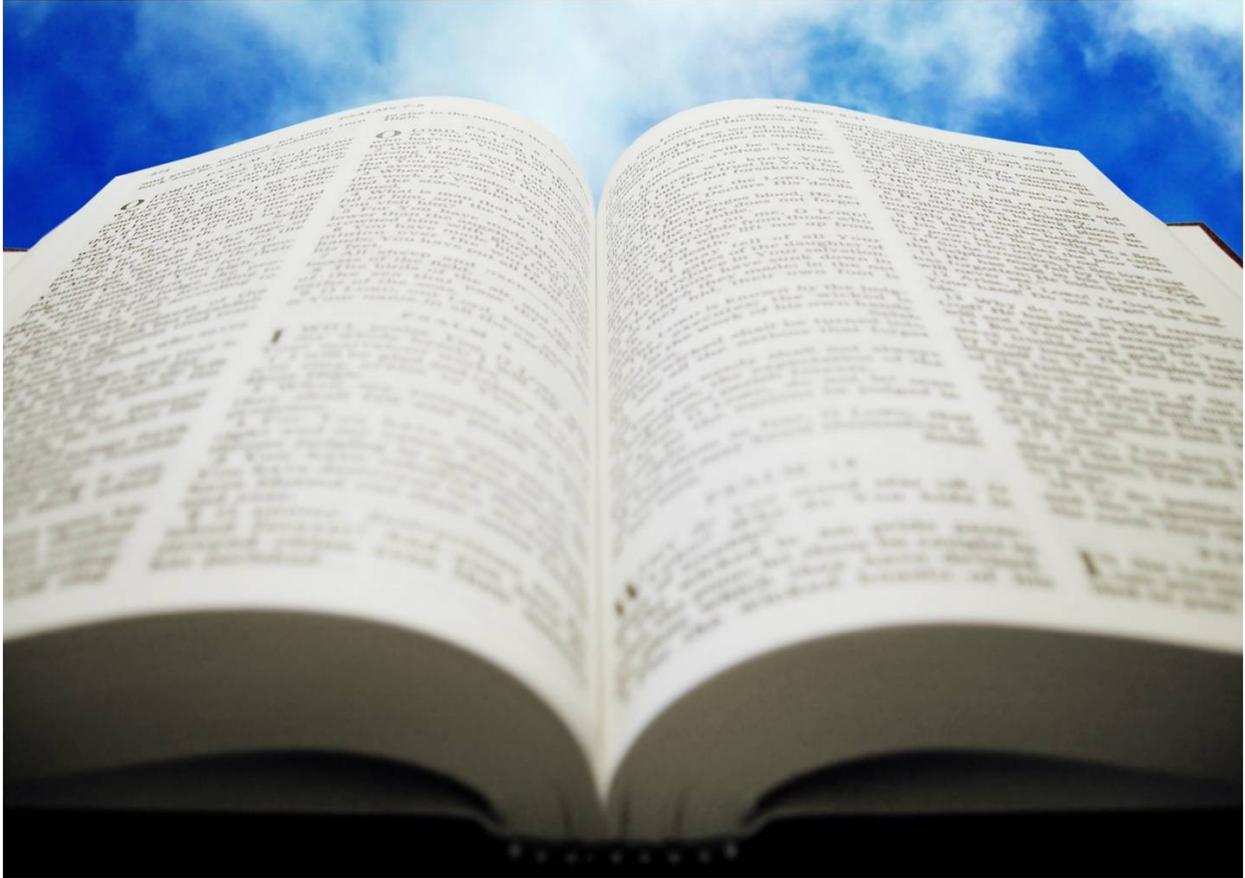


Success Principle in Scripture
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[The Christian Success Institute](#)

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There are several things that we need to consider when studying the Bible as part of our Success Training. We need to realize that there are some specific Scriptures that apply to what we need to do, say, think, act and react. At the [Christian Success Institute](#) we offer a Success Training Bible Study, a study of King Solomon's Principles for Successful Living, an entire section on the application of the latest Internet Marketing strategies and a section with articles (mini-courses) offered by our successful Christian Coaches.

This is a simple overview of some of these considerations. We will look at several different areas of concern for our biblical success.

- 1.) **What the Bible says about provision and God meeting our needs**
- 2.) **What the Bible says about contentment**
- 3.) **What the Bible says about success**
- 4.) **What the Bible says about planning**
- 5.) **What the Bible says about lending**
- 6.) **What the Bible says about debt**
- 7.) **What the Bible says about budgeting**
- 8.) **What the Bible says about investing**
- 9.) **What the Bible says about saving**
- 10.) **What the Bible says about prosperity**
- 11.) **What the Bible says about tithing**
- 12.) **What the Bible says about work**

Let's explore each of these points and the scriptures that support them.

1.) What the Bible says about provision and God meeting our needs

Genesis 1& 2

Comments: This is the beginning of God's provision for mankind. He created everything that exists on this earth for His creation 'mankind'. He made provision for everything that we could ever want or need.

1 Samuel 2

In 1st Samuel chapter 2 we are presented Hannah's Song of Thanksgiving. Here we see how God has provided all that we need. This is truly a song of thanks that we too should sing in the presence of our Creator. He has provided all that we need and more.

