

# The Seven Laws of Success by Herbert W. Armstrong: What Does the Bible Teach?

Herbert W. Armstrong wrote a booklet that a group based in Oklahoma acquired the copyright titled *The Seven Laws of Success*.

So, to try not to infringe on that copyright, the entire booklet is not here. Here are some things that Herbert Armstrong wrote in that booklet, links to other things that he wrote, and a scriptural basis at the end related to each of the seven laws.

Here is some of what the introduction from Herbert Armstrong in his *The Seven Laws of Success* booklet stated:

WHY are only the very few—women as well as men—successful in life? Just what is success? Here is the surprising answer to life's most difficult problem, proving that NO HUMAN NEED EVER BECOME A FAILURE! All who have succeeded have followed these seven laws! The only WAY to success is not a copyrighted formula being sold for a price. You can't buy it! The price is your own application to the seven existing laws.

DID IT EVER occur to you that there might be a *reason* why so many people make a failure of life? Not only men and career women, but wives and mothers to!

Are you one who is wrestling with the problem of "making ends meet"? Nearly all of us are. This problem need not mean failure—yet it often leads to it.

It is a fact—the vast majority do wind up failures. Yet none *need fail!*

Take a look at the *facts* in the world.

Is THIS Success?

Every two minutes someone in the United States attempts suicide. Each day nearly 70 persons *succeed*—but is that success? The World Health Organization estimates that some *one thousand* people commit suicide in the world—*every day!*

Suicides now outnumber murders. Now various organizations for the prevention of suicide are a reality! But the *cause* is individual **failure!**

Only a minority, of course, go to this extreme, but the overwhelming majority do end their lives in failure.

Much of the world is in current "prosperity." Yet—in booming U.S.—more businesses failed in a very recent year than in any other in the last twenty-six. Across the world streaks the shocking trend of increasing failures. Scores of millions daily allow the creeping cancer of **failure** to chain them to a life of unhappy circumstances, from which only death promises release.

But why?

Why are only the very few really successful? Is it mere chance—is it just happen-so—can it be luck? Or are there definite reasons?

Why do all but the very few find themselves, by age 60 or 65, dependents? Why must there be old-age pensions, public welfare aid, charities to support the non-crippled, non-handicapped helpless? Why must children so often provide for aged parents—when it ought to be the other way around?

*I am going to tell you why!*

There *are* definite causes! Seven basic laws govern success! It is high time people come to know them, and *end* this unhappy and needless tragedy!

Now I have written some articles based on each of those seven laws. Here are six:

1. **[First Law of Success: Fix the Right Goal](#)**
2. **[Second Law of Success: Education or Preparation](#)**
3. **[Third Law of Success: Good Health](#)**
4. **[Fourth Law of Success: DRIVE!](#)**
5. **[Fifth Law of Success: Resourcefulness](#)**
6. **[Sixth Law of Success: Perseverance](#)**

As far as the seventh, here is what Herbert Armstrong wrote:

### **Still We Need Law Number 7!**

Well now, *it would certainly* seem that if one follows these **SIX** laws of success, nothing more should be required!

But still, these "successful" men I have described followed these six principles. They gained their goals. They made money. They attained recognized status. They enjoyed the passing pleasures.

Still their lives were empty—they were never satisfied—they were discontented, they never found lasting, permanent, enduring *happiness*—they did not take their acquisitions with them when they died, and their fame died with them!

What they lacked—what **ALL** lack who fail of **REAL** success, application of Success Law number 7—the most important law of all! That is the ingredient that would have changed *everything*?

## The Overlooked SEVENTH Law

I have reserved this all-important seventh Law till last to explain. But far from being least, it is first in vital importance!

I have held it till now because 1) it is the very *last* one that people will acknowledge and apply; and 2) being *first* in making possible *real* success, I want to state it last so it will remain stamped in the mind of the reader.

When serious illness strikes, people call the doctor. It is automatic for most to rely on human professional knowledge and skill—on material drugs, medicines and knives. But finally, when the attending physician—perhaps with specialists called in collaboration—gravely shakes his head and says there is no more that medical science can do—it is now in the hands of a higher Power—then, at last people cry out desperately to the Creator God!

Is it possible that the living **GOD** might be a factor in determining the success or failure of one's life? Few have thought so.

