.

The shortcoming with most success literature is that most success literature has left out the dimension of man from which all communication with God flows, the spirit of man. Without including consideration for the spiritual dimension, the best that can be done is to address the shadow of the substance rather than the substance itself. You can be effective using only the shadow, your conscious and subconscious mind, to achieve success. However, you will be far more effective when you directly address the substance, your entire success mechanism, to achieve success.

You can learn how to program your success mechanism by studying one of Jesus’ parables.<sup>6</sup> In the parable of the sower, Jesus uses an analogy to show what

preparations are required to produce positive results in life. Producing positive results in your life requires that you prepare your heart to receive the truth contained in God's Word. In Mark 4:13, Jesus had finished teaching the parable of the sower to a large crowd and He was now alone. Jesus' disciples came to Him and asked Him to explain the parable to them.

And He said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables? The sower sows the word. And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts. These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness; and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word's sake, immediately they stumble. Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred."

—MARK 4:13–20

The parable of the sower illustrates that after investigating the truth found in God's Word, people fall into one of four groups. The same four groupings apply to those who pursue the principles contained in *God's Master Success Book*. Each group represented in the parable responded differently depending upon the condition of their heart.

Verse 14 states, "The sower sows the word." The seed sown is the truth contained in God's Word. Verse 15 states where the Word of God is sown—in your heart! Your heart is the part of you that facilitates the results in your life. That which you permit into your heart programs your success mechanism.

Your heart is the part of you that facilitates the results  
in your life.

The greater your understanding of this parable, the easier it will be for you to program your success mechanism. Three important points will add to your understanding and effectiveness:

1. This parable makes the analogy of the heart being like the ground. If the ground is prepared properly, the seed sown produces an abundant harvest. When your heart is free of rocks, weeds, and thorns, it will facilitate positive results in your life. Taking action with a prepared heart will cause the power of God to move on your behalf. When that happens, you receive

major assistance as you move toward the realization of your God-given dream.

2. The ground does not distinguish between various seeds. The ground produces whatever gets planted. If a farmer plants nightshade, a deadly poison, the ground will produce nightshade. If a farmer plants corn, the ground will produce corn. Your heart does not distinguish between the various seeds (concepts, principles, and ideas) that you plant in it. Your heart will return to you an abundance of whatever you plant, but your heart does not distinguish between the various seeds (concepts, principles, and ideas) that you plant. It is your responsibility to plant a good crop. If you plant a good crop, your heart will produce positive results in your life. Apply the principles in *God's Master Success Book* and your heart will produce success for you. Your abundant harvest waits for you to plant in your heart the success principles found in God's Word.
3. There are four possible groups of people and every individual falls into one of these four groups. Only one of the groups produces lasting results.

Jesus refers to four distinct groups of people in this parable:

Group 1: Those by the wayside where God's Word was sown (Mark 4:15).

Group 2: Those on stony ground where God's Word was sown (Mark 4:16).

Group 3: Those among thorns where God's Word was sown (Mark 4:18).

Group 4: Those on good ground where God's Word was sown (Mark 4:20).

### **Group 1:**

#### **Those by the wayside where God's Word was sown**

The first group heard God's Word, but Satan came immediately and took away the truth that was sown in their hearts. Satan is the god of this evil world, and he attempts to keep people from being successful. One of the ways he attempts to do this is by blinding the minds of people so that they cannot receive the truth from God's Word. Therefore, these people are unable to embrace God's success principles.

Satan, the god of this evil world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe, so they are

unable to see the glorious light of the Good News that is shining upon them. They don't understand the message we preach about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.

—2 CORINTHIANS 4:4, NLT

The mind-set of the world is predominantly negative. The negative downward pull of life requires no effort to get sucked into; it is almost automatic. You can learn how to succeed by finding out what God, the Author of success, tells you to do in order to be successful.

The ground does not distinguish between crops and weeds; it grows what is planted. Your heart does not distinguish between success and failure; it grows what is planted.

You are provided with the principles that will cause you to prosper and be successful in life (Josh. 1:8). It is your responsibility whether or not you succeed or fail in life. You are the one who makes your way prosperous and successful; it is your responsibility! It takes effort to learn and speak God's Word, but it takes very little effort to gossip, speak ill of, and criticize others. It takes a disciplined effort to set aside time each day to study God's Word, but it takes very little effort to sit in front of a television. It takes effort to act on God's Word in the face of contradictory circumstances, but it takes very little effort to simply accept what the five physical senses are telling you. It takes very little effort to react to life, but it takes self-discipline to respond to life. It takes no effort to fail, just do what the majority of people are doing and the negative downward pull of life will hold you in bondage to a life of mediocrity. Satan is the god of this evil world, and mediocrity is the best he has to offer.

Those in group one put little or no effort into pursuing the principles contained in *God's Master Success Book*, and they receive little or no benefit from God's Word.

## **Group 2:**

### **Those on stony ground where God's Word was sown**

The second group heard God's Word and received it with gladness, but there were some stones in their hearts. When there are stones in your heart, what you plant does not get rooted deeply enough. The roots hit the stones and do not go down deeply enough to produce lasting results. The height of the crop is determined by the depth of its roots. The truth contained in God's Word did not

become a way of life for the second group. It takes time to prepare and develop good ground. Everything that is worthwhile in life takes time to develop. It takes very little effort to react to life, but it takes self-discipline to respond to life.

We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.

—1 JOHN 5:19

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

—1 PETER 5:8

There is a negative force operating in this world. The Bible clearly states that Satan is the god of this evil world. Look around you; look at all the heartache, suffering, and violence that exist in the world. You do not need to be a biblical scholar or a genius to figure out that some of the things happening in this world did not come from God. As a child of God, you are in the world, but you do not have to succumb to the world's negative influence. Notice that 1 Peter 5:8 uses the words "whom he may devour," not whomever he "chooses" to devour. Your success cannot be taken from you. To lose your success you must give up your success (e.g., negative thinking). Follow the success principles in *God's Master Success Book* and your success will be a lasting success.

Another problem with the second group is that they are walking by sight, not living by faith. They are living solely by what the five physical senses are indicating. They are reacting to life, not responding to life. Whenever something happens that looks like a problem in their life, they have a tendency to focus on the problem instead of the solution. The people in this group stumble because they lack knowledge (Hosea 4:6). These people heard only a small portion of God's Word. These people had the success principles available to them and chose not to learn more about them. This group of people is well-known for wanting to know: "Why did God do this to me?" The people in this group are their own worst enemies due to their refusal to gain more knowledge.

The second group discovers the truth of God's Word; they find out they have the victory (1 Cor. 15:57), they find out they are the righteousness of God in Christ (2 Cor. 5:21), and they find out they can do all things through Christ who strengthens them (Phil. 4:13). However, when faced with the challenges of life, they either give up easily or give up and blame God. These people lack the courage of their conviction due to their limited knowledge. The "never give up" attitude they were instructed to develop never replaced their old attitude of "give up and blame God."

Those in group two do not make the sustained effort to gain sufficient knowledge by consistently applying the principles contained in *God's Master Success Book*, and they do not receive much benefit from God's Word.

### **Group 3:**

#### **Those among thorns where God's Word was sown**

The third group heard God's Word, but it was sown among thorns. There are three thorns that are identified. The first thorn is the cares of this world. The second thorn is the deceitfulness of riches. The third thorn is the desire for other things.

The first thorn consists of the cares, anxieties, worries, and concerns of this world. *God's Master Success Book* gives the solution to worry and anxiety problems:

Do not fret or have any anxiety about anything.

—PHILIPPIANS 4:6, AMP

Casting the whole of your care [all your anxieties, all your worries, all your concerns, once and for all] on Him, for He cares for you affectionately and cares about you watchfully.

—1 PETER 5:7, AMP

You are to take action regarding your cares and anxieties; you are to give them to God. If you hold on to the cares and anxieties of this world, then God does not have them and you get to keep them! When you keep your cares and anxieties, you have disobeyed God because you are admonished to cast all your cares on Him. The reason you can confidently cast your cares on God is because He cares about you affectionately and watchfully. When you cast your burdens on Him by refusing to live in worry, your faith confirms that He will sustain you.

Cast your burden on the LORD, And He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved.

—PSALM 55:22

Instead of worrying, spend that time meditating on the principles contained in *God's Master Success Book*. If you know how to worry, you know how to meditate. Worry is simply meditating on the problems in your life. When worry becomes a habit, every little thing in your life seems to become a burden.

Worry wastes a great deal of time and energy. Worry rarely provides any assistance, but always produces anxiety. Worrying is counterproductive because of the things that people worry about: 40 percent never happen, 30 percent are



over and past and cannot be changed, 12 percent are needless health issues, 10 percent are petty miscellaneous worries, and only 8 percent are real legitimate worries. So 92 percent of the average person's worries take up valuable time, cause painful stress, even mental anguish, and are absolutely unnecessary.<sup>7</sup>

You can cause yourself to needlessly live a miserable life by not doing what God has told you to do. God told you to cast your cares, anxieties, worries, concerns, and burdens on Him; do it! Whatever you allow into in your heart programs your success mechanism. Whatever you retain in your heart will eventually come out as results, benefits, or consequences. You cannot retain your burdens and program your heart for success. You will have to choose between burdens and success.