1 Chronicles 28:20

David also said to Solomon his son, "Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Do not be

afraid or discouraged, for the Lord God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you until all the work for the service of the temple of the Lord is finished.

Comment: This is the most encouraging scripture, in my mind. Just to understand that He will never leave me nor will He forsake me comforts me in the darkest days.

Psalm 37:25

I have been young and now I am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his descendants begging bread.

Comment: God wants us to know that there is absolutely no reason for any of His beloved to ever want for anything. He has also set it so that we should have more than we need in order for Him to provide through us to others whose faith is not as developed as ours.

Matthew 6:31-32

Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat ' or 'What will we drink ' or 'What will we wear for clothing ' For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

Matthew 7:11

If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!

Comments: We all know that a loving mother or father will go to all ends to provide the very best for our children. How can we even imagine that God would do less. The fact of the matter, as Jesus told us, is that God would, will, can and does more for use than we could ever imagine.

John 21:6

And He said to them, "Cast the net on the right-hand side of the boat and you will find a catch." So they cast, and then they were not able to haul it in because of the great number of fish.

Comments: It is simply a matter of following directions. When we diligently study God's Holy Word and follow what we learn, not deviating even slightly, we will find the provision that God has already placed in our path.

Luke 12:7

Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows.

Comments: Mankind is the favored creation of the Almighty Creator of the universe. He knows everything there is to know about us. He knows what we need and what we want. He has given us instructions in His Holy Scripture. We must study to show ourselves approved.

Philippians 4:19

And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

Comment: God possess ALL of the riches, all of the blessings, everything that we could ever imagine. We cannot even imagine the extent of His Glorious riches.

2 Corinthians 9:8

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything; you may have an abundance for every good deed;

Comment: God not only wants us to have everything that we need but, by His Grace, He wants us to have an abundance. He wants us to be the conduits for the blessings that He has for others.

2.) What the Bible says about contentment

Ecclesiastes 5:10

Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless.

Comments: When we dedicate ourselves to diligent study of God's Holy Word we realize that wealth is not an end in itself. Wealth is simply a tool that God provides for those who seek HIM first to be used to further the Kingdom, His Kingdom, not ours. Jesus told us in Matthew chapter 6 that we should not be concerned with what we eat, where we live or what we have to wear. God will provide wealth for us to use to bless others.

Luke 3:14

Some soldiers were questioning him, saying, And what about us, what shall we do And he said to them, Do not take money from anyone by force, or accuse anyone falsely, and be content with your wages.

Comments: Money gained by deceit or force will only lead into more deceit. The diligent study of God, seeking His Presence in your life is the surest way to encounter the Provision of God.

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Luke 12:15

Then He said to them, Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions.

Comments: To avoid the snare of greed that lurks everywhere, concentrate on Christ first, seeking Him.

1 Timothy 6:6

But godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment.

Comment: When you are content, comfortable in your search for Christ, you will gain more than just money. Money in itself is dangerous, especially for those who do not know God's instructions for its proper use.

1 Timothy 6:7-10

For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. 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.

Comments: This is evident in the greed that develops in a person whose goal is money and possessions. We must learn to be content with what God provides. The strange thing is that the less we look for wealth and the more we look for Christ's presence, the more we receive of both. By filling ourselves with Christ's light, we attract what God has ordained for us.

Hebrews 13:5

Keep your life free from the love of money, and be content with what you have.

Comments: Again this is not apparent on the surface. When our focus is Christ, we seek Him. He is the source of everything good. It is a simple concept. If you want water, go to a source of water. If you want light, go to the source of light. If you want to be a blessing, a conduit for the blessings of others, go to the source of all blessings.

Philippians 4:11-13

For I have learned to be content, whatever the circumstances may be. I know now how to live when things are difficult and I know how to live when things are prosperous. In general and in particular I have learned the secret of eating well or going hungry of facing either plenty or poverty. I am ready for anything through the strength of the One who lives within me.

Comments: We become content when we realize that Christ is sufficient for all of our needs. We must know that through tough times, we are given an opportunity to learn and grow and appreciate better times.

Colossians 3:15

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.

Comments: Focus, focus, focus! Christ told us that His peace would surpass our understanding. When we are filled with His peace, we have not needs that will not be met. When we can express thankfulness and contentment with a little, when we can do the right things with a little, He will make us masters of a lot.

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3.) What the Bible says about success

Joshua 1:8

This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.

Comment: Please commit this to memory. Write it in your heart. When we keep God's Word in our hearts, when we become diligent students of His Wisdom, when we study to show ourselves approved, He will prosper us and give us success. The Holy Word of God is the 'KEY' that will unlock your future. Everything you need to know, all of the instructions for living according to His will, are in the Holy Bible. It is the Instruction Manual for life.

Psalm 1:1-3

Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.

Comment: This passage of Scripture is profound. To do it justice, it would take literally volumes. There is such a deep message here and has been and will be the message of many sermons. Water is the substance that sustains life. It is impossible for any physical creature to exist without water. The Psalmist is telling us that when we diligently study God's Holy Word, we are put in a place that is more than sufficient for everything that we would want or need.