People will ignore all their lives any idea of divine guidance and help—yet if one should find himself on a foodless and waterless raft after a shipwreck in mid-ocean, it is remarkable how quickly he would begin to believe there really is a living God! In last-resort desperation most people will cry out to Him whom they have ignored, disobeyed, and set at naught all their lives.

Wouldn't it seem axiomatic that, if there is a compassionate beneficent Creator standing ready and willing to give us emergency help as a last resort, it would have been more sensible to have sought His guidance and help all along? Yet some have acquired wealth, lived luxuriously, and then, suddenly losing all, turned finally to God in their economic distress. Others have committed suicide. Few, it seems, will ever rely on their Maker and life-Sustainer until they feel helpless and in desperate need. Even then the motive too often is selfish.

Yet, if we are to enjoy the good things of life—freedom from fears and worries, peace of mind, security, protection, happiness, abundant well-being—the very **SOURCE** of their supply is the Great God! Since all comes from Him anyway, why not tap the **SOURCE** from the very beginning?

But in our day of modern science, sophistication and vanity, it has not been fashionable to believe in a Maker. In this deceived world, knowledge of God has found little or no place in modern education.

The **ALL-IMPORTANT** *seventh Law of Success*, nevertheless, is having *contact with, and the guidance and continuous help of **GOD!***

And the person who *does* put this all-important seventh law *last* is very probably dooming his life to failure at the end.

### Why of First Importance

Look again at the very first Law, as it has been listed here. It is not merely choosing a goal—any

goal. It is setting as one's life-aim the *right* goal.

The "successful" of this world all had goals. But their goals led to material ends. They sought happiness in vanity, pride of status, material acquisitions, physical activities and pursuits. They sought the approbation of people. But people are human, and their lives are temporary. Material objects, too, are not enduring, but wax old until consigned to disuse.

The main goals of those supposed to be successful in the world usually are two: *Vanity*—desire for status; and *money* with the material things it will buy. But happiness is not material, and money is not its source. Vanity, as Solomon observed is like a striving after wind!

These men I have mentioned made money. Their bank accounts may have been full, but their lives were empty. When they acquired money, it never satisfied, and always they wanted more. These monetary victories, these material acquisitions, gave, of course, a thrill of satisfaction—but it never lasted!

This life-long struggle—this constant *striving* "after wind"—striving after false values—left in its wake a trail of fears and worries, apprehensions, disappointments, heartaches, troubled consciences, discontent, empty lives, frustrations—and finally, **DEATH!**

Oh yes, of course there were pleasures, moments of excitement, periods of enjoyment. There were occasional thrills, temporary sensations of delight. But always they were followed by periods of depression. Always a gnawing inner soul-hunger returned. This in turn drove them to seek satisfaction in the thousand-and-one events in the world's whirl of material pleasures and pastimes. Yet these never filled the void. They never satisfied the real inner hunger.

These people probably didn't realize it, but the hunger was *spiritual*. And spiritual hunger is never satisfied by material food!

The "successful" of this world applied six of the success laws. But they left **GOD** out of the picture, and the happiness of real success out of their lives.

It seems almost no one, today, realizes **HOW**—and **WHY**—we were made. **WHAT** we humans are, and **WHY** we are. Why should we live in ignorance of these basics of knowledge?

Two basic and vital facts are overlooked:

1. While man was made a material being, of the dust of the ground, sustained by eating material food and drinking material water, he was made also to *need* spiritual food, and to drink of the "living water" of God's Spirit. Without these spiritual needs man cannot be truly and continually happy. *Nothing else* really satisfies.

2. The Eternal Creator, who made us in His own likeness, is creator of **ALL** that is. Everything man needs to make life continuously and abundantly satisfying, must come from Him. He is the **SOURCE OF SUPPLY**. He is the **GIVER** of everything good. **WHY** must men ignore the true **SOURCE**, and try to obtain where there is nothing to be obtained? If I wish to draw clear, sparkling drinking water from a well, I will go to a well filled with such water, not to one that is empty. God says of our people: "For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me

the **FOUNTAIN** of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water" (Jeremiah 2:13).

And again He says: "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? And your labour for that which satisfieth not?" (Isaiah 55:1-2.)