The second thorn is the deceitfulness of riches; the lure, seduction, and temptation of wealth. The people in this group are fooled by the desire to get rich quick. They are deceived because they do not know the difference between what they need and what they want. They may have all they need to live comfortably, but they let themselves become anxious and discontent over what they merely want. This confused condition is the result of the love of money.

People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

—1 TIMOTHY 6:9–10, NIV

Money is *not* the root of all evil. It is the *love of money* that is *a* root of all kinds of evil. When money becomes your love, it becomes a root of evil in your life. When money becomes your love, money becomes your master and it becomes the god that you are serving.

No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

—MATTHEW 6:24, NLT

The love of money has a debasing influence. You cannot serve both God and money, and serve means love. You can have a large amount of both God and money, but you cannot love them both. When you harbor a love of money, the outcome will be an expression of greed. Your successes will be shallow at best, and will be potentially devastating to the lives of those you love.<sup>8</sup>

The third thorn is the desire for other things; the craving for worldly goods

and worldly ways, frivolous pride in possessions and achievements, selfish desires, greedy imaginings, and all the vanity that is inherent in the natural man. These desires inhibit the positive programming of your success mechanism.

You can have a large amount of both God and money,  
but you cannot love them both.

Maintaining a balanced outlook is essential to your success. The desire for other things prevents a healthy balanced perspective. Negative emotions, negative thoughts, and negative mental images must be avoided. Mental images and emotional thoughts, positive or negative, when held in your heart, program your success mechanism. An image of someone else's success adds a little success to yourself, while an image of someone else's failure only serves to add a little failure to yourself.

Those in group three are distracted by certain aspects of their own physical existence, and they miss out on the benefits available from God's Word.

#### **Group 4:**

#### **Those on good ground where God's Word was sown**

The fourth group heard God's Word and accepted it. Those in group four put in the effort to gain knowledge and were proactive in applying that knowledge. They positioned themselves to effectively program their success mechanisms and they received the benefits. The principles in *God's Master Success Book* became their success principles. The benefits contained in God's Word became their benefits.

And He said to them, Be careful what you are hearing. The measure [of thought and study] you give [to the truth you hear] will be the measure [of virtue and knowledge] that comes back to you—and more [besides] will be given to you who hear.

—MARK 4:24, AMP

What you hear is a choice. You decide how you want to program your success mechanism by what you choose to hear. What you hear becomes what you meditate on, and what you meditate on goes into your heart and programs your success mechanism. The inevitable result of what you allow into your heart is what eventually comes out of your heart and into your life.

The growth in your life will reflect what you hear and what you meditate on. What you hear and what you meditate on will cause more success to come into

your life *or* it will actually cause the success that you have attained to disappear and exit your life. What you hear on a regular basis is the starting point to programming your success mechanism. How you program your success mechanism will ultimately determine the course your life takes. Hearing and accepting God's Word as the source of truth for your life will positively program your success mechanism.

Hearing (and meditating on what you heard) is the basis for building your faith. Faith increases as you hear God's Word. When you meditate on the principles contained in *God's Master Success Book*, you are programming your success mechanism to produce positive results in your life. Programming your success mechanism with God's success principles will allow you to live the life of victory and success that God has made available to you.

For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.

—PROVERBS 23:7

Notice *God's Master Success Book* does not say, "For as he thinks in his *mind*, so is he." The results you are getting in your life are being produced by the condition of your heart, not solely by the thoughts in your mind. The outcomes in your life flow from your heart.

Hearing and accepting God's Word as the source of truth for your life will positively program your success mechanism.

What you hear becomes a thought. Your thoughts create images in your mind, and what you meditate on gets stored in your heart. Your heart is being programmed with positive thoughts or negative thoughts. Your heart produces an abundance of whatever you allow to be placed in it. What you mentally accept, feel passion for, and envision in your mind is what gets planted in your heart. The abundance that comes out of your heart reveals your true beliefs, attitudes, and motivation. What is in your heart will come out in your speech and behavior.

For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

—LUKE 6:45

What you allow into your heart influences what comes out in your words. What you speak flows from what is in your heart. What you meditate on

programs you to speak in a certain manner. The condition of your heart determines the words you speak and the actions you take. The words you speak and the actions you take are producing the results in your life. Your thoughts and your words will eventually determine how you will act. The eternal truth, spoken by Jesus, is that the content of your heart determines the results that occur in your life.

A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things.

—MATTHEW 12:35

Your treasure is the condition of your heart. Store up good things in your heart and your words and actions will be good; your positive results will reflect your input. Store up evil things in your heart and your words and actions will be evil; your negative results will reflect your input. Whatever you store up in your heart, corresponding results will follow.

Your life is responding to what you think, speak, and do.

The condition of your heart produces the results that occur in your life because the content of your heart determines your thoughts, words, and actions. The production center for the results you are getting in your life is your heart. Program your success mechanism wisely and your production center will produce positive results in your life.

## CHAPTER PRINCIPLES

1. *God's Master Success Book* identifies your success mechanism and shows you how to effectively program your success mechanism.
2. Man is an eternal spirit, he possesses a soul, and he lives in a physical body.
3. Your character is determined by the condition of your heart.
4. Your heart is producing the results that you are experiencing in your life.
5. Whatever you permit into your heart programs your success mechanism.
6. Your success mechanism is how your spirit, soul, and body are influenced by the condition of your heart.
7. Taking action with a prepared heart will cause the power of God to move on your behalf.
8. It takes very little effort to react to life, but it takes self-discipline to respond to life.
9. You are to take action regarding your cares and anxieties; you are to give them to God.
10. Money is *not* the root of all evil. It is the *love of money* that is a root of all kinds of evil.
11. You can have a large amount of both God and money, but you cannot love them both.
12. Hearing and accepting God's Word as the source of truth for your life will positively program your success mechanism.
13. How you program your success mechanism will ultimately determine the course your life takes.
14. The outcomes in your life flow from your heart.

15. The condition of your heart produces results in your life because the content of your heart determines your thoughts, words, and actions.
16. Your life is responding to what you think, speak, and do.

## Chapter 8

### THE EMOTIONAL ROLLER COASTER

**E**VERYONE HAS TAKEN a ride at one time or another in their life on the emotional roller coaster. You know you are on the emotional roller coaster when the pattern of your life is waking up one day and you are happy and waking up the next day and you are sad. You are on the emotional roller coaster when your life exhibits a series of up and down emotions of happiness and sadness. When you identify the cause of your happiness and the cause of your sadness you will begin the process of minimizing the emotional mood swings you experience. The shorter and fewer the swings, the better off you are. After you have identified the cause of your emotional mood swings, you can seek a solution that will allow you to live your life with more emotional stability.

Happiness and sadness are both states of mind that come and go. The objective is to find out how to be happy all the time. You may have been happy when you graduated from school. You may have been happy when you won a great victory or prize. You may have been happy when you got engaged. You may have been happy when you got married. You may have been happy when you became a parent. During your lifetime many events have made you happy. The problem with these happiness-causing events is that they are transitory, they come and they go. Events come into your life and then they are over; memories are all that remain. When events you expect to happen do not happen, you experience sadness. When you are expecting positive things to happen and they do not happen, then all of a sudden you become sad because the opposite of something that makes you happy is going to make you sad. The antithesis of

happiness is sadness.

The term *true happiness* is really a misnomer because the positive events that make you happy are not going to happen all the time. Positive circumstances will not continuously occur in your life; that's just not the way life is.

He who deals wisely and heeds [God's] word and counsel shall find good, and whoever leans on, trusts in, and is confident in the Lord—happy, blessed, and fortunate is he.

—PROVERBS 16:20, AMP

God's prescription for happiness is for you to make wise choices based on the principles contained in *God's Master Success Book*. Acting on God's counsel, practicing the principles contained in God's Word, allows you to live a blessed life, which includes happiness. Your current happiness and your current sadness are states of mind that come and go depending on the circumstances that occur in your life. You can get off the emotional roller coaster by following God's prescription for emotional stability.

### Joy is continual happiness.

The New Testament term for a continual state of happiness is *joy*. Joy originates and emanates from your re-created spirit. When you learn how to grow and release the joy within you, you will be "happy" all the time. Joy is the second fruit of your re-created spirit.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

—GALATIANS 5:22–23

Happiness is a state of mind, but joy is a state of being. Happiness is a response to the circumstances of life, but joy is a way of living. Joy is the happiness you can experience throughout life regardless of your circumstances. Joy is what allows you to enjoy happiness through both the good and bad circumstances of life. When you placed your faith in Christ, you became a new creation, and one of the characteristics of your new nature is joy. You have the ability to allow joy to dominate your emotions.