Psalm 37:4

Delight yourself in the Lord; And He will give you the desires of your heart.

Comment: This is so often misunderstood and falsely preached. When we delight in the Lord, we are filled with the Joy that can only come through His presence. When we delight in the Lord, we are filled to capacity with His light. When we are filled with His Joy and His Light, He will give us the desires that should be in our hearts. This does not mean that He will fulfill all of the 'fleshy' desires that greed has placed in our hearts.

Proverbs 22:29

Do you see a man skilled in his work He will stand before kings; he will not stand before obscure men.

Comment: This is an encouraging passage, exhorting us to become diligent in all that we do. In order for us to be the best that we can be we must know, by the diligent study of God's Word, what He wants us to accomplish. When we work with Christ as our focus, we can accomplish things that we never imagined.

Proverbs 22:4

The reward of humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, honor and life.

Comment: When we realize that we are creations of the Almighty Creator of all that exists and realize that it is He who causes success in our lives and we acknowledge that it is He and not by our efforts, we are humbled before the Throne of the King of Kings. When we fear God, hold Him in the greatest respect, honor comes to us and the life that He wants us to live.

Matthew 23:12

Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted.

Comment: We must put Christ first in our lives. When we begin to think that our good fortune is our own doing, we head for trouble. Our humble acceptance of our position in life will exalt our

position in the Kingdom of God.

Luke 9:48

and said to them, "Whoever receives this child in My name receives Me, and whoever receives Me receives Him who sent Me; for the one who is least among all of you, this is the one who is great."

Comment: Success comes through our receiving Christ.

Ephesians 3:20

Now glory be to God who by his mighty power at work within us is able to do far more than we would ever dare to ask or even dream of infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts or hopes.

Comment: We must know that everything that we accomplish is accomplished through us by God. We can only accomplish what God directs us to accomplish.

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4.) What the Bible says about planning

Genesis 41:34-36

Let Pharaoh take action to appoint overseers in charge of the land, and let him exact a fifth of the produce of the land of Egypt in the seven years of abundance. "Then let them gather all the food of these good years that are coming, and store up the grain for food in the cities under Pharaoh's authority, and let them guard it. "Let the food become as a reserve for the land for the seven years of famine which will occur in the land of Egypt, so that the land will not perish during the famine.

Comment: It was through God's direction in Joseph's interpretation of Pharaoh's dream that saved many nations. It is the direction that God gives us that should be the core of our every plan. We should never take on any project until we pray and asked for the direction of Almighty God. Refer to the Study of Solomon's Principles in the Proverbs at the Christian Success Institute to get a true grasp on planning.

Ecclesiastes 11:2

Divide your portion to seven, or even to eight, for you do not know what misfortune may occur on the earth.

Comment: Always prepare for the unseen, trusting God's Holy Spirit to lead you in the right way.

Proverbs 6:6-8

Go to the ant, o sluggard, observe her ways and be wise, which, having no chief, officer or ruler, prepares her food in the summer and gathers her provision in the harvest.

Comments: Always be as God's smallest creature, prepared.

Proverbs 15:22

Without consultation, plans are frustrated, but with many counselors they succeed.

Comment: Always seek out the wise counsel of someone trusted before you begin a project. Look for someone who has experience in the area of endeavor that you have chosen.

Proverb 16:9

A man's heart deviseth his way: but, the Lord directeth his steps.

Comment: Often we 'feel' that something or action is the best. It is through diligent study and prayer that God's Spirit will lead us in the right direction.

Proverbs 21:5

The plans of the diligent lead surely to advantage, but everyone who is hasty comes surely to poverty.

Comment: Take time to make a plan of action for every project whether it is your marriage, your children, your business or career. Those who take the time to make a plan are at an advantage. Those who rush into things (especially marriage, children and business) usually end up on the losing end.

At the Christian Success Institute we offer an in-depth study of King Solomon's Principles for Success. A great portion of this study is dedicated to making a plan or map to your success.

Proverbs 22:3

The prudent sees the evil and hides himself, but the naive go on, and are punished for it.

Comment: He who listens to wise counsel can avoid many pitfalls or potholes on the path to success. Those who rush ahead without regard to the pitfalls will end up suffering.

Proverbs 24:3-4

By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; and by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches.

Comment: The New Testament tells us that Christ has been made wisdom for us. Proverbs 4:7 tells us that wisdom is supreme. When you build anything use wisdom in the planning and in the foundation. Proverbs 4:7 also tells us that we should seek understanding no matter what the cost. When we take the time to study and seek understanding, we establish our success. When we diligently study God's Wisdom and hold it dear to our hearts, we gain the knowledge and the guidance that will fill our world with precious and pleasant riches.

Proverbs 24:27

Prepare your work outside and make it ready for yourself in the field; afterwards, then, build your house.

Comment: Part of planning is to make ready everything that you will need for the project that you have in mind. Before you begin a project (a marriage, children, a business venture, etc.) gather everything that is necessary.

Luke 14:28-30

For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it "Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who observe it begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish. '"

Comment: Same as above. Part of planning is to make ready everything that you will need for the project that you have in mind. Before you begin a project (a marriage, children, a business venture, etc.) gather everything that is necessary.