Once again, look at the *first* of the Success Laws. Stated another way, it is to **DEFINE SUCCESS!** And what constitutes real Success? Once you have learned the true *meaning* of Success, then you have found the only *right* goal.

The right goal sets the direction of your life's journey. Success is the destination of that journey. Success is where you finally *arrive*—and true Success *includes* a happy and enjoyable journey along the way.

### **PURPOSE to Life?**

Is there, after all, a **PURPOSE** to life?

If we were put here by a Creator, would He have put us here without a **REASON**? And a Creator with Mind and Power that could have designed and produced the human mind and body could have failed to make available for humans every tool, ingredient and facility needed to fulfill His Purpose!

Of course men cut off from God have no knowledge of that Purpose. For that knowledge is not material, but *spiritual* knowledge. And spiritual things cannot be seen—nor heard, felt, smelled or tasted. Spiritual knowledge can be transmitted only by revelation. And this world has rejected revelation. Men cut off from their Creator of necessity are spiritually blind and ignorant, groping in the dark. So they fail to seize the proper tools, ingredients and facilities.

But the Maker has sent an *instruction book* along with the human mechanism He made. It contains all the real answers. It reveals life's real **PURPOSE**—the potential destiny of man! That *instruction book*, as Bruce Barton aptly said, is the "book nobody knows." Almost no one knows that 95% of the contents of that Book is virtually ignored by the professing Christian clergy. Most scientists and educators today suppose, erroneously and in ignorance of the facts, that the Bible is merely the book of an ancient race of Jewish people, striving to devise a concept of a god—in by gone days of ignorance and superstition. They don't examine the Book, as they examine other data, to see what it says. They ignore it as something beneath their pride of intellect to consider.

The religious Bible-believing fundamentalists generally quote and use not more than some 5% of the Scriptures. Approximately one-third of the entire contents of the Bible is devoted to **ADVANCE NEWS REPORTS**, called, in religious terminology, prophecy. **FEW** pay any attention to this third of the writings—and most seem devoid of understanding.

What almost **ON ONE** realizes is that the ignored 95% of that great volume is the **INSTRUCTION BOOK** which the Maker sent along with His product—just as any manufacturer

of a material commodity does. Yet some scholars today have been surprised and shocked to learn that this ignored, maligned, misrepresented Book contains **THE ANSWERS** to life itself—reveals the **PURPOSE** of life—the **LAWS** that govern it—the **ANSWER** to what **IS** Success, and how to achieve it!

It has been like discovering a gold mine of knowledge they did not know existed. They have found that it **MAKES SENSE**—that, indeed, **IT IS THE VERY FOUNDATION** of **KNOWLEDGE** in just about all areas—that it provides the only right *approach* to the acquisition of further discoverable knowledge.

This ultimate potential destiny is the *only* **TRUE** goal. It is your reason for being alive! It is the reason you were born!

Those who have worked, striven, fought their way to any other goal have been wasting their lives—living for naught! They have, in true fact, been going nowhere! And how many, since humans were first put here on earth, have really known that **PURPOSE**—that one right goal of life? Very few, indeed!

The time when we need divine guidance, enlightenment, and help, is *at the very* **BEGINNING**—at the time when a young man or woman chooses that **RIGHT GOAL**. Without divine guidance the wrong goal is always set.

That is why poor people possessing the *least* knowledge and material goods sometimes *appear* to be the happiest. Actually they were not happy. They merely are *less discontented*! They have not progressed as far in the **WRONG DIRECTION** as those who smugly and vainly supposed themselves to be their more intelligent betters!

Life has a **PURPOSE**. God has set in actual, inexorable motion definite **LAWS** to **PRODUCE** for man every happiness, security, and **GOOD** thing he desires—**THE WAY OF LIFE** that will *fulfill* God's **PURPOSE** for our being!

LOOK! THINK! An automobile was designed and built by its human makers to transport passengers, and do it more speedily and in more comfort than the old horse and buggy. Would it not be ridiculous if the automobile had a mind and free volition of action, and it would say: "That's silly! I don't think I was made to transport people. I think I was made for some *other* purpose. I refuse to transport people. I want to be an instrument for viewing the stars in the heavens."

Apparently it is only stupid, foolish man—with **POTENTIAL** mind power and **CAPACITY** for intelligence beyond any creature God has created—who says "**WHY** have you made me thus?"

