

SINGLE AND SATISFIED

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Second Ebenezer Church

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I. Introduction

GENESIS 39:2-6

The LORD was with Joseph so that he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. ³ When his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD gave him success in everything he did, ⁴ Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned. ⁵ From the time he put him in charge of his household and of all that he owned, the LORD blessed the household of the Egyptian because of Joseph. The blessing of the LORD was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house and in the field. ⁶ So Potiphar left everything he had in Joseph's care; with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate. Now Joseph was well-built and handsome,



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GENESIS 39:3

When his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord gave him **success** in everything he did,

DEUTERONOMY 28:11

The Lord will grant you abundant **prosperity**—in the fruit of your womb, the young of your livestock and the crops of your ground—in the land he swore to your ancestors to give you.



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SUCCESS INSIGHT #1

WE MUST SEE SINGLENESS AS A HIGH CALLING TO INCREASE OUR SUCCESS

Someone's view of singleness greatly influences how they do singleness. The misconceptions that exist in the mind of many about singleness has caused it to be viewed as a low and dreaded calling in society at large. The truth of the matter is that actually singleness is a high calling. In fact, according to the words of Paul in 1 Corinthians 7, singleness could be viewed not only as a high calling, but as a higher calling even than marriage. He basically recommends that everyone should remain single if they can. Paul states that a person's status of singleness allows them to have the freedom and flexibility to serve God more and worry about the responsibilities of marriage less. This revelation is so crucial because the tendency of human nature is to be more motivated when something is a high calling and less inspired when something is a low calling. When we understand that singleness is actually a high calling it enables us to feel more excited about it, and take it more serious. The single Christian is a secret weapon in the body of Christ that is currently being under appreciated and under utilized because of the fabricated myths that continue to exist. We need single Christian everywhere to rise up and enthusiastically embrace the high calling of the single life.



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SUCCESS INSIGHT #2

WE MUST STRIVE FOR THE RIGHT KIND OF SUCCESS TO INCREASE OUR SUCCESS

It's so important to understand that not all success is created equal, or is really success. If singles are going to experience authentic success versus artificial success, they must refine the way that they define success. They must rethink philosophically their view of success from a biblical perspective. They must repurpose prophetically and practically their use and pursuit of time, talent and treasure. Too many of us have been in pursuit of the wrong kind of success our entire lives. The American dream, and the prosperity gospel has caused many of us to pursue a superficial and meaningless kind of success that is a lower form at best. From a secular perspective, success is usually defined in one of two ways. Either it's being a rich and famous person, or a me and mine person. The rich and famous person is someone who is well off and well known. Either because of the family they was born in or the special skills and smarts they possess. The me and mine person is someone who lives life doing me and protecting mine. They define success by being able to be their own man or women. The biblical model of success is the good and faithful servant. At the end of the day, we should all strive to hear God say well done, my good and faithful servant, well done.



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SUCCESS INSIGHT #3

WE MUST PUT OUR BEST SELF FORWARD TO INCREASE OUR SUCCESS

Putting our best self forward practically speaking is waking up each day and making a concerted effort with the help of God, to be the best version of ourselves. It's important to remember that we are multi faceted beings that have several sides to ourselves. We all have a breastly side, bad side, basic side, better side and best side to us. The goal should be to do whatever is necessary to keep our better and best side in the fore front of our lives. We will grow and flow in success when we put our better or best self forward. We have to release our Dr. Jekyll and suppress our Mr. Hyde. Some days it will be a battle because of our flesh and fallen nature. However, that's what it means to fight the good fight of faith. We must continually monitor, manage and modify our attitudes, articulations and actions to put our best self forward. We must let our light so shine before men that they may see our good works and glorify the father in heaven. Matthew 5:16 We must be not weary in well doing for in due season we will reap a harvest if we faint not. Galatians 6:9 We must be steadfast unmovable always abounding in the work of the lord. 1 Corinthians 15:58 We do that by going all out, pushing ourselves hard and making the tough adjustments needed to fulfill Gods will.



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SUCCESS INSIGHT #4

WE MUST SET GROWTH GOALS TO INCREASE OUR SUCCESS

We need to be goal oriented in our singleness to experience the success we desire and deserve. We have to stop shooting from the hip and going with the flow and expecting God to bless us with the desires of our single heart.

Success is a product of growth. The more we grow in the key areas of singleness the more successful we will have in our single life. Just like success is a product of growth, growth is a product of goals. If we want to succeed in our singleness we have to set annual goals that will lead us in the direction of that growth and success. Ironically, some of us set goals in other areas of our lives, but not for our singleness. Jeremiah 29:11, "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 a hope and a future. If God has plans for us, certainly we should have plans for ourselves. Someone has said if you fail to plan, you plan to fail. We should seek God through his word and prayer to ascertain what his goals are for our single life. As God begins to unfold his vision for our single life, through his Holy Spirit and Holy servants, we should begin to formally record goals that will bring his plan to fruition. Another way of viewing God's goals for our lives is as his will for our lives.