1 Corinthians 16:1-2

Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also. On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come.

Comment: Plan and prepare, even in your giving.

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5.) What the Bible says about lending

Exodus 22:25

If you lend money to My people, to the poor among you, you are not to act as a creditor to him; you shall not charge him interest.

Comment: Never lend what you cannot afford to lose. Never lend over someone to whom you have lent anything.

Leviticus 25:35-37

Now in case a countryman of yours becomes poor and his means with regard to you falter, then you are to sustain him, like a stranger or a sojourner, that he may live with you. Do not take usurious interest from him, but revere your God, that your countryman may live with you. You shall not give him your silver at interest, nor your food for gain.

Comment: Do not use your good fortune as an advantage over someone. If he is in need, help him without looking for your own gain. God will take care of the interest.

Deuteronomy 23:19-20

You shall not charge interest to your countrymen: interest on money, food, or anything that may be loaned at interest. You may charge interest to a foreigner, but to your countrymen you shall not charge interest, so that the Lord your God may bless you in all that you undertake in the land which you are about to enter to possess.

Comment: Same as above.

Proverbs 3:27-28

Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it. Do not say to your neighbor, "Go, and come back, and tomorrow I will give it," when you have it with you.

Do not refuse others in their time of need. Do not hold back when your neighbor is in need.

Proverbs 28:8 (Amplified Bible)

He who by charging excessive interest and who by unjust efforts to get gain increases his material possession gathers it for himself [to spend] who is kind and generous to the poor.

Matthew 5:42

Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you.

Comment: If someone is in need and you have it, lend him what is needed.

6.) What the Bible says about debt

Deuteronomy 15:6

For the LORD your God will bless you as He has promised you, and you will lend to many nations, but you will not borrow; and you will rule over many nations, but they will not rule over you.

Comment: The Scriptures tell us that God will bless us with everything that we will need and want. It states clearly that He will fulfill every promise. We are not to indebt ourselves to anyone, especially those who are not among our nations, the nation of Christ.

Deuteronomy 28:12

The LORD will open for you His good storehouse, the heavens, to give rain to your land in its season and to bless all the work of your hand; and you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow.

Comment: Again, God will provide those who follow and love Him. There is no need for us to become indebted to anyone, no matter how good the deal looks. God will provide.

Ecclesiastes 5:5

It is better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay

Comment: Do not borrow and not pay back. With every loan there is a promise (covenant) of repayment. When you do not repay you have broken your covenant word.

Psalms 37:21

The wicked borrows and does not pay back, but the righteous is gracious and gives.

Comment: When you do not repay, you have fallen into the ranks of the wicked. Keep your promises. Do not break a covenant agreement. (Do not make a covenant agreement if you know that you will not be able to keep the covenant. You anger the lender and you disappoint your Holy God.

Proverbs 22:7

The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower becomes the lender's slave.

Comment: When we indebt ourselves to a lender, we become his slave. We have given our word and our word is worth more than money.

Proverbs 22:26-27

Do not be a man who strikes hands in pledge or puts up security for debts; if you lack the means to pay, your very bed will be snatched from under you

Comment: Do not enter into an agreement, especially financial, if you cannot repay what you owe. You will lose physically and spiritually.

Romans 13:8

Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law.

Comment: It is our agreement with Christ to love others as He has loved us. This should be your only indebtedness. When you owe another man, your allegiance is to him and your focus is on the debt and not on Christ.

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7.) What the Bible says about budgeting

Proverbs 6:6-8

Go to the ant, sluggard; consider her ways and be wise; who, having no guide, overseer, or ruler, provides her food in the summer and gathers her food in the harvest.

Comment: Take lessons from the physical world around you. Ants, squirrels and other creatures (in their seemingly lower state, gather provisions, planning for the future.

Proverbs 21:5

The thoughts of the diligent tend only to plenty; but the thoughts of everyone who is hasty only to poverty.

Comment: Our thoughts, our words, as diligent students should only be focused on abundance. Our thoughts and words hold power and attract what we think about. We must think and plan what holds our focus.

Proverbs 22:3

A prudent one foresees the evil and hides himself, but the simple pass on and are punished.

Comment: A prudent person, thoughtful and discerning, can see the evil in something and has the opportunity to avoid it. Those who act without thinking and judging a situation fall prey to those who would cheat and steal.

Proverbs 24:3-4

Through wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; and by knowledge the rooms shall be filled with all precious and pleasant riches.

Comment: When we use the wisdom that God teaches us in His Holy Word to plan our projects, we build on a firm foundation. When we are aware and understand His promises and our promises to Him, we fill our lives with the bounty of His Kingdom.

Proverbs 25:28

He who has no rule over his own spirit is like a broken down city without a wall.

Comment: When we are 'in charge' of our lives, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we plan for every contingency. When we simply play it by ear and do not create a plan, we leave ourselves open for the attack of the enemy.

Proverbs 27:12

A sensible man watches for problems ahead and prepares to meet them. The simpleton never looks, and suffers the consequences.

Comment: Plan, plan, plan. Know what is at your disposal and plan for those times. He who simply eats his seeds without 'budgeting' some for planting will have no harvest in the future.

