"GOD'S PROMISE OF PROSPERITY & SUCCESS"
(Leaning on the Promises, Part 7)
Joshua 1:8

INTRODUCTION:

***The secret to prosperity and success is <u>OBEDIENCE</u> to God's Word!**

I. <u>PLANNED</u> OBEDIENCE (v. 8a)

("Meditate")

II. <u>COMPLETE</u> OBEDIENCE (v. 8b)

("all that is written")

CONCLUSION:

Meditation on God's Word plus obedience to God's Word equals prosperity and success.

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INTRODUCTION:

Examples of how no one likes to fail in life. Everyone wants to succeed; to prosper.

What spells "success"? What is the key to prosperity?

The "Name It and Claim It" and "Prosperity Gospelizers" rarely identify obedience as the key to success!

EX: Teaching children the importance of obedience. Song: OBEDIENCE

***The secret to prosperity and success is OBEDIENCE to God's Word!**

I. PLANNED OBEDIENCE (v. 8a)

("Meditate")

"This book of the Law" - the Law given through Moses (cp. V. 7; cp. Josh. 8:34; Dt. 31:24).

"Depart" (Hebrew Moosh) - to be removed; to leave its place; to be taken away.

God is not saying that Joshua should not ever speak of teach the Scriptures (indeed God commands such teaching of His Law - Deut. 6:7). What the Lord is saying is that His Law should always be in the mouth of Joshua; that it should never be removed; that it should not leave its rightful place of being continually on his lips in witness and meditation.

The "mouth" and "meditation" are related because meditation to a Jew involved repeating God's Word over and over again in a low verbal tone.

"Meditate" = to ponder, muse, involving half-aloud reading and re-reading of the Word" (Ryrie Bible note).

"Meditate" - to circulate God's Word through your mind, so as to bring it into remembrance and application throughout the day.
"Meditate" = SEE Psalm 1:2-3; 119:15, 23, 78, 97, 99, 148.

"That thou mayest observe" - the purpose of meditation is obedience. The reason for meditation is so that the truth can be continually in mind, ready at hand to be put into action.

"Observe" - to be careful; to be conscious of the Law and mindful to obey it.

II. COMPLETE OBEDIENCE (v. 8b)

("all that is written")

It's easier to know what is right than to do what is right. "Doing" is where the "rubber meets the road."

God's truth is meant to be practical, life-related, put into action. Therefore, we learn truth to live it! Not to admire it, worship it, etc.

ILLUS: of a plow that was donated and sent to Africa. A primitive tribe did not know its purpose, so they set it up on a pedestal and worshipped it. They perverted it from its original design and purpose.

Knowing God's Word does not equal blessing; but knowing and doing it does!

To study Scripture and not to "do" it is to not learn it. Unless a message is acted up in, it is never learned.

"If any man will do His will, he shall know the doctrine..." (John 7:17).

*If a person is not obeying what he has already been entrusted with, God will not give him any more (SEE: Mt. 25:14-30; *v. 29; Lk. 8:15-21).

ILLUS: Spiritual obesity. Fat and lazy Christians who have taken in much of God's Word, but have done little or nothing about it.

"Armchair Quarterbacks" - have all the answers, but are not out there playing the game.

"Do according to all" - Partial obedience is not obedience. No command that applies to me is optional for me.k

Doing the Word - SEE: James 1:21-25.

EX: of learning to ride a bike, drive a car, play a trumpet, play a sport, etc. -- You can read all the books you want; you don't gain the blessing of learning how until you do it!

CONCLUSION:

Meditation on God's Word plus obedience to God's Word equals prosperity and success.

"For then thou shalt make thy way prosperous and then . . ." - Prosperity and success follow only after obedience. The Hebrew grammar points to the cause & effect aspect of obedience.

God's equation for success:

Mediation

\+ Obedience

_____

Prosperity & Success

These results are guaranteed by God. God does not indiscriminately bless.

"Prosperous" = successful in your undertakings.

"Success" = to have a life characterized by wisdom

EX: Even an unsaved man, to the degree he observes God's principles (laws) [though such obedience will not save him spiritually] he will prosper and succeed in many earthly ventures.

Success to Joshua meant conquest in the land of Canaan; it meant protection, guidance, blessing.

The link between obedience and spiritual, physical, and emotional prosperity and success is a thread woven throughout Scripture.

Adam was to obey to succeed (Gen. 2).

Israel was to obey to be blessed (Deut. 5:32

Jesus said to be wise is to obey (Mt. 7:24-27); His call to discipleship is a call to "observance" or obedience (Mt. 28:20).

James testified that faith without obedience is dead faith (James 2:14-26).

John in penning the final chapter of God's Word quotes Jesus as saying: "
." (Rev. 22:14)

Throughout Scripture the link between disobedience and misery, failure, and judgment is also unmistakably clear.

EX:

Adam (Gen. 3)

Those in Noah's day (Gen. 6:3; I Pet. 3:20).

Achan (Josh. 7)

Samson (Judges 16)

King Saul (I Sam. 15:22-23)

Solomon (Neh. 13:26)

Israel in Promised Land (Isaiah - Ezekiel)

The fool (Mt. 7:24-27)

Those who bow to the Antichrist's image (Rev. 14:11)