The answers to the following four questions will enable and empower you to get off of the emotional roller coaster:

1. What is joy?
2. Is it God's will for you to live a joyful life?



3. How can you cultivate a joyful life?
4. How does joy grow in your life?

## 1. What is joy?

Joy is a state of cheerfulness, gladness, and calm delight. A calm delight is a constant plateau of well-being. Joy is not up one minute and down the next. Joy is not like the roller coaster ride of accentuated happiness and accentuated sadness. Joy is the confidence of knowing that God has prepared all the paths for your life. Joy is knowing that God has blessed you with everything you need to live a victorious life. Joy is based on what God has already done for you through the finished work of Christ. Joy is based on knowing who you are in Christ.

Happiness is an emotion. Joy is a state of being.

Joy is characterized by enthusiasm. The word *enthusiasm* comes from the Greek adjective *entheos*, which means “God within.”<sup>1</sup> An enthusiastic person does not need to say much, but you know by their expression, their demeanor, and the aura they portray that they are inspired, motivated, and excited about life. Their enthusiasm comes from being full of joy.

Joy is inside of every person who has a re-created spirit. Joy is a characteristic of God. God gave you His life and His nature when He came to make His home in you. One characteristic of God’s nature is joy, and that joy lives inside of you!

Happiness and sadness come from the outside in the form of events and circumstances; joy comes from the inside. Happiness occurs when “good” circumstances happen in your life and sadness occurs when “bad” circumstances happen in your life. Adverse circumstances ruin happiness. Joy transcends the emotional roller coaster of circumstance.

## 2. Is it God’s will for you to live a joyful life?

God’s Word contains God’s will for your life. God’s will concerning joy in your life is contained in *God’s Master Success Book*.

By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

—JOHN 15:8

As a follower of Christ (disciple), your life glorifies God as you bear “much fruit.” The fruit Jesus is talking about in this verse is the fruit of your re-created

spirit, which includes love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. God, your heavenly Father, is glorified when you live a joyful life by displaying the fruit of joy.

## God's nature includes joy and it lives inside of you.

These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.

—JOHN 15:11

Jesus wants you to have the same joy He has so that your joy will be the fullest possible joy. Your attitude should indicate that you have the joy of Jesus in your life. The joy that created the universe resides in you. That joy is constant, not up and down like happiness and sadness. Living a joyful life means getting off of the emotional roller coaster. You can live an enthusiastic joyful life!

One of the reasons Jesus is so emphatic about you living a joyful life is because He knew that He was going to suffer and pay the price so that you could live a life of victory and triumph. Jesus knew that He was going to make a way for His joy to be available to every person who follows Him. Jesus secured the victory so you could live a joyful life.

But thanks be to God, Who in Christ always leads us in triumph [as trophies of Christ's victory] and through us spreads and makes evident the fragrance of the knowledge of God everywhere.

—2 CORINTHIANS 2:14, AMP

As a child of God in Christ, you are a trophy of Christ's victory. You are a trophy of the joy Jesus spoke of in John 15:11. Jesus expects you to display His joy as you confirm His victory. The joy of Jesus is the fragrance that God spreads through you. God is leading you in a triumphant life. No matter what the circumstances are in your life, Jesus made you more than a conqueror so you could en-joy life! Jesus loves you so much that His victory is your victory and His joy is your joy.

## Jesus loves you so much that His joy is your joy!

Yet amid all these things we are more than conquerors and gain a surpassing victory through Him Who loved us.

—ROMANS 8:37, AMP

Overwhelming victory is yours. You can live a life of joy, a life that expresses

itself with triumphant exuberance. Triumphant exuberance is living a joyful life of victory twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. God has made you more than a conqueror in this life. You have already gained a surpassing victory over life's trials and tribulations. You can walk in victory and triumph by living a life full of joy. You can live the joyful abundant life that Jesus' sacrifice made available to you. It is God's will for you to live a joyful life!

### **3. How can you cultivate a joyful life?**

Jesus provides you with the key to cultivating a joyful life. Joy develops from a consistent relationship with your heavenly Father through Jesus Christ.

Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

—JOHN 16:24

You can cultivate a joyful life through prayer. Prayer will help you get off the emotional roller coaster. Prayer is talking to God. Meditating is listening to God. "Asking" refers to speaking to God. "Receiving" refers to hearing from God. According to Jesus, you ask, you receive, and your joy becomes full. It really is that simple. A common mistake is thinking that not asking God for something is a mark of humility. Failure to ask does not show humility; failure to ask shows disobedience to a command from Jesus. You are commanded by Jesus to "ask." Asking and receiving is how you cultivate a joyful life. Answered prayer will cause you to experience the fullest possible joy.

Ask, in Jesus' name, and you will receive, that your joy  
may be full.

If you do not ask, your joy will not be full. Failing to ask reflects an attitude of pride; it is not a sign of humility. Jesus said that your heavenly Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him (Matt. 6:8). Then Jesus goes on to say, "Ask, and it will be given to you...for everyone who asks receives" (Matt. 7:7-8).

Asking displays an attitude of humility. Humility is not synonymous with being poor, sick, and defeated. Some sincere religious people think it is a mark of godliness to be poor, sick, and defeated. The Bible repeatedly states the opposite. It is very difficult to have your joy full when you are living in lack and do not have the necessities of life.

*God's Master Success Book* promises you threefold prosperity (3 John 1:2). First, God wants you to prosper in all of the things you do. Second, God wants you to prosper in your physical body. Third, God wants you to prosper in your soul (in your thoughts and emotions). One of the ways you receive this threefold blessing of prosperity is by asking and receiving. Ask, in Jesus' name, and you will receive, that your joy may be full!

#### **4. How does joy grow in your life?**

Joy is one of the fruits of your re-created spirit. You glorify God as the fruit of joy grows in your life. The key to living a life full of joy is habit formation. Everything you do is influenced by your habits. Your habits were formed by repeating the things you do, repeating them over, and over, and over.

There are four steps you can take to form the habit of living a life of joy. Experts say that it takes about thirty days to form a new habit or replace an old habit. You can form or replace habits by following four clearly defined steps. These four steps may require you to take some actions that may be a little uncomfortable for you until you have had some time to practice the steps. The good news is that none of these four steps are difficult. The disciplines necessary to form these new habits are quite simple. The repetition of these disciplines establishes the new habit and makes the new habit permanent.

The key to living a life of joy is habit formation.

You can form a healthy new habit of joy during the next thirty days. To form your new habit, practice each of the four steps listed below every day for thirty consecutive days. Your thirty days of action will result in the formation of the habit of living a life filled with joy.

Joy resides in your re-created spirit, and that joy can be manifested in your life as you replace old habits that are holding you back with healthy new habits that establish joy in your life.

As you practice the following four steps you will soon find that you are no longer riding the emotional roller coaster.

*Step 1: Make a decision to cultivate joy in your life.*

You have a choice to make; the choice to commit yourself to implementing these four steps. You must make the decision to fully commit yourself to

forming your healthy productive new habit. The quality decision to fully commit must become a burning desire for you.<sup>2</sup> When you have the burning desire and have committed yourself to action, you are 51 percent of the way to forming your new habit. Making the decision to commit means your emotional roller coaster ride is coming to an end. The establishment of your healthy new habit, joy, will force the emotional roller coaster out of your life. You will no longer experience debilitating lows and deceptive highs. Your establishment of this healthy new habit changes the issue. The issue is not happiness anymore. The issue is no longer a result of circumstances. The issue is your established joy!

## Your attitude is more important than your circumstances.

### *Step 2: Start speaking joyful words.*

Most people equate joy with the absence of adversity and hardship, but joy can be experienced in the midst of adversity and negative circumstances. Your attitude and the words that spring forth from your attitude are far more important than your circumstances.

A man has joy by the answer of his mouth, and a word spoken in due season, how good it is!

—PROVERBS 15:23

Your words should be indicative of the joy you want in your life. As you speak joyful words, your entire attitude toward life will be uplifted. Cultivating joy in your life requires a new attitude. Psalm 118:24 exemplifies this new attitude, “This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it” (NIV).

Your attitude should be described as one of rejoicing and being glad. One effective way for you to check your attitude is by listening to yourself answer a very common question, “How are you?” Consider using one of the following words for the next seven days every time someone asks you how you are doing: great, fabulous, excellent, outstanding, terrific, fantastic, or phenomenal. If you will do that for thirty consecutive days you will find the joy in your life has significantly increased. The reason many people respond to “How are you?” in a mediocre manner is because they have formed the habit of answering that way. Start responding with a new positive response, and in about thirty days that positive response will become your habit. Eventually you will find yourself always answering in a joyful manner. Just by responding to “How are you?”

with a joyful response will allow you to experience noticeable improvements to the level of joy in your life.

Start speaking good things about yourself. Start talking to yourself in a positive manner. Start saying what God's Word says about you. First thing in the morning when you wake up say audibly and with emphasis something positive about yourself, such as, "I am full of joy today!" "I have the joy of Jesus in me!" "This is going to be a great day!" "I believe God is going to do something wonderful in my life today!" Repeat those phrases two or three times, and your day will start in a positive, joyful manner.