Proverbs 27:23

Know well the face of your flocks; set your heart on your herds.

Comment: Keep account of your stock, those things that you have. Keep a close eye on your possessions.

Luke 14:28-30

For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he may have enough to finish it; lest perhaps, after he has laid the foundation and is not able to finish, all those seeing begin to mock him, saying, This man began to build and was not able to finish.

Comment: When you begin a 'life' project, first take an account of what you have and what you need. Plan out your course of action to fit what you have and what you want to accomplish.

1 Corinthians 16:2

On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come.

Comment: Budget yourself, allotting for everything you want to accomplish. Set aside the things you will need to accomplish what you want to accomplish.

8.) What the Bible says about investing

Ecclesiastes 11:2

Divide your portion to seven, or even to eight, for you do not know what misfortune may occur on the earth.

Comment: Wisely place what you have in as many places. Don't put all of your eggs in one basket.

Proverbs 24:27

Prepare your work outside and make it ready for yourself in the field; Afterwards, then, build your house.

Comment: Put what you have to work for you. Make what you have work for you before you build what you have dreamed of. Make sure that you have an income to support the projects that you want to accomplish.

Proverbs 28:20

A faithful man will abound with blessings, but he who makes haste to be rich will not go unpunished.

Comment: Seek you first the Kingdom of Heaven and then all the rest will be added to you. Keep your focus on the Creator and not on the creation. Seek God and He will make you a steward over wealth. The one who seeks the riches first invites the riches from any source, even evil sources.

Proverbs 15:22

Without consultation, plans are frustrated, but with many counselors they succeed.

Comment: When you begin a project or look at an investment, seek the wise counsel of as many counselors as possible. Then you have a collection of thoughts to help you discern the correct path for your investment.

Matthew 25:14-26

14"For it is just like a man about to go on a journey, who called his own slaves and entrusted his possessions to them.

15"To one he gave five talents, to another, two, and to another, one, each according to his own ability; and he went on his journey.

16"Immediately the one who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and gained five more talents.

17"In the same manner the one who had received the two talents gained two more.

18"But he who received the one talent went away, and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

19"Now after a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them.

20"The one who had received the five talents came up and brought five more talents, saying, 'Master, you entrusted five talents to me. See, I have gained five more talents.'

21"His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

22"Also the one who had received the two talents came up and said, 'Master, you entrusted two talents to me. See, I have gained two more talents.'

23"His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

24"And the one also who had received the one talent came up and said, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you scattered no seed.

25'And I was afraid, and went away and hid your talent in the ground. See, you have what is yours.'

26"But his master answered and said to him, 'You wicked, lazy slave, you knew that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I scattered no seed.'

Comment: In the New Testament we are given several parables that Jesus used to reveal truths about The Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus used these stories (analogies) to reveal some profound truths to us, if we are diligent enough to 'study' and not simply read them for face value. The simplicity of these parables is profound in itself. Jesus knew that there would be those who would only understand the simple meaning of His parable. He was also aware that there would be those, diligent in their study of His Word, who could take the deeper meaning and apply it to their lives.

The first of these verses (14) is a description of God's attitude toward us. He has entrusted His possessions with us. He has also given us the 'manual' which instructs us what we should accomplish with that which He has entrusted us.

In The next verse (15) He has given an introduction to the way in which He sees each of His servants. He gave to each according to his abilities. This shows that each of us has abilities and God discerns our abilities. He knows each one of us.

In 2 Timothy 2:15, the Apostle Paul, writing to Timothy, illustrates to us the measure by which our abilities are discerned by God. " 15Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

In some translations it says be diligent instead of study. They are both correct and speak of the same thing. We are to study or be diligent to rightly divide the Word of Truth. The more that we study God's Wisdom, the better we understand what He wants from each of us. The more we understand, the better we can accomplish that which He has given us to do.

When we see the dispensing of the talents, again we understand a little more. God gave the first servant 5 talent and the second servant received 2 talents. What could have been the discerning factor in the disposition of the talents? I see that the first student had demonstrated his abilities to his master by being diligent in everything that his master set him to do. His knew his master better and was obviously more adept at performing the duties that the master assigned him. This comes from diligently learning what would please his master. He had reached a different level of faith. (This will be another discussion of this parable)

The second servant was entrusted with less, only 2 talents. What can we infer from this difference? The second servant was more than likely diligent, but to a lesser degree than the first servant. He may not have been as observant and may not have done all of his tasks to the best of his abilities. He was, although, at a level of faith beyond the third servant.

The third servant, who I believe represents the majority of Christians and those who have not made a total commitment to faith, was given the minimum of talents. He may not have been as diligent in his efforts. He may have been the type of person who only does the minimum, just to get by. It is obvious that even though he had a superficial knowledge of his master, he was not learned in the higher aspect of his master's character. He may have only known 'about' his master and had little knowledge of His true nature.

It is unfortunate but very true that the majority of Christians have little knowledge of their master. They have not put forth the effort to study and get a deeper knowledge of their Master's character nor of His will. Of course, their belief has brought them to the Master's house but their lack of understanding cripples their ability to perform as their Master wants. Most Christians are content to settle for the table scraps. They are content with their own salvation and prefer to ignore the deeper understanding of their Masters Will.