WHAT, *then* is the **PURPOSE** for which we were put here?

Of this, mankind has totally lost all conception. To people spiritually drunk on the false material concepts of our day, the statement of that purpose would appear strange, absurd, impossible. It **SO FAR** transcends anything conceived by humanity in this blinded world that the statement of it would prove too great to be grasped and accepted.

Suffice it to say—and I shall leave it to another booklet to explain—man was put here for the

**PURPOSE** of being conformed to, and finally stamped with the exact perfect **CHARACTER** of Jesus Christ! Write for the *free* booklet *Why Were You Born?*

Christ is now stamped with the identical **CHARACTER IMAGE** of God, as well as the shining, brilliant, glorified *appearance* of God! For a mortal human to be transformed into *that* perfect spiritual image means that *we must be CHANGED!*

The Bible pictures God as the Master Potter—us as the clay. Indeed we are, literally clay images of God—composed of the dust of the ground (Genesis 2:7). As we now bear only the physical image of the "earthy," we shall *when changed*, bear the spiritual image of the heavenly—of **GOD** (1 Corinthians 15:47-49). So we are clay images with human minds that are free moral agents. They may submit, or they may rebel. They have power of will, and of decision.

### **Free to Choose**

Understand this! You are a free moral agent. God will never "cram" His religion down your throat." He will never force you to decide His way or go His way. He not only *allows* you to choose the wrong way—He *compels* you to make your own decision. Otherwise His **PURPOSE** would be thwarted!

The living God has set two ways before us. One, His Way, the *cause* of all the good things you want here and now, plus eternal life in **REAL SUCCESS** continuously forever. The other the way of self-centeredness, vanity, greed, envy—the way mankind has gone, in rebellion against God and His Law—the way that *causes* all unhappiness, suffering, evils, and ends in death. And God *compels* you to *choose!* Yet He *commands* you to choose the Way that leads to **REAL SUCCESS** (see Deuteronomy 30:19).

### **You Need HELP**

That ultimate **TRUE** Success is something you cannot attain to by yourself. The ingredient you lack is the **GUIDANCE**, the **POWER** and **SPIRIT OF GOD**.

You must make the decision. *You* must set this right **GOAL**. *You* must set your will. *You* must expend your full effort. *You* must **WORK AT** overcoming, growing and developing spiritually, and sticking with it. Yet **GOD** supplies the all-important ingredient—His power, His love, His faith—His guidance—**HIS LIFE!**

### **7th Law Changes Everything**

Now look how **DIFFERENT** a whole life becomes when this **SEVENTH SUCCESS LAW** is utilized.

First, it will completely alter your overall major **GOAL** as I have just explained. Of course, you will have other minor goals—such as the profession or occupation to provide material needs, and **HELP** achieve the major goal. And these minor goals always must be compatible with and contributing to the major goal.

Your main goal, now, will be spiritual and not material. It will follow the **WAY OF LIFE** of the Ten

Commandments. You will actually **LIVE BY** every Word of **GOD**—that is, the Bible!

Now re-examine the Second Law of **SUCCESS**.

Your **EDUCATION** and entire preparation *will be DIFFERENT*. You will seek to learn the **TRUE VALUES** of life—yes, of *this* life as well as the hereafter! This means your number one textbook will be the **BIBLE**. It will reveal to you the **MIND OF CHRIST**. This will provide your mental **APPROACH** in all education and practice.

Third, you will receive the **KNOWLEDGE** which God reveals about *laws of HEALTH*.

Take the **FOURTH LAW**. If you are motivated by **GOD'S WORD**, *you'll have DRIVE*. God commands that you do what you do *with your might*! Apply yourself! Whatever is worth doing is worth doing the very best you can! Nine Biblical passages command that you apply your self with **DILIGENCE**! Ten other places in the Bible command us to **BE DILIGENT**. And 36 Scriptures command, or show the example of acting *diligently*! Many of these instruct us diligently to *seek* God's guidance and help, several *diligently* to keep His commandments.

How about the businessman? "Seest thou a man diligent in his business? He shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before [obscure] men" (Proverbs 22:29).

The Bible does not condone laziness or shiftlessness. It counsels us to consider the ant and be wise. The Bible commands industriousness!

