

## ENVISIONING THE PICTURE OF SUCCESS

JOSHUA 1:8

Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

Becoming prosperous and successful is a direct result of obedience. In this

Scripture, God challenges us to meditate on the Word of God. The emphasis is not on education, knowledge, or experience. It is on obedience. It is one thing to understand and quite another to walk in obedience.

Study the life of Joshua if you desire success. Some thirteen hundred years before Christ, Joshua was born into a family of Egyptian slavery. Growing up under Egyptian rule, he experienced firsthand both the plagues of Egypt and the exodus miracle. Arriving at the border of the Promised Land under the great leadership of Moses, he was one of twelve spies who were sent out to scout the land. Only Joshua and Caleb returned with a faith-filled report.

After the death of the prophet Moses, the Lord chose Joshua to get the people ready to cross over into the land of promise. His entire life was one of obedience and faith. When we obey God's provisional principles, He will see to it that we also benefit from biblical principles resulting in business prosperity and success.

GENESIS 12:1–3

The Lord had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

### ABRAHAM ENVISIONED SUCCESS

- In old age, Abraham received a great blessing
- When Abraham was about seventy, he moved to Haran with his wife, Sarah, nephew, Lot, and father, Terah

ACTS 7:2–3 - To this he replied: “Brothers and fathers, listen to me! The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham while he was still in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran. ‘Leave your country and your people,’ God said, ‘and go to the land I will show you.’”

- Separated from his father’s house
- Left his native land
- He did not know where he was going
- Believed that God would lead him to a land of promise
- Believed in God’s promise that his seed would possess the land
- Practiced hospitality always
- He became very rich
- At age seventy-five, Abraham moved again...this time seeking the land of Canaan
- Was told that his seed would be as numerous as the stars of heaven (Genesis 15)
- At age ninety-nine his name was changed from Abram to Abraham
- His covenant renewed
- His new name means “father of many people”
- Promised a son by Sarah
- Visited by angels
- At one hundred years of age became the father of Isaac
- Became founder of the Jewish nation
- Was respected by all
- Avoided conflict with others when possible

- Successfully endured the testing of his faith in God when Isaac was twenty-five years old
- Lived a lifetime of unwavering faith
- Lived a lifetime of covenant promise

#### **SUCCESS LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE LIFE OF ABRAHAM**

- Even if success is not imminently apparent, speak it in faith.
- See your potential as God sees your potential.
- Age is not a factor in success...you are never too old to start again.
- Do not discount the blessing of God.
- God is pleased by belief and faith in Him.
- It is better to avoid conflict with neighbors when possible.
- Nothing is impossible with God.
- God has a plan for your life.