This is really a two part analogy. One part deals with our willingness to do what the Master wants us to do with the talents with which He has blessed us. This involves our depth of study of His Holy Wisdom – our diligent study of His Holy Word. The second part of this analogy deals with the level of faith that each of us attains through our study. All Christians know 'about' God. A small few know Him personally. The only way for a Christian to 'know' God is to diligently study His Holy Word. The more that we study, the deeper that we delve into His Holy Wisdom, the greater the revelation of who He is, given us by the guidance of His Holy Spirit. The more we study, the better we know Him and the greater our ability to 'rightly divide' His Word of Truth. This is expressed beautifully in the Amplified Bible – "Study and be eager and do your utmost to present yourself to God approved (tested by trial), a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analyzing and accurately dividing [rightly handling and skillfully teaching] the Word of Truth.

Through this we can see that the first servant had 'proven' himself in his master's eyes. He was a diligent student, had studied the nature and character of his master and, through a higher level of faith, used everything as wisely as he could to increase that with which he had been entrusted, to the best of his abilities.

Even though the second servant brought about the same result as the first, he doubled his master's money; he had only been blessed with a small portion. Why do you think this happened? He had not 'proven' himself to be able to handle more. He was given according to his abilities. He was on the right track but had not reached a higher level of faith.

Would you like to reach a higher level of faith? Would you like to be entrusted with more of God's possessions? Become a diligent student of His Holy Wisdom. Study diligently to show yourself worthy of trust and increase your ability to 'rightly divide' [rightly handling and skillfully teaching] God's Word of Truth.

9.) What the Bible says about saving

Proverbs 21:5

The plans of the diligent lead surely to advantage, but everyone who is hasty comes surely to poverty.

Comment: Planning for future events, for the diligent student, entails saving a portion of what you have for any contingency. Remember the story in the Book of Genesis about Joseph's

interpretation of the Pharaoh's dream. He knew, through God's revelation to him, that he needed to 'save' a portion over the harvest for the future.

Proverbs 21:20

The wise man saves for the future but the foolish man spends whatever he gets.

Comment: See above. Also know that those who simply live pay check to pay check, never saving, are always pressed in hard times. How foolish is it to make \$1000.00 dollars and spend \$1001.00. This is what happens to most. When you get money or wages, it is always better to pay God first (this is an investment and an obligation) then pay yourself. Then pay the rest. This is too why it is best not to indebt yourself beyond what you can pay back.

Proverbs 27:12

A prudent man sees evil and hides himself, the naive proceed and pay the penalty

Comment: Plan, plan, plan. Know what is at your disposal and plan for those times. He who simply eats his seeds without 'budgeting' some for planting will have no harvest in the future.

Proverbs 30:24-28

24There are four things which are little on the earth, but they are exceedingly wise:

25The ants are a people not strong, yet they lay up their food in the summer;

26The conies are but a feeble folk, yet they make their houses in the rocks;

27The locusts have no king, yet they go forth all of them by bands;

28The lizard you can seize with your hands, yet it is in kings' palaces.

Comment: Where did their wisdom come from? They have been a God Directive for preservation. We too, as beloved creations, have a God Directive. We can look at the habits of these 'little' creations and take a lesson that is so often lost. We tend to overlook the simple truths of our existence. It is good to realize that God loves every single ant. If He, being God, loves the ant enough to implant a natural instinct for self preservation, why then would He not do the same for us?

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1 Corinthians 16:2

On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come.

Comment: Budget yourself, allotting for everything you want to accomplish. Set aside the things you will need to accomplish what you want to accomplish.

10.) What the Bible says about prosperity

Genesis 39:3

Now his master saw that the Lord was with him and how the Lord caused all that he did to prosper in his hand.

Comment: When we follow the directions and teachings that are provided for us in God's Holy Word, others can see God working through us. Our living a 'successful' life is a testimony to God's glory. It is our obligation to attain success through the diligent study of God's Wisdom and by seeking first His Kingdom. We may be the only Bible that others will see.

2 Chronicles 31:21

Every work which he began in the service of the house of God in law and in commandment, seeking his God, he did with all his heart and prospered.

Comment: The secret to his success was 'seeking his God' and living his life according to God's direction in His Holy Law.

Joshua 1:8

This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.

Comment: This is another admonition for us. When we keep the Word of God, meditating on every word, diligently studying all that it contains, prosperity is ours and success is the definition of our lives.

1 Chronicles 22:12-13

Only may the Lord give you wisdom and understanding as you are put in charge of Israel, that you may keep the law of the Lord your God. Then you will prosper if you are careful to keep and

fulfill the statutes and ordinances with which the Lord charged Moses concerning Israel. Be strong and of good courage. Dread not and fear not; be not dismayed.

Comment: Again, we must study the law to keep the law. By the diligent study of God's Wisdom, we can live the life that God has planned for us and do the work that He has instructed to our care.

Psalm 1: 1-3

Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.

Comment: This passage of Scripture is profound. To do it justice, it would take literally volumes. There is such a deep message here and has been and will be the message of many sermons. Water is the substance that sustains life. It is impossible for any physical creature to exist without water. The Psalmist is telling us that when we diligently study God's Holy Word, we are put in a place that is more than sufficient for everything that we would want or need.