### Solving Problems

Now, *Law Number FIVE*. No matter how intelligent, alert, or resourceful you may be, **YOU NEED GOD'S WISDOM** and **HELP** in solving the constant problems and *meeting the recurring obstacles* that beset life's path. Whether it is in business, a profession, private life or what. The man who has **CONTACT WITH GOD**, who can take these matters—these emergencies—these problems—in the quietness of his private prayer room to the Throne of Grace and seek God's counsel and advice **IS GOING TO HAVE DIVINE GUIDANCE**! That is, of course, provided he is submissive, obedient, diligent, faithful. **WISDOM** comes from **GOD**.

May I give you a personal example? God has blessed His Work, and caused it to grow into a tremendous worldwide activity, with offices around the world. God has set me in the position of human director and leader over this expanding enterprise, employing hundreds of people. We encounter problems of all kinds, *constantly*. I have problems to solve, obstacles to hurdle, policies to set, decisions to make which affect many lives—frequently involve many thousands of dollars, even millions. It is a weighty responsibility.

Always—and I can remember it from at least age 5—I have desired to have **UNDERSTANDING**. But more than fifty years ago, I discovered that I sadly lacked, yet sorely needed **WISDOM**. Having dedicated my life to live, literally, *according* to every word of God's Instruction Book—the Bible—I obeyed this command of God: "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God. . . and it shall be given" (James 1:5). He has given me wisdom. Of course He has allowed me to make mistakes—but never a major mistake that could threaten His great Work.



Wisdom must be applied to every specific circumstance individually. I learned many years ago the need of getting *all* of the facts bearing on a case before making a decision. But it requires more. God's Word says that in multitude of counselors there is safety. In any important decision I call in the most competent possible counselors, specialists in the field involved.

You simply cannot know, if you have never had this divine help, how *very, very much* it means! We have been saved hundreds, of times from costly blunders. We are saved from worries and the "headaches" most businessmen have to suffer over such problems. We can proceed in **CONFIDENCE**—that assurance that is **FAITH!** *What a blessing!* What a comfort, and a joy!

### **It PAYS Off**

People trying to live *without the living CHRIST in their lives* are missing the most *practical* and *valuable* asset they could have. In the language of our day, "**IT PAYS OFF!**" Of course, we have to expend our own effort. We have to really **THINK**. We use all our own effort. We have to really **THINK**. We use all our own resources and natural resourcefulness. But we have that added **SECURITY** of divine **GUIDANCE**. Often God simply works out **CIRCUMSTANCES**. He literally gives us "the breaks"! **IT PAYS!**

Finally, now, look at *Success Law Number SIX. Perseverance—Stick-to-it-iveness—Enduring—Never quitting or giving up.*

The Maker's Instruction Book seems full of this. Jesus' parable of the sower and the seed showed the four classes. All heard God's Message. All were given the opportunity. Three classes **GAVE UP**. One never really got started. Two started out with joy and a great flourish, but let former friends, the cares of this material life, pleasures, choke them off, and discourage them. The other class of quitters simply did not have the depth of strength of character within themselves to stay with anything. They were just naturally quitters. Even of those who went on, and endured, some were more diligent, more resourceful, better prepared, more careful of health, and consequently developed *farther* in accomplishment than others. Theirs will be the greater reward!

Jesus Christ said, plainly, "He that endureth unto the **END**, the same shall be **SAVED**" (Matthew 24:13).

Yes, these Seven Laws are the **WAY**, not only to business and economic **SUCCESS**—they are **THE LAWS** that lead to rich, rewarding, interest-filled, abundant living and, in the end, to **ETERNAL LIFE AND GLORY** in the Kingdom of God.

It teaches you to choose the **RIGHT GOAL**. It teaches you to **STUDY**, to show yourself approved to your Maker. It teaches you to acquire **KNOWLEDGE**, right and true education—preparation for success. It teaches you to watch your health. It teaches diligence—drive—dedication, persistent application. It teaches resourcefulness, and offers you divine help in applying it—and it teaches **STAYING WITH IT TO THE END!**

WHAT A HAPPY LIFE God has made available! What blessedness,--what **JOY!** What **SECURITY**, this life of implicit living **FAITH**—reliance on the Creator—**GOD!**

I know! I've been enjoying this life for more than fifty years! It's a **BUSY** life—but it's interesting, thrilling, happy, abundantly **REWARDING!** And to constantly look forward to the **OVERALL GOAL**—an eternity in **THE KINGDOM OF GOD!**

I want to **SHARE** that life with you! You may enjoy it too!

