

Hinges of Success

What All Successful People Have in Common

Someone has said, "There are many different doors to success, but they all swing on the same hinges."

In this devotion I want to mention just three of those hinges. These three hinges are absolutely essential to success. Every successful person has these characteristics in their lives. They can be seen...

- ...in successful coaches like Pete Carroll.
- ...in successful athletes like Russell Wilson and Felix Hernandez.
- ...in successful business men like Lee Iacocca, and Steve Jobs.
- ...in successful pastors like Paul Chappell and Larry Brown.
- ...in successful Bible teachers like Dr. Peter Ruckman.
- ...in successful movie directors like Steven Spielberg, and J.J. Abrams.

I'm not endorsing any of these people. I merely mention them because they are all successful in their field and all have these three qualities.

These three hinges of success are found in three verses of Scripture. They are simple, and attainable by all of us.

I. **All out POWER / EFFORT.** Ecclesiastes 9:10—*Whatever thy hand findeth to do, do it **with thy might**...*

- The word "*might*" comes from a root word meaning "to be firm; vigor, literally, force" (Strong's concordance).
- A. A total effort is to be put to the task or project if it is to be successful. Nothing is to be done half-heartedly or in a lackadaisical way. The common expression is, "Whatever is worth doing, is worth doing well."
 - Bob Jones, Sr. used to say, "It's a sin to do less than your best." He also said, "All things being equal, a Christian should be able to outdo a sinner in *anything* he does." Amen!
- B. I'm not too impressed by a person's talent or what he knows. What impresses me is **the amount of effort** someone puts into accomplishing something.

C. “*WHATSOEVER thy hand findeth to do...*”— Whether is it a big thing or small thing... exciting or menial ... public or private ...

- If it is washing dishes or singing a solo...
- If it is sweeping the floor or preaching a sermon...
- If it is cooking a meal or leading a Life Group.
- If it is mowing grass or greeting guests at the door!

D. You will not be much of a success if you don't WORK at it.
Preach with your might... Teach with your might... Sing with your might... Usher with your might... Pray with your might... Witness with your might... Mop with your might. GIVE IT ALL YOU GOT!

BBC is here today because some people have worked with their might.

II. All out PASSION / ENTHUSIASM. Colossians 3:23—“*And whatsoever ye do, do it **heartily**, as to the Lord, and not unto men.*”

B. Faithfulness means you are where you supposed to be all the time. You are dependable. You are loyal. You are committed.

➡ That is one reason why some people will never take a S.S. class, or join the choir, or serve on a G.R.O.W. team. They don't want to be held accountable to be there when it is required. Lack commitment.

C. Not everyone wants to be a success, because they don't want to pay the price. This message is not for everyone, because some are content to just get by... be mediocre.

➡ This message is for someone who wants to be a success for Jesus Christ in all they do. You want to make a "dent" in your sphere of influence.

SUMMATION: Do you know when I try to preach my best? Is it when the auditorium is full? Is it when I'm preaching out-of-town? Is it on Sunday morning? Is it when I'm feeling good? The truth is, I try to give it my best shot no matter what the attendance is... or where I'm preaching... or if it is Sunday morning or Sunday night... or if I'm feeling great, or I've got a splitting head ache and I'm worn out.

➡ If the conditions have to be just right for you to do your best, don't expect to amount to much. You'll not be much of a success.

The word "*success*" is only found once in a King James Bible—Joshua 1:8. These three hinges of success are found in Joshua 1:8—*This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth [persistence/endurance]; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night [passion/enthusiasm], that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein [power/effort]: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.*

Do it mightily... heartily... and faithfully— You will succeed.

➡ Song "*Our Best*"