### Your words birth the outcomes in your life.

You can break the habit of getting your feelings and emotions solely from your circumstances. Sometimes your feelings and emotions are unstable, sometimes they are unreliable, and in some cases they are simply deceptions you have chosen to believe. The feelings and emotions you experience in your life, whether positive or negative, have been produced in your life by the habits you have formed due to the choices you have made. You can continue to create the way you feel by reacting to your circumstances, or you can create the way you feel by responding to your circumstances with positive words. Always remember that your tongue has creative power. You can birth the outcomes in your life with the words that come out of your mouth.

Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.

—PROVERBS 18:21

The word *fruit* refers to results. The results you are currently experiencing in your life were influenced by the words that came out of your mouth. The word *death* refers to negative results; *life* refers to positive results. The choice is yours. Jesus said that you will have whatever you say (Mark 11:23).

You must be diligent and consistent to form the habit of speaking positive joy-filled words. The joy in your life is influenced by your words. Your circumstances will line up with your thoughts, words, and actions.

#### *Step 3: Control your thought life.*

A thought takes place before a word is spoken. You are saying what you say on a regular basis because of what is in your mind. Sometimes your mind can be filled with how bad everything seems. The pressures of society are reflected in

the six o'clock and eleven o'clock news. Whatever you fill your mind with is what will eventually become your expression. You are not to dwell on negative influences; you are to restrict negative influences. It becomes increasingly more difficult to speak positive words when your mind is continually subjected to negativity.

Controlling your thought life pleases God. Think thoughts that are found in *God's Master Success Book*. What you think about most becomes your meditation. Meditate on Philippians 4:8 thoughts.

And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.

—PHILIPPIANS 4:8, NLT

Philippians 4:8 lists the type of thoughts you are to meditate on. Notice that nowhere does it mention thinking about negative circumstances. God gave you free will, and it is your responsibility to fill your mind with positive thoughts. As you continually think about the success principles found in God's Word, your negative circumstances will start to change.

Your thoughts can cause you to become depressed, dejected, and unhappy. The person who is continually unhappy in life is the person whose mind is continually filled with negative thoughts. It is really up to you whether you are depressed or full of joy.

It is your responsibility to fill your mind with positive thoughts.

Everyone is a creature of habit. The way you behave is a result of the conditioning you have received and accepted. Your habits start in your mind and are always a function of your thoughts. You learned to swim, ride a bicycle, and drive a car by consciously doing these things over and over again. These activities and actions became a habit—an automatic action. Every individual is free to choose to develop good habits or bad habits.

If you repeat negative thoughts, words, and actions over a period of time, you will be under the compulsion of the negative habit you have inadvertently formed. The same is true of positive thoughts, words, and actions. Whether positive or negative, whether intentional or inadvertent, you get what you form. When you reprogram your mind by renewing it with the habit of joyful thinking,

you will experience joyful living. You will be acting on God's Word, and your circumstances will begin to change because your thoughts, words, and actions agree with God's Word, which is the source of all joy.

Controlling your thought life is a spiritual battle. Your natural thinking mind is continually challenged to maintain God's thoughts. Your thinking will be transformed, and you will experience a joyful life when controlling your thoughts becomes a habit.

*Step 4: Live a life of faith.*

Living a life of faith pleases God (Heb. 11:6). The challenge to living a life of faith comes when negative circumstances attempt to rob you of your joy. You are admonished to live by faith, and not by the circumstances you can see.

We live by faith, not by sight.

—2 CORINTHIANS 5:7, NIV

The word *sight* refers to one of the five physical senses. Govern your life by faith in God's Word and not solely by what you see or how you feel. You can learn how to live a life of faith the same way the apostle Paul learned to live a life of faith.

## Controlling your thoughts is a spiritual battle.

Not that I am implying that I was in any personal want, for I have learned how to be content (satisfied to the point where I am not disturbed or disquieted) in whatever state I am. I know how to be abased and live humbly in straitened circumstances, and I know also how to enjoy plenty and live in abundance. I have learned in any and all circumstances the secret of facing every situation, whether well-fed or going hungry, having a sufficiency and enough to spare or going without and being in want. I have strength for all things in Christ Who empowers me [I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him Who infuses inner strength into me; I am self-sufficient in Christ's sufficiency].

—PHILIPPIANS 4:11–13, AMP

The apostle Paul learned to be content whatever the circumstances. When you live by faith, you live independent of circumstances. Joy is the result of practicing your faith, the result of putting your faith into action. The faith life is not dictated by circumstances and is not restricted by the five physical senses. Faith not only acts independently of your senses, but faith acts independently of your circumstances. Your joy is not dependent on your circumstances; your joy is dependent on following the instructions in *God's Master Success Book*.

The apostle Paul learned the secret of being content in any and every situation.



You can follow Paul's example and learn to be content whatever your current temporary circumstances. Paul's response to adversity was not to become depressed. Paul's response was to claim that he could do all things through Christ who strengthened him. Paul learned how to live in victory whether he was hungry or full, experiencing need or enjoying abundance. Paul knew his sufficiency was found in Christ. Paul's attitude exemplified biblical faith.

Paul knew where his help was coming from. His sufficiency came from his faith in Christ. The reality of the risen Christ was the source of Paul's joy. The source of Paul's ability to retain his joy was his union with Christ. Paul's strength in Christ was the secret that allowed him to be joyful as he went through a variety of very difficult circumstances.

You can adopt the attitude of the apostle Paul. You have free will; you can initiate your own attitude adjustment. The next time trials occur in your life, you can respond with: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." When you make that bold confession, you will be releasing the power of God into your life. God's power manifests when you release your faith by speaking God's Word.

Living by faith is living independently of circumstances. Living by faith is speaking God's Word regardless of how you feel. Rather than relying solely on your feelings and circumstances, follow the example that was provided for you; live by faith!

You have a choice to make. Jesus stated that His joy is your joy. Your joy can be full, complete, and overflowing twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. In the midst of adverse circumstances, you can react to those circumstances or you can proactively respond by doing what God's Word instructs you to do.

My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

—JAMES 1:2-3

Trials are negative circumstances that will inevitably occur in your life. Your reaction to negative circumstances can make you feel defeated and depressed. Your proactive response to negative circumstances can resolve your problems and develop your character. Since you are now a child of God, you now have God's help to turn your negative circumstances into a lesson in developing character. During your Christian walk you will develop character, regardless of whether or not you want to. The only issue is how many times you will repeat the lesson before you learn it and move on.

## You can do everything you need to do through Christ who gives you strength.

Some people want to have a pity party when they encounter negative circumstances. The cause of their negative, miserable attitude is their refusal to act on God's Word and count it all joy. Some people consider their feelings and emotions to be more important than what is written in *God's Master Success Book*. Some people insist on acting out however they happen to feel. Stubbornly retaining a bad attitude causes God's power to remain idle in the lives of these people. God responds when His children count it all joy, not when His children bellyache and complain. *God's Master Success Book* instructs you to keep your attitude positive and to be joyful during your trials.

Make a decision to start using your new habit of counting it all joy when you experience trials and negative circumstances. Many people have been conditioned to react negatively to negative circumstances. When you continue to react to negative circumstances with any attitude other than joy, you keep getting more of those negative circumstances.

Faith and fear both expect something to happen that has not yet happened. Faith produces positive results; fear produces negative results. Fear is negative faith. You will experience negative circumstances in your life if you activate fear by speaking negative words. Release your faith by speaking joyful words in the face of your negative circumstances and you will see God's power manifested in your life. When you act on God's Word in the face of negative circumstances, you are responding in faith and your circumstances will start to improve.

### Times of trials are times of growth.

You are either forming positive or negative habits depending on your thoughts, words, and actions. The process of forming habits is producing the results in your life. What you allow to occupy your mind will sooner or later determine your speech and your actions.

The Book of Acts records an account of severely negative circumstances and the impressive success that resulted from maintaining joy. (See Acts 16:1–34.) The apostle Paul and his ministry partner, Silas, were on a missionary trip in the Roman colony of Philippi when they encountered a girl who had a demon spirit through which she predicted the future. The girl followed Paul and Silas for

through which she predicted the future. The girl followed Paul and Silas for many days and mocked God right in front of them. Paul became annoyed and ordered the demon spirit out of her. This cut into the livelihood of the people who were making money from the girl's fortune-telling ability. Those who profited from the girl's fortune-telling seized Paul and Silas, brought them before the city officials, and accused them of violating Roman customs.

Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods. And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

—ACTS 16:22–24

Paul and Silas were beaten and thrown into jail. Instead of complaining and bellyaching, Paul and Silas exhibited their inner joy by praying and singing hymns to God in the midst of their adversity. As Paul and Silas prayed and sang, God's power manifested supernaturally in their situation.

But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed.

—ACTS 16:25–26

Not only were Paul and Silas soon released from prison, but they were also successful in their ministry. Even the jailer and his family soon accepted Christ as their Savior and were baptized. Paul and Silas were called to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ, and they accomplished their purpose in the midst of exceedingly negative circumstances. Paul and Silas did not react to the pain and discomfort dictated by their senses, but instead they responded to the Word of God. God's power will be displayed in your life just as miraculously as it did in the lives of Paul and Silas when you act on God's Word just as Paul and Silas did.