The last "law" is basically expanded upon in the sermon you can watch titled [Christian Success](#). The other laws are mentioned there as well.

## Scriptures Related to the "Seven Laws of Success"

From a spiritual perspective, let's briefly look at scriptures associated with Herbert Armstrong's seven laws of success.

### 1. Right goal

Christians need to have the right goal. And Jesus told those who wish to follow God what that should be:

31 "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. (Matthew 6:31-33)

Jesus said that His people would pray (Matthew 6) and that is one of the ways to seek first the Kingdom of God--start your day off with prayer. Wisdom and understanding, which the Bible also advocates (e.g. Proverbs 1:2, 4:5), are also appropriate goals.

As mentioned before, wisdom is important. Notice also the following:

5 Get wisdom! Get understanding!  
Do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth.  
6 Do not forsake her, and she will preserve you;  
Love her, and she will keep you.  
7 Wisdom is the principal thing;  
Therefore get wisdom.  
And in all your getting, get understanding.  
8 Exalt her, and she will promote you;  
She will bring you honor, when you embrace her.  
9 She will place on your head an ornament of grace;  
A crown of glory she will deliver to you." (Proverbs 4:5-9)

And as mentioned earlier, the Bible teaches that "wisdom brings success" (Ecclesiastes 10:10).

Christians should work and have their priorities in order. Notice something else from Proverbs:

27 Prepare your outside work,

Make it fit for yourself in the field;  
And afterward build your house. (Proverbs 24:27)

The Apostle Paul also encouraged physical work:

10 For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. 11 For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies. 12 Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread. (2 Thessalonians 3:10-12)

1 Timothy 5:8

8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

Having a goal for to make a proper livelihood is biblical.

## 2. Education/Preparation

The Bible shows that education and preparation are important for those who should follow God:

14 "When you come to the land which the Lord your God is giving you, and possess it and dwell in it, and say, 'I will set a king over me like all the nations that are around me,' 15 you shall surely set a king over you whom the Lord your God chooses; one from among your brethren you shall set as king over you; you may not set a foreigner over you, who is not your brother. 16 But he shall not multiply horses for himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses, for the Lord has said to you, 'You shall not return that way again.' 17 Neither shall he multiply wives for himself, lest his heart turn away; nor shall he greatly multiply silver and gold for himself.

18 "Also it shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book, from the one before the priests, the Levites. 19 And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the Lord his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes, 20 that his heart may not be lifted above his brethren, that he may not turn aside from the commandment to the right hand or to the left, and that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he and his children in the midst of Israel. (2 Thessalonians 3:10-12)

The Bible teaches that Christians are to be kings and priests:

4 John, to the seven churches which are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, 5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth.

To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, 6 and has made us kings and

priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. (Revelation 1:4-6)

And kings and priests need education and training to properly handle those roles.

The Bible is clear that children need to be trained:

6 Train up a child in the way he should go,  
And when he is old he will not depart from it. (Proverbs 22:6)

6 "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. (Deuteronomy 6:6-7)

Should Christians, begotten children of God (1 John 3:1), not also be trained?

Should not Christians be noble like the Bereans and search/study the scriptures daily?:

10 Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. 11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so. (Acts 17:10-11)

Christians are to grow in grace and in knowledge:

17 You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; 18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 3:17-18)

Christians should be prepared enough to allow them to answer questions from non-believers:

15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; 16 having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed. (1 Peter 3:15-16)

You cannot be ready to give an answer if you are not prepared.

### 3. Good Health

The Apostle John wanted Christians to prosper and be in good health physically, as well as spiritually:

2 Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers. (1 Peter 3:15-16)

Christians who depart from evil will attain health benefits:

7 Do not be wise in your own eyes;

Fear the Lord and depart from evil.  
 8 It will be health to your flesh,  
 And strength to your bones. (Proverbs 3:7-8)

Bible tells you to eat real food.

2 Why do you spend money for what is not bread,  
 And your wages for what does not satisfy?  
 Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good (Isaiah 55:2).