Psalm 37:4

Delight yourself in the Lord; And He will give you the desires of your heart.

Comment: This is so often misunderstood and falsely preached. When we delight in the Lord, we are filled with the Joy that can only come through His presence. When we delight in the Lord, we are filled to capacity with His light. When we are filled with His Joy and His Light, He will give us the desires that should be in our hearts. This does not mean that He will fulfill all of the 'fleshy' desires that greed has placed in our hearts.

Psalm 122:6

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you."

Comment: God has stated to us that He will bless those who bless Israel and He will curse those who try to do harm to Israel. The truth in this statement is very plain and very historic. Throughout the ages, those who have attacked Israel win for a little while but ultimately fail miserably.

Proverbs 10:22

The blessing of the Lord makes one rich, and He adds no sorrow with it.

Comment: We are blessed by God. He has instructed us to study to show ourselves approved. We gain much more than prosperity, we gain true success in every area of life.

Malachi 3:10

"Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this," Says the Lord of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.

Comment: Almighty Jehovah God is a God of covenant. He has made us promises and all He wants for us to do is show our willingness to meet our obligations and to keep our end of the covenant.

Matthew 6:4

That your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.

Comment: When we boast about our 'charity' for others, the kudos that we receive is our reward. When we are charitable, expecting and demanding no recognition, God rewards us openly.

Matthew 19:29

And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms for My name's sake, will receive many times as much, and will inherit eternal life.

Comment: We cannot out-give God. Whatever it takes for us to do as God wants us to do, He will replace and more.

Ephesians 3:20

Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us,

Comment: God is able and willing to richly bless us. It is His power that works in us that attracts these blessings. The more we fill ourselves with His light and love, the more that we will show ourselves approved in His eyes.

3 John 1:2

Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.

Comment: God wants us to prosper as our souls prosper. Our souls, being spiritual in nature prosper (become rich) through the diligently study of God's Word, prayer and interaction with the Holy Presence of God, His Holy Spirit.

11.) What the Bible says about tithing

Genesis 28:20-22

Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me and will keep me on this journey that I take, and will give me food to eat and garments to wear, and I return to my father's house in safety, then the Lord will be my God. "This stone, which I have set up as a pillar, will be God's house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You."

Comment: This was the beginning of giving a 'tenth' portion of what God gives us back to Him. By giving what is obliged for us to give, we show our willingness to abide by His covenant.

Exodus 23:19

The first of the firstfruits of your ground you shall bring into the house of the Lord your God. You shall not boil a kid in its mother's milk.

Comment: We are to give God from the FIRST fruit of our labor not from what is left over. We must pay tribute to God first.

Proverbs 11:24-25

There is one who scatters, and yet increases all the more, and there is one who withholds what is justly due, and yet it results only in want. The generous man will be prosperous, and he who waters will himself be watered.

Comment: Simply put, we receive by giving. Giving what we have freely triggers our blessings. We are blessed in order to bless others, not to consume the blessing.

Proverbs 3:9-10

Honor the Lord from your wealth and from the first of all your produce; so your barns will be filled with plenty and your vats will overflow with new wine.

Comment: When we give back to God a portion of what He has given to us, our increase is imminent. God is the giver of true wealth. When He gives to us (makes us stewards of His possessions) we must give back to Him and do the charity (expression of love) that He places before us.

Ezekiel 44:30

The first of all the first fruits of every kind and every contribution of every kind, from all your contributions, shall be for the priests; you shall also give to the priest the first of your dough to cause a blessing to rest on your house.

Comment: When we give back to God a portion of what He has given to us, our increase is

imminent. God is the giver of true wealth. When He gives to us (makes us stewards of His possessions) we must give back to Him and do the charity (expression of love) that He places before us.

Malachi 3:8-10

Will a man rob or defraud God? Yet you rob and defraud Me. But you say, In what way do we rob or defraud You? [You have withheld your] tithes and offerings.

9You are cursed with the curse, for you are robbing Me, even this whole nation.

10Bring all the tithes (the whole tenth of your income) into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and prove Me now by it, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

Comment: When we withhold that which God has given us to return to Him, we are thieves, stealing from God. God wants us to test (prove) Him in His promise to reward us for being faithful.

Matthew 23:23

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others.

Comment: When we think of tithes and offerings, it is man's nature to think of material things. In actuality, Jesus reminds us that we owe a tenth of everything that we have – our money and possessions, our time, our love, our mercy, etc.

Luke 12:33-34

Sell your possessions and give to charity; make yourselves money belts which do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near nor moth destroys. "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Comment: Here Jesus is telling us to value Him and Him alone. When we are enamored with the things of this world, they become the focus and object of our affection. We are to focus on Christ and not to be concerned with material possessions. He will provide these things according to His riches. We can have more by looking less at the creation and more at the Creator.

2 Corinthians 9:7

Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Comment: Do not, as some say, give to get. Give simply to bring glory to God. He'll do the rest.

Galatians 6:7

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.

Comment: Fear God. Fear means to revere and to hold deep in respect. His promises are sincere and His disdain is severe. His love is genuine and our love for Him needs to be genuine. When we take our side of the covenant with God lightly but expect Him to honor His side of the covenant, we mock Him.