Your joy thermostat is set by the way you are thinking, what you are saying, and how you are acting. The instructions for obtaining joy in your life are found in *God's Master Success Book*. You can increase the amount of joy in your life by spending more time with God and more time meditating on God's Word. As you continually think, speak, and act according to the principles in *God's Master Success Book*, your joy will soar. You can change the way you feel by changing the way you think, changing what you say, and changing how you act.

You can change the way you feel by changing the way

you think, changing what you say, and changing how  
you act.

## CHAPTER PRINCIPLES

1. Happiness is a state of mind, but joy is a state of being.
2. Joy is not dependent on circumstances. Joy is based on knowing who you are in Christ.
3. Joy is a characteristic of the nature of God within you.
4. Your attitude should indicate that you have the joy of Jesus in your life.
5. You can walk in victory and triumph by living a life full of joy.
6. You can cultivate a joyful life through prayer.
7. Ask, in Jesus' name, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.
8. Habit formation is the key to living a life full of joy. Your habits are producing the results in your life.
9. Your attitude is more important than your circumstances.
10. Your tongue has creative power. Speak joyful words.
11. Your words should be indicative of the joy you want in your life.
12. God's power manifests when you release your faith by speaking God's Word.
13. It is your responsibility to fill your mind with positive thoughts.
14. Controlling your thought life is a spiritual battle.
15. You can do everything you need to do through Christ who gives you strength.
16. Your times of trials are times of growth.
17. You will develop character as you learn from your mistakes.
18. You increase the amount of joy in your life as you spend more

time with God and His Word.

19. You change the way you feel by changing the way you think, changing what you speak, and changing how you act.

20. It is God's will for you to live a joyful life!

## Chapter 9

### KEYS TO SETTING AND ACHIEVING YOUR GOALS

**S**ETTING AND ACHIEVING goals are the intermediate steps on the way to realizing your God-given dream. The process of setting and achieving goals is an integral part of realizing your God-given dream. Setting and achieving goals are steps that help you to complete the work that has been assigned to you.

Goal setting requires faith. Setting goals and making plans for their attainment helps you to be sure of what you hope for and certain of what you do not see (Heb. 11:1, NIV). You are asking for God's assistance when you set goals and make plans for their attainment. Goal setting is a proactive process that helps you become a better receiver.

The biblical account of an Old Testament prophet named Habakkuk provides insight into setting and achieving goals. Habakkuk lived around 600 B.C. at the time when Babylon was becoming the dominant world power and Judah would soon feel Babylon's destructive force. Habakkuk was made to understand that God was going to use the Babylonians to judge the people of Judah. Habakkuk also knew that the Babylonians were wicked and the people of Judah considered themselves to be righteous. Habakkuk had difficulty understanding why God was going to use the wicked to judge those who were relatively righteous.

The Old Testament Book of Habakkuk is a conversation between Habakkuk and God. It is a series of the Old Testament prophet's questions and God's answers to those questions. Habakkuk's questions included: "Why do the wicked seem to be winning?" "Why isn't God doing something about all the problems in the world?" "Why is there so much injustice?" Habakkuk's questions are

timeless; they are questions that occur to everyone. The answers God gave to Habakkuk are as valid and relevant today as they were when God gave them to Habakkuk.

Habakkuk's questions were really Habakkuk's questionings of God, not his questions to God. Habakkuk's questions were really a disguise for complaining. Habakkuk was perplexed that wickedness, strife, and oppression were rampant in Judah but God seemingly did nothing. When told that the Lord was preparing to do something about it through the ruthless Babylonians, Habakkuk's perplexity only intensified. How could a just God use the wicked Babylonians to punish a people more righteous than themselves? God's answers to Habakkuk's questionings provide the keys to setting and achieving goals.

After Habakkuk had stated his second complaint, he went to the watchtower to wait for God's reply. Habakkuk wanted to be in the best position to receive God's message.

I will climb up to my watchtower and stand at my guardpost. There I will wait to see what the LORD says and how he will answer my complaint.

—HABAKKUK 2:1, NLT

Habakkuk assumed a cautious posture as He waited to hear God's reply. Old Testament prophets often used the watchtower as a symbol representing an attitude of expectation. Habakkuk was prepared to hear God's answer and receive God's revelation.

## WRITE THE VISION

God's response to Habakkuk's complaint opens with a command. God's command provides the first key to effectively setting and achieving goals. God told Habakkuk to write down his vision.

And the Lord answered me and said, Write the vision and engrave it so plainly upon tablets that everyone who passes may [be able to] read [it easily and quickly] as he hastens by.

—HABAKKUK 2:2, AMP

The vision contained severe punishments for Babylonian atrocities committed against neighboring countries. The various steps to the end of the cruelty of Babylonian domination were "goals" that Habakkuk wanted to be attained; "goals" that God stated would be attained. Habakkuk obeyed God's command and acted on God's instructions by writing down the steps necessary to achieve his vision. When you write down the steps (goals) necessary to achieve your



his vision. When you write down the steps (goals) necessary to achieve your vision (God-given dream), you are obeying God and acting on His instructions.

The first key to effectively setting and achieving goals is to write them down. God has His goals written down. The Bible contains God's written plan and vision for the universe and for mankind. Some topics included in God's written plan: how and why God created the earth, why mankind is here, how life works, what things to avoid, and what to expect in the future.

The first step to achieving your goals is to write them  
down.

Goals must be identified to be achieved. Writing your goals forces you to decide what you want out of life. Effective goal setting requires that you identify three things: what you want to be, what you want to do, and what you want to have. "To be" goals include improving yourself through the books you read, the CDs you listen to, and the people you associate with. "To do" goals involve activities and events that provide satisfaction and productivity. Examples of "to do" goals include performing a certain job, getting elected to a community service organization, teaching less fortunate children, or climbing a mountain. "To have" goals involve the material aspects of life, such as money and possessions.

God can do exceedingly abundantly above all that you ask or think (Eph. 3:20). However, if you do not know where you want to go, you will be unable to identify your specific goal. You must clearly identify your goal to receive God's assistance in achieving that goal.

Write down the goals that are necessary to make your vision your reality. When you write down your goals, you then know where you are going. God begins to move on your behalf when you know the direction you want for your life. God will give you the assistance you need to achieve your goals. He will cause people, events, and material assistance to come into your life.<sup>1</sup>

Writing your goals inspires you to take action on the  
ideas God reveals to you.

Writing your goals inspires you to take action on the ideas God reveals to you. Take at least one action step every day in each of your three goal areas: to be, to do, and to have. If your goal is to write a book, write something every day, even

if it is just one paragraph. If your goal is improved physical fitness, do some type of exercise every day, even if it is just a short walk. If your goal is to move into a nicer home, set aside some money every day, even if it is just one dollar.

You are instructed in *God's Master Success Book* to write your goals down for three very significant reasons. First, to decide what kind of life you want; second, so God can move on your behalf; and third, so you can take focused action toward the accomplishment of your specific goals.

## WAIT EXPECTANTLY

Habakkuk's second complaint contains a complaint within a complaint. Habakkuk's second complaint is concerned with how a just God could use such very wicked people to punish Judah. During the second complaint Habakkuk interjects an additional complaint by pointing out to God that it is He who has allowed, and even continues in the future to allow, the wickedness of the Babylonians to go unpunished. God's response is to assure Habakkuk that Babylon will be punished and faith will be rewarded; that events will happen at the time He has appointed.

This vision is for a future time. It describes the end, and it will be fulfilled. If it seems slow in coming, wait patiently, for it will surely take place. It will not be delayed.

—HABAKKUK 2:3, NLT

The phrase "If it seems slow in coming, wait patiently" does not mean that you are to sit around and do nothing. You are to act on the instructions in *God's Master Success Book*. You are to exercise patience until your goal is attained. You are to exercise biblical patience, and biblical patience is waiting without complaining.

Your God-given dream is for an appointed time. The appointed time is set for God's timing. God chose when you were to be born for a reason. You were born at the right time to realize your God-given dream. This is your time!

God's timing occurs when you have prepared yourself.

Your vision will come to pass, but in the meantime, review your vision (God-given dream) and take action on your goals. Walking by faith will encourage you to persevere and persist during your time of waiting. Faith is released through words; speak your goals into existence! Your God-given dream will come to pass at exactly the right time.

pass at exactly the right time.

Look at the proud! They trust in themselves and their lives are crooked.

—HABAKKUK 2:4, NLT

One of the challenges of waiting is the temptation to rely on yourself to expedite results without embracing God's timing. God is the one who is able to bring your vision to pass. You, like Habakkuk, are to wait expectantly for God's timing. You are to be confident that God is producing the results in your life according to the thoughts you think and the words you speak. God's timing will occur when you have prepared yourself. When you are ready, you will accomplish your goals.

## LIVE BY FAITH

God told Habakkuk to wait patiently and live by faith. Habakkuk's faith gave him the confidence to share his vision with the people of his day. Habakkuk's faith gave Judah hope for the future and continues to provide a basis for hope even today. Just like Habakkuk, you need to live by faith. Living by faith will empower you to achieve the goals that God has enabled you to accomplish.