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SUCCESS INSIGHT #5

WE MUST STUDY BOOK/ARTICLES ON SINGLENES TO INCREASE OUR SUCCESS

Several credible surveys have revealed that the majority of singles have never read one book or article on the single life. It seems as if we invest major time and effort of study to become successful in our careers and hobbies of choice, but little to nothing to become successful in our singleness. When we're single, our singleness is a big part of who we are as human beings. It's a significant element of our current identity in Christ. Therefore we need to learn as much as we can about navigating and transitioning through the seasons and stages of the single life. We absolutely can be single and successful, but we will have to do tons of reading and research to make that a reality. Like Paul told Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:15, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." There are plenty of good books and articles that have been written on the topic of singleness that are worth our time and effort, starting with the Holy bible. Reading the entire seven chapter of First Corinthians is an excellent place to start in the Bible. A few titles you may want to add to your singles library are Single, Married, Separated, and Life after Divorce, and Singles 101, both by Myles Munroe.



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SUCCESS INSIGHT #6

WE MUST BE HEARERS AND DOERS OF THE WORD TO INCREASE OUR SUCCESS

The cornerstone of all success is the hearing and application of God's word. We have to learn how to read the Word of God and allow it to speak to our hearts. We can't just read it, or listen to it we have to hear it. The revolutionary principles, practices, and perspectives that can empower us to manifest, multiply and maximize our success as singles have all been captured in His word. Many of us possess the greatest book that has ever been written on the single life and spend very little time hearing it and applying it. Firstly, we must hear God's word from a singles perspective as often as possible. Every time we read a chapter or verse from the Bible, we must ask ourselves the question how does this apply to our singleness. We have to read God's word and allow it to speak to the issues of our singleness. The Holy Spirit will speak if we're listening. Roman 10:17 says, "Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ." Secondly, we must apply the word of God to the key areas of our single life as often as we can. It's one thing to hear the word of God, it's another thing to allow it to do a work in us, on us and through us. James 2:17 says, "in the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by actions is dead."



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SUCCESS INSIGHT #7

WE MUST BE LED BY GOD'S SPIRIT TO INCREASE OUR SUCCESS

The Holy spirit is the spirit of true success. He is the source of all success. He is God's tour guide for our single life. The smartest thing we can do to ensure our ongoing success is to hitch our singleness wagon to his wise leadership. What that means practically is that we should consult with and rely on the Holy Spirit in all the decisions and choices we make for our single life. Proverbs 3:5-6 says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not to your own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him and he will direct thy path." Not only can the Holy Spirit provide us with exceptional guidance with prophetic things, but He's also the ultimate expert in professional and personal matters as well. For example, we should ask him about who we should and shouldn't date, where we should and shouldn't work and when we should and shouldn't give our time, talent and treasure to projects. We should consult him about who we should and shouldn't befriend. We most definitely want to have him weigh in heavily on the who and when of engagement and marriage. We have a success advantage called the Holy Spirit that we forget to take advantage of. We must learn to discern the difference between the voice of the Holy Spirit, human spirit and heathen Spirit.



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SUCCESS INSIGHT #8

WE MUST BE AROUND GODLY PEOPLE TO INCREASE OUR SUCCESS

One of the most underrated and overlooked contributors to our success is the company that we keep. Some of us owe a great deal of our success or struggle to the people we spend time around. I'm a big believer in axioms like the company we keep impacts the success we reap. Another good one is our network influences our net worth. The reason why who we spend time with is such a great source of our success or struggle is because truth is more caught than it is taught. We learn more from the things we experience in life and others than we do from things we read in books or are taught in the classroom. Paul states in 1 Corinthians 15:33, "Do not be misled, bad company corrupts good character." he states further in 1 Corinthians 11:1, Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ." The example exhibited by Godly people is one of the greatest influences of our success. That's why Daniel and the three Hebrew Boys had so much success representing God during the Babylonian Captivity. Daniel prayed faithfully to his God and was delivered from the Lion's den. The Three Hebrew boys trusted in their God and was delivered from the fiery furnace. The fact that they spent time around one another was a game changer for their success.



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SUCCESS INSIGHT #9

WE MUST BE ON GOD'S SIDE TO INCREASE OUR SUCCESS

The most simplistically profound approach to success in our single life is to do your level best to be on God's side. This final insight is a sure fire approach to authentic success. God's side is always the winning side. Being on God's side ensures that we're always be best positioned for success. It may not always feel like success. It may sometimes even look like we're failing. The key is just to make sure that the side that we're on is actually God's. Remember everything that looks and feels like God isn't necessarily God. Isaiah 55:8 says, "for my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," The story of David and Goliath is a classic example of this truth. David defeated Goliath because he was on God's side. He defeated the lion and the bear before Goliath because he was on God's side. He was victorious in war as a General in King Saul's army because he had a knack for being on God's side. We never lose or fail when we're on the lord's side. It's when we leave the side of God that we struggle and fail. Paul says in Romans 8:31," What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?" The only way God can or will be for us, is when we're on his side. Always pray
God help me locate your side.