

February 23, 2014

GOD'S SECRET TO A SUCCESSFUL LIFE

Being Faithful With My Life

Matthew 25:14-30

Our lives are a precious gift from God. We have been given the responsibility of being a steward, or caretaker of His creation. It begins by taking a hard look at our lives and examining our lives and actions through the eyes of the Lord. Success in God's eyes begins by following His prescription for a healthy and holy life. God expects you and I to be faithful with the life He has given us.

1. **I am God's servant and steward.**

"It will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them." **Matthew 25:14 (NIV)**

"Whoever serves Me must follow Me; and where I am, My servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves Me."

John 12:26 (NIV)

2. **I am responsible with the "talents" God has given me.**

"To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey." **Matthew 25:15 (NIV)**

"And since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let each exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith..." **Romans 12:6 (NASB)**

a. **My body.**

b. **My time.**

c. **My resources.**

3. **I will give an account of my life to God.**

"After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them." **Matthew 25:19 (NIV)**

"But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken." **Matthew 12:36 (NIV)**

"Yes, each of us will have to give a personal account to God."
Romans 14:12 (NLT)

"Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of Him to whom we must give account." **Hebrews 4:13 (NIV)**

4. **I must not let fear control my life.**

"Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'" **Matthew 25:24-25 (NIV)**

"God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in Him. In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like Him. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love." **1 John 4:16-18 (NIV)**

5. **I must invest my life for God's purpose.**

“Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.” **Matthew 25:27 (NIV)**

a. **I commit my body as an instrument of righteousness.**

“Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to Him as instruments of righteousness.” **Romans 6:13 (NIV)**

b. **I view every moment as sacred for God.**

“Make the most of every opportunity for doing good in these evil days.” **Ephesians 5:16 (NLT)**

c. **I give obediently to God and generously to others.**

“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test Me in this,’ says the Lord Almighty, ‘and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.’” **Malachi 3:10 (NIV)**

“Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.” **1 Timothy 6:18 (NIV)**