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Your Real Source of Success

By Adam Hall 05/22/17

“Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: “I am the Lord your God, who teaches you to profit, who leads you in the way you should go.” — Isaiah 48:17

So, you started your business, or you are thinking about starting a business. You plan, you work hard, and you put in countless hours...working harder than you ever worked for your previous boss. Prayerfully, you hope that all you are doing will be “enough”—enough to prove to yourself, your family, the world, maybe even your previous boss—that you are not a failure.



While disciplined hard work is one helpful element of success, it is not the final determinant of either victory or failure.

The final determination of success or failure in your business is one simple key that many harried small business folks fail to completely acknowledge. That key is the blessing of the Lord.

Consider this: “The horse is made ready for battle, but the victory belongs to the Lord.” (Proverbs 21:31). It is the blessing and favor of the Lord that will determine whether your business will sink or swim. But how can you gain the blessing of the Lord upon your life and your business?

In answer to this question, it’s important to realize that you cannot live your life in disobedience to the Word of God and then expect Him to help you be successful in your business. In Deuteronomy chapter 28, God paints a detailed description of the blessings He showers upon those who follow His commands faithfully, as well as the crushing curses that

the disobedient incur after they spurn His instruction. It's simple really; obedience brings blessing and disobedience invites curses.

Now, do not misunderstand me here—I am not preaching a prosperity gospel. Indeed, you may be pursuing obedience completely and still suffer hardships in business or in life, as righteous Job did. But, what I am saying is that you cannot abide in habitual disobedience and still expect the fullness of God's blessing upon your business. In John 15, which records Jesus' famous last words to His disciples, we hear the Lord's admonition, "I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing...If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love." (15:5,10). So, we see that if we neglect to keep His commandments, we will cease to abide in Him, which, according to His words, cuts us off from having the power to do anything good.

Thankfully, Matthew 6:33 encourages us, "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you," meaning that if we direct our focus toward being obedient to Him, He will provide us with everything that we need for our lives and our businesses to be successful for His glory.

It is true that there are sometimes instances in which the Lord graciously withholds curses from us, despite the fact that we have ignored His commands, blessing us rather than cursing us for the time being. However, Scripture indicates that "God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance," not to enable you to continue living in rebellion to Him (Romans 2:4).

So, to recap all that we have discussed—remember that it is important to work diligently (prepare your horse for battle), but you must look for your success (the victory) to come from the Lord (Proverbs 21:31). For if we are doing God's work in God's way, we may be encouraged that, as Proverbs 18:12 says, "The blessing of the Lord makes rich and he adds NO sorrow with it" (emphasis added). Your only true source of success is the blessing of the Lord.

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