Refined processed “breads,” artificial sweeteners, chemical additives, genetically-modified organisms, and some other items commonly associated with junk foods could be consistent with that warning.

Also, God says:

11 Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth"; and it was so. 12 And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed according to its kind, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. (Genesis 1:11-12)

20 Then God said, "Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens." 21 So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. 22 And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." (Genesis 1:20-22)

24 Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, each according to its kind"; and it was so. 25 And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. (Genesis 1:24-25)

GMOs are about stopping life from reproducing after its own kind. This clearly violates Genesis 1:22. But that is what GMOs are all about (see also ([GMOs and Bible Prophecy](#))).

The Bible also warns about drunkendness. Notice the following:

1 Wine is a mocker, Strong drink is a brawler, And whoever is led astray by it is not wise.  
 (Proverbs 20:1)

20 Do not mix with winebibbers, Or with gluttonous eaters of meat; 21 For the drunkard and the glutton will come to poverty, And drowsiness will clothe a man with rags. (Proverbs 23:20-21)

1 Woe to the crown of pride, to the drunkards of Ephraim, Whose glorious beauty is a fading flower Which is at the head of the verdant valleys, To those who are overcome with wine! 2 Behold, the Lord has a mighty and strong one, Like a tempest of hail and a destroying storm, Like a flood of mighty waters overflowing, Who will bring them down to the earth with His hand. 3 The crown of pride, the drunkards of Ephraim, Will be trampled underfoot; (Isaiah 28:1-3)

18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation (Ephesians 5:18)

The partying drunkard is also specifically condemned as part of those that will not inherit the kingdom of God:

9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God. (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. (Galatians 5:19-21)

The fact that the average college binge drinker is defined as one who gets drunk doing this at least twice per month shows the lack of concern for biblical morality.

The Bible also condemns those who encourage others to drink excessively, and also hints of possible sexual violation when one does drink excessively:

5 “Woe to him who gives drink to his neighbor,  
Pressing him to your bottle,  
Even to make him drunk,  
That you may look on his nakedness!  
16 You are filled with shame instead of glory.  
You also — drink!  
And be exposed as uncircumcised!  
The cup of the Lord’s right hand will be turned against you,  
And utter shame will be on your glory. (Habakkuk 2:15-16)

The Bible warns about obesity, getting fat, and excessive eating.

Notice some of what Moses and Jeremiah wrote:

15 You grew fat, you grew thick,  
You are obese!  
Then he forsook God who made him,  
And scornfully esteemed the Rock of his salvation.  
16 They provoked Him to jealousy with foreign gods;  
With abominations they provoked Him to anger. (Deuteronomy 32:15-16)

11 “Because you were glad, because you rejoiced,  
You destroyers of My heritage,  
Because you have grown fat like a heifer threshing grain,  
And you bellow like bulls,

12 Your mother shall be deeply ashamed;  
 She who bore you shall be ashamed.  
 Behold, the least of the nations shall be a wilderness,  
 A dry land and a desert. (Jeremiah 50:11-12)

Physical exercise can also be beneficial in this life:

8 For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come. (1 Timothy 4:8)

The Bible teaches self-control and this is what pretty much every one needs, but is not what everyone will accept:

5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. (2 Peter 1:5-7)

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. (Galatians 5:22-23)

24 And after some days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, he sent for Paul and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. 25 Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, "Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you." (Acts 24:24-25)

In Western societies with diet, entertainment, and other options, self-control is good for physical and spiritual (Matthew 5) health.

Of course, the Bible teaches about healing

Notice what the Apostle James wrote:

14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. (James 5:14-15)

But sometimes, God delays this:

8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 9 And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong. (2 Corinthians 12:8-10)

Why?

Here is the short answer:

28...we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. (Romans 8:28)

Christians are to "we walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Corinthians 5:7), and sometimes that includes not being healed of ailments in this life, or that healing may be greatly delayed.

## 4. Drive

The Bible shows that God wants zealous, driven followers.