Living by faith will empower you to achieve the goals  
that God has enabled you to accomplish.

But the just shall live by his faith.

—HABAKKUK 2:4

The phrase "the just shall live by faith" is repeated three times in the New Testament and all three references are found in the Epistles, the instructional letters written to be shared by all the churches over time. (See Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:38.) God justified you (made you righteous) and now you are expected to live by faith.

The power you need to accomplish your goals and realize your God-given dream is released through faith. Faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen. Faith gives substance to the goals you want to achieve. Faith is the thought-image of your goals already completed. The only evidence you need is the picture you hold in your mind of you in possession of your goals. The world calls it visualization or positive thinking; however, the techniques of visualization and positive thinking are simply applied faith.

Applied faith is the belief that the images you picture in your mind will become

Applied faith is the belief that the images you picture in your mind will become real. Imagine your goals as already accomplished.

The story of James Nesmeth illustrates the power of picturing images in your mind. Major James Nesmeth, an average weekend golfer shooting in the mid-to-low nineties, dreamed of improving his golf game. But, then, for seven years he never touched a club nor set foot on a fairway. During those years, however, he developed an amazingly effective technique for improving his game. The first time he returned to a course, he shot an astonishing seventy-four! He had cut twenty strokes off his average. What was his secret? Visualization. For those seven years, Major Nesmeth was a prisoner of war in North Vietnam. He was imprisoned in a cage four and one-half feet high and five feet long. Most of those years, he saw no one, talked to no one, and had no physical activity. He knew he had to find some way to occupy his mind or he would lose his sanity, so he began to visualize playing golf. Each day, he played a full eighteen holes at the imaginary country club of his dreams. He imagined every detail, every shot. And not once did he miss a shot or putt. Seven days a week, four hours a day, he played eighteen holes in his mind.<sup>2</sup>

### Empower your God-given dream; visualize it!

Your God-given dream requires your assistance to become your reality. Put your faith into action; visualize your goals and imagine reaching them. See yourself setting and achieving all of your goals. Create in your mind an image of you already living your God-given dream.

You are to write down your goals and wait expectantly as God provides opportunities for you to accomplish your goals. You are to live by faith, knowing that your God-given dream will surely come to pass. When negative circumstances bring your plans to a halt, it is not enough to just keep going and not give up. You must respond to the lack of visible results the way Habakkuk did.

### PRAISE AND THANK GOD

Habakkuk did something in the face of negative circumstances. Habakkuk's action reveals the appropriate response to negative circumstances. God told Habakkuk to write down his vision. God told Habakkuk to be patient as God would cause Habakkuk's vision to come to pass. God told Habakkuk to live by faith. Habakkuk took significant action when confronted by negative

14111. HABAKKUK TOOK SIGNIFICANT ACTION when confronted by negative circumstances. Habakkuk's action-response contains your answer to negative circumstances and negative events.

Even though the fig trees have no blossoms, and there are no grapes on the vines; even though the olive crop fails, and the fields lie empty and barren; even though the flocks die in the fields, and the cattle barns are empty.

—HABAKKUK 3:17, NLT

With the farm crops failed and the farm animals dead, the situation looks bleak for Habakkuk and his people. With famine in the land and the world-renowned cruelty of the Babylonians on the horizon, Habakkuk and his people would encounter dismal circumstances and a lack of visible results. Habakkuk's response to these discouraging circumstances should also be your response to discouraging circumstances. Habakkuk's response to dismal circumstances is your answer to preventing discouragement and frustration while enabling the power of God.

Yet I will rejoice in the LORD! I will be joyful in the God of my salvation!

—HABAKKUK 3:18, NLT

Habakkuk's action-response was to rejoice in the Lord! The third chapter in the Book of Habakkuk is a prayer, which Habakkuk sang. Habakkuk's response to the most dismal of circumstances was to sing and praise God.<sup>3</sup> The Old Testament prophet, Habakkuk, had learned to have joy in his life regardless of circumstances. Habakkuk had a source of strength that sustained him during dismal circumstances.

The Sovereign LORD is my strength!

—HABAKKUK 3:19, NLT

Habakkuk knew where his strength for the victory would come from. The Lord God was his strength. Habakkuk's prayer praises God for who He is, what He has done, and what He is going to do. Habakkuk thanked God in advance for the accomplishment of his vision.

Habakkuk had learned to live by faith and to trust in God's providence regardless of circumstances. Habakkuk's response to suffering and loss was to praise and thank God. When negative circumstances come into your life, praise and thank God for who He is, what He has done, and what He is going to do.

When you encounter opposition to your goals, praise the Lord and remain joyful. Through all of the trials during your life, maintain an attitude of praise

and thanksgiving to God. That is what Habakkuk did and you can do it too!

Praising God, while maintaining a joyful attitude, is an integral part of achieving your goals and realizing your God-given dream.

## CHAPTER PRINCIPLES

1. Setting and achieving goals are the intermediate steps on the way to realizing your God-given dream.
2. You are asking for God's assistance when you set goals and make plans for their attainment.
3. The first step to achieving your goals is to write them down.
4. Writing your goals forces you to decide what you want. Effective goal setting requires that you identify three things: what you want to be, what you want to do, and what you want to have.
5. Writing your goals inspires you to take action on the ideas God reveals to you.
6. You are to exercise patience, perseverance, and persistence until your goals are attained.
7. You were born at the right time to realize your God-given dream.
8. Faith is released through words; speak your goals into existence!
9. God's timing will occur when you have prepared yourself.
10. Living by faith will empower you to achieve the goals that God has enabled you to accomplish.
11. Put your faith into action; visualize your goals and imagine reaching them.
12. Thank God in advance for the realization of your God-given dream.
13. When negative circumstances come into your life, praise and thank God for who He is, what He has done, and what He is going to do.
14. Through all of the trials during your life, maintain an attitude

14. Through all of the trials during your life, maintain an attitude of praise and thanksgiving to God.



## Chapter 10

### THE POWER WITHIN YOU

**E**PHESIANS 3:20 MAKES one of the most remarkable statements in all of God's Word. Ephesians 3:20 sums up what is available to the believer who takes action on the principles contained in *God's Master Success Book*.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.

—EPHESIANS 3:20, NIV

This verse explains the power that resides within you and what that power makes available to you. Meditate on Ephesians 3:20 one phrase at a time:

1. Now to Him who is able to do
2. Immeasurably more
3. Than all we ask or imagine
4. According to His power that is at work within us

#### **1. Now to Him who is able to do**

God is the One who is able to do great and mighty things in your life. You have available to you the rights and privileges that are extended to a child of God. Your rights and privileges were bought at a very high price, paid for by the ultimate sacrifice. God has taken great care to make His protection and provision available to you. To tap into the force that created the universe, it is necessary to acknowledge the One who is able to do great and mighty things in your life.

God deserves your worship, your praise, and your thanks because of who He

is, the love that He has for you, and the provisions He has made for you. Worship God because of everything He is. Praise God for everything He has done, everything He is doing, and everything He will continue to do during your life. Give God thanks that you are a child of God, a member of God's royal family. Worship, praise, and thanksgiving open the door to the blessings of God.

Worship, praise, and thanksgiving open the door to the blessings of God.

## **2. Immeasurably more**

God is able to do immeasurably more than you ask or imagine. He can do the miraculous in your life. You are never alone. God is with you. Your situation is never impossible; God is in you and for you.

There is more to your life than what you are currently seeing and experiencing. God is always doing something in your life that you cannot see. God is able to do immeasurably more in your life because of His unlimited power. As you learn to live by faith and walk in love, God's unlimited power is released into your life.

### **3. Than all we ask or imagine**

God is able to do immeasurably more than all you ask or imagine. You cannot ask anything or imagine anything that is beyond God's power. You are the one who is to do the asking and you are the one who is to do the imagining. God is the One who is able to do immeasurably more than all you ask or imagine.

You empower what you ask for by speaking words. Speak complaints and grumblings, and you have influenced your future. Speak praise and thanksgiving, and you have influenced your future. Your results reflect your attitude. Your attitude is influenced by the words you speak and the thoughts you imagine.

To imagine goes beyond merely thinking thoughts. Effective imagining includes forming a mental image of the realization of your God-given dream. Your future reality will be determined in part by what you imagine today. Your imagination enables you to see something in the spiritual realm before it is manifested in the physical realm. See yourself living your God-given dream!

Your attitude is influenced by the words you speak and the thoughts you imagine.

God speaks of nonexistent things as if they already existed (Rom. 4:17). God created the physical universe by calling it into existence. He created what is visible from what cannot be seen (Heb. 11:3). You were created in God's image and you can follow God's example by using your words and your imagination to move toward your God-given dream. Speak your God-given dream and imagine living your God-given dream.

#### **4. According to His power that is at work within us**

The power that is at work within you is the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit, resides within you. Your body is the temple of God, His dwelling place.

Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

—1 CORINTHIANS 3:16

Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

—1 CORINTHIANS 6:19

Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. Under the old covenant, God's presence was confined to the temple building. Under the new covenant, your body is the temple within which the Holy Spirit dwells. The presence and power of God now reside within you in the person of the Holy Spirit. You can be confident that the power of God is going to work effectively in your life because of the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit.

You should be ever conscious that the Holy Spirit resides within you. You may hear other men and women complain about their lack of power, their lack of ability, and all that they cannot do. However, you now know that the God of all possibility resides within you. You are not permitted to join others, Christian or otherwise, in a boring pity party.

God's power dwells within every believer. Jesus stated that all things are possible to the person who believes (Mark 9:23). Jesus knew that when He returned to heaven, the God of all possibility would come to dwell within every believer. The Holy Spirit is both your ability and your strength. He will enable you and empower you in all you do.

The Holy Spirit resides within you; the power of God will work effectively through you.

You cannot have a lack of ability because the Creator of the universe shares His ability with you. You cannot have a lack of strength because the Creator of the universe shares His strength with you. You have the ability and you have the strength because the power of God in person of the Holy Spirit resides within you.

Supernatural power is available to you for the accomplishment of your goals and the realization of your God-given dream because of the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will help you establish your success.

But you shall receive power (ability, efficiency, and might) when the Holy Spirit has come upon you.

—ACTS 1:8, AMP

The power you need, the ability you need, the wisdom you need, and the strength you need to be a success in life were imparted to you when you received the gift of the Holy Spirit. The plans, the necessary steps, and the details for the accomplishment of your goals and the realization of your God-given dream will be revealed to you during your times of daily fellowship with the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit will enable you and empower you in all you do.

However, I am telling you nothing but the truth when I say it is profitable (good, expedient, advantageous) for you that I go away. Because if I do not go away, the Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Advocate, Intercessor, Strengthener, Standby) will not come to you [into close fellowship with you]; but if I go away, I will send Him to you [to be in close fellowship with you].

—JOHN 16:7, AMP

Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would be your Comforter, Counselor, Helper, Advocate, Intercessor, Strengthener, and Standby.

If you need peace, He is your Comforter.

If you need wisdom, He is your Counselor.

If you need assistance, He is your Helper.

If you need counsel, He is your Advocate.

If you need prayer, He is your Intercessor.

If you need strength, He is your Strengthener.

If you need fellowship, He is your Standby.

The presence of the Holy Spirit living in you will do everything that Jesus said He would do for you. You always have the Holy Spirit within you to assist you in every area of your life.<sup>1</sup>

Christians who talk of their lack and inability are failing to exercise their rights and privileges as children of God. It is your responsibility to make the effort to learn your rights and privileges. As you spend time in fellowship with the Holy Spirit, He will help you apply your rights and privileges to your life.

You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

—1 JOHN 4:4, NIV

The greater One with His great ability is living within you. Nothing that you encounter or experience in this world is greater than the Holy Spirit. There is no situation or condition that must remain unfavorable. You can face life's challenges with the attitude of a conqueror because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. You are a conqueror and much more in this life because of the indwelling presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

Yet amid all these things we are more than conquerors and gain a surpassing victory through Him Who loved us.

—ROMANS 8:37, AMP

To be effective as a conqueror in this life, you must learn how to let the Holy Spirit be productive in your life. You must learn how to release the power, ability, wisdom, and strength that reside within you. You become effective when you allow the Holy Spirit to empower you by applying the following principles from *God's Master Success Book*:

1. Do not speak negative things about yourself. Do not say you cannot when God has made it clear that you can.
2. Give thanks to God because you are His child and a member of His royal family.
3. Make a daily confession of who you are, what you have, and what you can do because you are in Christ.
4. Act like the "more than a conqueror" that you are.

5. Dismiss every doubt and hesitation you experience when doing a...

5. Discuss your goals and how you can achieve them during your fellowship time with the Holy Spirit.
6. Imagine yourself living your God-given dream.
7. Use your words to move toward your God-given dream.

Practicing these seven principles will help you rapidly move toward the achievement of your goals. The indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit will guide you as you move toward the realization of your God-given dream.

God's power becomes effective in your life as you  
cooperate with the Holy Spirit.

God is able to do immeasurably more than all you ask or imagine according to His power that is at work within you. The Holy Spirit will lead you, guide you, motivate you, and inspire you toward the realization of your God-given dream. God's power becomes effective in your life as you cooperate with the Holy Spirit.

## CHAPTER PRINCIPLES

1. God is the One who is able to do great and mighty things in your life.
2. God's protection and provision belong to you.
3. Worship, praise, and thanksgiving open the door to the blessings of God.
4. God is able to do immeasurably more than all you ask or imagine.
5. Your attitude is influenced by the words you speak and the thoughts you imagine.
6. The power of God will work effectively in your life because of the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit.
7. You have the ability and strength of God because the presence and power of the Holy Spirit reside within you.
8. The plans, the necessary steps, and the details for the accomplishment of your goals and the realization of your God-given dream will be revealed to you during your times of daily fellowship with the Holy Spirit.
9. Do not speak negative things about yourself. Do not say you cannot when God has made it clear that you can.
10. Give thanks to God because you are His child and a member of His royal family.
11. Make a daily confession of who you are, what you have, and what you can do because you are in Christ.
12. Act like the "more than a conqueror" that you really are.
13. Imagine yourself living your God-given dream.
14. Use your words to move toward your God-given dream.
15. God's power becomes effective in your life as you cooperate

with the Holy Spirit.



## CONCLUSION

**Y**OU HAVE GOD'S wisdom and God's ability at your disposal. You are a limitless individual. There is nothing impossible for you in your life. You are in Christ!

The wisdom of the Creator of the universe is at your disposal. Imagine knowing everything you need to know to be successful in life. That knowledge is available to you through the study of God's Word. Knowledge is what allows you to activate the ability of God that lies dormant within you. Wisdom is what allows you to apply that knowledge at the proper time.

The same mighty power, the same limitless ability that created the universe resides within you. The challenge is for you to release that power and ability for your benefit and for the benefit of others. Wisdom from God will show you how.

Allow the Holy Spirit to let the power of God loose in your life. Allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you through God's Word. Your confidence in God's plan for your life will grow as you meditate on God's Word. *God's Master Success Book* clearly tells you who you are, what you have, and what you can do because you are in Christ. It is now your time to create the abundant life that God has prepared for you.

During your times of daily fellowship, the Holy Spirit will reveal to you the master plan God has for your life. The Holy Spirit will show you the dream God has given to you. The Holy Spirit is your Helper on the journey toward the realization of your God-given dream.

The God in you is the same God who created the entire universe (Col. 1:16). The God in you is the same God who walked across the Sea of Galilee (Mark 6:48–49). The God in you is the same God who took five loaves and two fish and fed more than five thousand people (Matt. 14:21). The God in you is the same God who spoke to the wind and waves and said, "Peace, be still!" (Mark 4:39). The God in you is the same God who raised Lazarus from the dead by speaking the words, "Lazarus, come forth!" (John 11:43). The God in you is the same God who raised Jesus from the dead and seated Him at His own right hand

same God who raised Jesus from the dead and seated Him at His own right hand (Eph. 1:20).

God's will is contained in His Word. When your thoughts become agreeable to His will, your plans will be established and successful. God will do His part, but you must do your part. Think, speak, and act according to the principles in *God's Master Success Book*.

There is an unseen realm that is just as real as the world you contact with your five physical senses. What you create in the unseen realm with your thoughts, words, and actions will manifest itself in the realm that you do see, life on earth. You may not always see the outcomes of your thoughts, words, and actions immediately; however, God will always do His part. God is always doing something in your life that you cannot see. Your part is to live by faith and walk in love as you implement the plan for the realization of your God-given dream.

God's life, nature, and ability within you enable and empower you to tap into the force that created the universe. Nothing is impossible for you!

## APPENDIX

### Receiving the Presence and Power of God

**Y**OU CAN HAVE the presence and power of God in your life! Have you passed from spiritual death into spiritual life? Do you know God as your Father? Is His Spirit within your spirit bearing witness that you are a child of God? Do you have the life and nature of God within you?

If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved.

—ROMANS 10:9–10, NLT

Your time to receive eternal life is now. Say the following prayer out loud:

*Father, I accept Jesus as my Lord. I believe in my heart that You raised Him from the dead so I could be right with You and accepted into Your family. I have eternal life. I have Your life and Your nature within me. I am now saved. Amen.*

God has become your Father and you have become His child; you have been born again. You now have the presence of God within you. Your re-created human spirit is now the home of the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit confirms that you are a member of God's family.

The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.

—ROMANS 8:16

You have the life and nature of God within you, but you still need the ability of God in order to realize your God-given dream. Being filled with the Holy Spirit enables and empowers you to realize your God-given dream.

But you shall receive power (ability, efficiency, and might) when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem and all Judea and Samaria and to the ends (the very bounds) of the earth.