12.) What the Bible says about work

Genesis 2:15

Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the Garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.

Comment: God created this wonderful world for us. In everything that we do, we need to diligently do our part. Whether it is a marriage, raising children, our career or our friendships.

Exodus 23:12

Six days you are to do your work, but on the seventh day you shall cease from labor so that your ox and your donkey may rest, and the son of your female slave, as well as your stranger, may refresh themselves.

Comment: God created this world and ordained a day for us to rest and to commune with Him. The concept of taking time to rest and refresh is a necessary one. We need to take at least one day to gather ourselves, refresh ourselves and regain our focus.

Ecclesiastes 9:10

Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might;

Comment: If something is worth doing, it's worth your best efforts. Whatever you do in any area of endeavor (family, friends, career, and worship) do it to the best of your ability. Do it as though God were judging your performance.

Ecclesiastes 5:12

The sleep of the working man is pleasant, whether he eats little or much; but the full stomach of the rich man does not allow him to sleep.

Comment: Work is therapy for the body and the soul. We need to exercise our bodies, our minds and our spirits. When we are given to excess, we throw ourselves off balance. When we are not balanced in every aspect of daily life, we suffer.

2 Chronicles 31:21

Every work which he began in the service of the house of God in law and in commandment, seeking his God, he did with all his heart and prospered.

Comment: The secret to his success was 'seeking his God' and living his life according to God's direction in His Holy Law.

Proverbs 10:4

Poor is he who works with a negligent hand, but the hand of the diligent makes rich.

Comment: Whatever we do, we need to do it with every ounce of energy and effort. When we simply kludge along, doing just enough to get by, half heartedly, we gain nothing. When we study, plan, and diligently turn our body, mind and spirit to a project, we win.

Proverbs 12:24

The hand of the diligent will rule, but the slack hand will be put to forced labor.

Comment: Whatever we do, we need to do it with every ounce of energy and effort. When we simply kludge along, doing just enough to get by, half heartedly, we gain nothing. When we study, plan, and diligently turn our body, mind and spirit to a project, we win.

Proverbs 13:4

The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, but the soul of the diligent is made fat.

Comment: The lazy person always dreams of great riches but never is willing to put for the effort to achieve those dreams. Man, by his human (sinful) nature, will try to win a fortune with as little effort as possible, not understanding that anything that is worthwhile and long-lasting takes effort. This is why so many play the lottery or other games of chance. Some spend a fortune, 1 dollar at a time, to win a lottery, ending up with nothing.

Proverbs 18:9

He also who is slack in his work is brother to him who destroys.

Comment: Those who are lazy or try to gain by trickery are kindred spirits with the evil of this world. A man who does not want to do an honest day's work will eventually resort to evil methods.

Proverbs 22:29

Do you see a man skilled in his work, he will stand before kings; he will not stand before obscure men.

Comment: All who diligently work at their dreams are honored. Diligent workers win the favor of those who are in power.

Proverbs 14:23

In all labor there is profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty.

Comment: If you work diligently, you will profit. If you only talk about how well you perform, you'll starve.

Proverbs 28:19

He who tills his land will have plenty of food, but he who follows empty pursuits will have poverty in plenty.

Comment: Work your fields. Diligently pursue your career. Those who jump from one scheme to another, never win.

Proverbs 24:27

Prepare your work outside and make it ready for yourself in the field; Afterwards, then, build your house.

Comment: Part of planning is to make ready everything that you will need for the project that you have in mind. Before you begin a project (a marriage, children, a business venture, etc.) gather everything that is necessary.

Daniel 6:3

Then this Daniel began distinguishing himself among the commissioners and satraps because he possessed an extraordinary spirit, and the king planned to appoint him over the entire kingdom.

Comment: This is a reflection of Proverbs 22:29. Daniel was diligent in his work because he was diligent in his study and his commitment to his God.

Nehemiah 4:6

So we built the wall and the whole wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to work.

Comment: When we have a mind to work and we put our efforts into it, we will accomplish what we need to accomplish.

1 Timothy 5:8

But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

Comment: God has directed us many times in His Holy Word to assume the responsibilities for the care of our families and our nation. If we choose to sit back and shirk our responsibilities, we are no better than the ones who say that they do not believe in God. If we do not follow God's directions for living, we deny His being God.

Colossians 3:17

Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

Comment: Do everything that you do for the glory of Jesus Christ and you'll not go wrong. Do not do things simply for your gain or your glory. Do them as though you were being judged at every turn by the Creator of the Universe.

Colossians 3:23

Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men.

Comment: Do everything that you do for the glory of Jesus Christ and you'll not go wrong. Do not do things simply for your gain or your glory. Do them as though you were being judged at every turn by the Creator of the Universe.

2 Thessalonians 3:10-11

For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either. For we hear that some among you are leading an undisciplined life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies.

Comment: Do more than your share. Do not expect others to cover for you in your work. Be first in line to accept work.

Matthew 5:41

Whoever forces you to go one mile, go with him two

Comment: Always give more than is expected of you. This will garner a good name for you. A good name is better than gold.

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