—ACTS 1:8, AMP

Your time to be filled with the Holy Spirit is now. Ask, out loud, to be filled with the Holy Spirit:

*Father, in the name of Jesus, I ask You to fill me with the Holy Spirit. Your ability is now within me. Thank You for Your presence and power. Amen!*

The power of God is now available to you both for your own benefit and for the benefit of others. The Holy Spirit is the power that enables you to share Christ with others. You have God's presence and God's power to assist you as you realize your God-given dream. The limitless ability of the Creator of the universe lies within you just waiting for you to act.

# NOTES

## INTRODUCTION

1. Josh D. McDowell, *The New Evidence that Demands a Verdict* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1999), 34.
2. Ibid., 34.
3. Ibid., 37.
4. Ibid., 34.
5. Ibid., 35.

## 1—THE POWER TWINS

1. At the time Paul wrote this, some early Jewish converts to Christianity thought that Gentiles who were converting to Christianity needed to be circumcised because the Jews were circumcised. Here Paul is stating that circumcision, although part of Jewish customs, was not necessary for those such as the Gentiles who were converting to Christianity. Paul states that which is important is faith working through love.
2. To learn more about living by the principle of faith working through love, order the CD series *Faith Works through Love* from [www.beyondpositivethinking.org](http://www.beyondpositivethinking.org).
3. The Greek language has different words for different types of love. The books of the New Testament were written almost entirely in Greek, the international language of the time.

## 2—YOU AND THE FORCE THAT CREATED THE UNIVERSE

1. *Abba* is an Aramaic term for “father.”
2. Adam was present watching as Eve disobeyed God’s command. God had not put Eve in charge; God had put Adam in charge. Adam watched Eve disobey, ignored his responsibility, and failed to exercise his authority. Adam had the authority because it was he, not Eve, whom God had previously appointed to have that authority.
3. A listing of the “in Him” scriptures is available at [www.beyondpositivethinking.org](http://www.beyondpositivethinking.org).
4. Some of the Epistles were addressed to individuals. All of the Epistles were copied and widely circulated among the church as a whole. All of the Epistles were also accepted as being for the benefit of the church as a whole.
5. If you are not yet born again and filled with the Holy Spirit, go to the appendix.

## 3—RECEIVING YOUR HEART’S DESIRE

1. For a more in depth teaching on realizing your God-given dream and receiving your heart’s desire, order the CD series *Realizing Your God-given Dream* from [www.beyondpositivethinking.org](http://www.beyondpositivethinking.org).
2. *Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson,

1984, 1996), s.v. “zoe.”

3. The following scriptures state that Jesus is seated at the right hand of God: Matthew 26:64; Mark 14:62; 16:19; Luke 22:69; Acts 2:33–34; Romans 8:34; Ephesians 1:20; Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 1:3; 8:1; 10:12; 12:2; 1 Peter 3:22.

4. To gain a better understanding of the present day ministry of Jesus Christ, order the CD series *The Present Day Ministry of Jesus Christ* from [www.beyondpositivethinking.org](http://www.beyondpositivethinking.org).

#### 4—YOUR THOUGHTS RUN YOUR LIFE

1. Obviously we cannot know all of God’s thoughts or everything that God thinks. However, we can embrace God’s thoughts that are available to us through His Word, the Holy Bible.

2. For a more in depth teaching on living out of your recreated spirit, order the CD series *Living Out of Your ReCreated Spirit* from [www.beyondpositivethinking.org](http://www.beyondpositivethinking.org).

#### 5—LIVING ON GOD’S FREQUENCY

1. *Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary*, s.vv. “phileo,” “agape.”

2. “Love your neighbor as yourself” is stated eight times in the Bible: Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 19:19; Matthew 22:39; Mark 12:31; Luke 10:27; Romans 13:9; Galatians 5:14; James 2:8.

3. The majority of the love scriptures are located in 1 Corinthians 13 and in the Book of 1 John.

4. A CD of the Love scriptures is available at [www.beyondpositivethinking.org](http://www.beyondpositivethinking.org).

#### 6—HOW TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN LIFE

1. “Press on. Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent.” Quote by Calvin Coolidge found at [http://find-quotations.com/quote/by/Calvin\\_Coolidge](http://find-quotations.com/quote/by/Calvin_Coolidge) (accessed October 2, 2010).

2. To some people, success means the gaining of wealth. However, financial success does not necessarily lead to fulfillment. Many people who win the lottery are worse off after they get the money than they were before they had the money. The reason for this enigma is because they have not become the kind of person who is prepared to receive a large sum of money. If you want to make a million dollars, become a million-dollar person!

3. Joshua, the writer of the sixth book of the Bible, did not have the entire Old Testament available to him. Joshua had the wisdom of Moses, which included the Ten Commandments and the moral and ceremonial laws found in the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible.

4. Writing God’s success principles on index cards will help you internalize the principles. Place each index card where you will see it during the day. When you see the card, speak the success principle on the card.

5. Your reference group, the people you spend time with, will be one of the most influential factors in determining your success in life. Charlie “Tremendous” Jones said that the person you will be in five years will be determined by the books you read and the people you associate with. You choose what you read and who you spend your time with. God created you to have fellowship with Him through the process of realizing your God-given dream. Make God the center of your reference group! Charlie Jones quote found at <http://kirkweisler.com/t4d/2008/02/19/charlie-tremendous-jones/> (accessed October 2, 2010).

6. Simon (Peter), James, John, Andrew, and Philip were all fishermen by trade.

7. *Disciple* means follower of Christ, not solely an apostle.

## 7—PROGRAMMING YOUR SUCCESS MECHANISM

1. Some of the more influential books on success include: *As a Man Thinketh* by James Allen, *Think and Grow Rich* by Napoleon Hill, *The Power of Your Subconscious Mind* by Joseph Murphy, *The Magic of Thinking Big* by David J. Schwartz, *The Magic of Believing* by Claude M. Bristol, and *Psycho-Cybernetics* by Maxwell Maltz. These are all good books and every student of success would benefit from reading them.

2. A controversy exists between those who view man as having two parts; material and immaterial (dichotomy), and those who view man as having three parts; spirit, soul, and body (trichotomy). The issue is whether the immaterial aspects, spirit and soul, are separate divisible parts or portions of one eternal inseparable whole. In either case the characteristics of immaterial versus the characteristics of the spirit and the soul are essentially the same. Whether or not the spirit and the soul are separate parts or two portions of one inseparable whole does not change the way the success mechanism works. Since the functions and characteristics of the spirit and the soul are distinguishable from each other, spirit and soul have been defined in terms of functions and characteristics to enable the reader to easily identify specific functions and characteristics that are relevant to the success mechanism.

3. *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary*, s.v. "spirit."

4. *Ibid.*, s.v. "soul."

5. *Ibid.*, s.v. "heart."

6. Parables consisted of stories out of everyday life that Jesus used to illustrate spiritual or moral truth, sometimes in the form of brief similes, comparisons, analogies, or proverbial sayings.

7. Statistics from Earl Nightingale, *Lead the Field* (Niles, IL: Nightingale-Conant, 1990).

8. For more on the subject of faith and money, order the CD series *Passing the Money Test* from [www.beyondpositivethinking.org](http://www.beyondpositivethinking.org).

## 8—THE EMOTIONAL ROLLER COASTER

1. The source of the word *enthusiasm* is the Greek *enthousias-mos*, which ultimately comes from the adjective *entheos*, "having the god within," formed from *en*, "in, within," and *theos*, "god." Information found at <http://www.answers.com/topic/enthusiasm> (accessed October 3, 2010).

2. "A quality decision is a decision backed by much consideration and calculation of the effort that will be required to carry it out to the end. It is a determined decision that cannot be defeated by past failure or temptation. It cannot be altered by circumstance. It is as strong as the person who makes it. The quality decision is an 'I can' decision, backed by words of self-assurance and faith. It sees the desired result well before it can be seen in reality, giving it the strength to endure heavy contradiction," author unknown.

## 9—KEYS TO SETTING AND ACHIEVING YOUR GOALS

1. "Until one is committed, there is hesitancy, the chance to draw back, always ineffectiveness. Concerning all acts of initiative (and creation) there is one elementary truth, the ignorance of which kills countless ideas and splendid plans: that the moment one definitely commits oneself, then Providence moves too. All sorts of things occur to help one that would never otherwise have occurred. A whole stream of events issues from the decision, raising in one's favor all manner of unforeseen incidents and meetings and material assistance, which no man could have dreamed would have come his way," W. H. Murray, *The Scottish Himalayan Expedition* (London: J.M. Dent & Sons, 1951).

2. *God's Little Devotional Book on Success* (Colorado Springs: Honor Books, 1997), 241.

3. Habbakkuk's response to dismal circumstances and the response of Paul and Silas to dismal circumstances were very similar. Habakkuk sang and praised God; six hundred years later Paul and Silas sang and praised God after they had been stripped, beaten, and placed in prison (Acts 16:25). The similar actions of Habakkuk, Paul, and Silas received similar responses—results!

## 10—THE POWER WITHIN YOU

1. You can learn more about how the Holy Spirit can help you in every area of your life by ordering the CD series *The Role of the Holy Spirit in the New Creation* from [www.beyondpositivethinking.org](http://www.beyondpositivethinking.org).



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