The Bible teaches:

10 Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going. (Ecclesiastes 9:10)

18 But it is good to be zealous in a good thing always, and not only when I am present with you. (Galatians 4:18)

14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works. (Titus 2:14)

The Bible warns about those that are lax and have insufficient drive:

14 "And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write,

'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God:

15 "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. 16 So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. 17 Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing' — and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked — 18 I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. 19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. (Revelation 3:14-19)

## 5. Resourcefulness

Christians are to be resourceful. But that resourcefulness includes relying on God. Notice the following from Jesus and James

7 And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.

8 "Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him. 9 In this manner, therefore, pray:

Our Father in heaven,



Hallowed be Your name.

10 Your kingdom come.

Your will be done

On earth as it is in heaven.

11 Give us this day our daily bread.

12 And forgive us our debts,

As we forgive our debtors.

13 And do not lead us into temptation,

But deliver us from the evil one.

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen. (Matthew 6:7-13)

2 Yet you do not have because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures. (James 4:2-3)

The Bible shows that Nehemiah was resourceful and that he prayed:

1 The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah.

It came to pass in the month of Chislev, in the twentieth year, as I was in Shushan the citadel, 2 that Hanani one of my brethren came with men from Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews who had escaped, who had survived the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem. 3 And they said to me, "The survivors who are left from the captivity in the province are there in great distress and reproach. The wall of Jerusalem is also broken down, and its gates are burned with fire."

4 So it was, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned for many days; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven.

5 And I said: "I pray, Lord God of heaven, O great and awesome God, You who keep Your covenant and mercy with those who love You and observe Your commandments, 6 please let Your ear be attentive and Your eyes open, that You may hear the prayer of Your servant which I pray before You now, day and night, for the children of Israel Your servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel which we have sinned against You. Both my father's house and I have sinned. 7 We have acted very corruptly against You, and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, nor the ordinances which You commanded Your servant Moses. 8 Remember, I pray, the word that You commanded Your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations; 9 but if you return to Me, and keep My commandments and do them, though some of you were cast out to the farthest part of the heavens, yet I will gather them from there, and bring them to the place which I have chosen as a dwelling for My name.' 10 Now these are Your servants and Your people, whom You have redeemed by Your great power, and by Your strong hand. 11 O Lord, I pray, please let Your ear be attentive to the prayer of Your servant, and to the prayer of Your servants who desire to fear Your name; and let Your servant prosper this day, I pray, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man."

For I was the king's cupbearer.

Nehemiah Sent to Judah

2 And it came to pass in the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was before him, that I took the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had never been sad in his presence before. 2 Therefore the king said to me, "Why is your face sad, since you are not sick? This is nothing but sorrow of heart."

So I became dreadfully afraid, 3 and said to the king, "May the king live forever! Why should my

face not be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' tombs, lies waste, and its gates are burned with fire?"

4 Then the king said to me, "What do you request?"

So I prayed to the God of heaven. 5 And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, I ask that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' tombs, that I may rebuild it."

6 Then the king said to me (the queen also sitting beside him), "How long will your journey be? And when will you return?" So it pleased the king to send me; and I set him a time.

7 Furthermore I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, let letters be given to me for the governors of the region beyond the River, that they must permit me to pass through till I come to Judah, 8 and a letter to Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, that he must give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel which pertains to the temple, for the city wall, and for the house that I will occupy." And the king granted them to me according to the good hand of my God upon me.

(Nehemiah 1:1-2:8)

Nehemiah was practicing an important aspect of Christian success.

Traveling has helped teach me resourcefulness.

## 6. Perseverance

The Bible teaches a lot about this.

But first notice that God is faithful:

13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it. (1 Corinthians 10:13)

This means that You can make it.

The Apostle Paul made that clear:

3 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, 5 for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, 6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. (Philippians 1:3-6)

Here are some passages in the Bible about perseverance:

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints (Ephesians 6:17-18).

1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation

produces perseverance; 4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope. (Romans 5:1-4)

24 For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance. (Romans 8:24-25)

5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. (2 Peter 1:5-7)

So what do we need to do? We must not quit, we must not give up, we must endure:

12 If we endure, We shall also reign with Him. (2 Timothy 2:12)

13 he who endures to the end shall be saved (Matthew 24:13)

Christians are to persevere.

## 7. Having Continuous Help and Guidance from God

Trusting and relying on God is essential for true Christian success.

Nehemiah was practicing Proverbs 3:5-6:

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart,  
And lean not on your own understanding;  
6 In all your ways acknowledge Him,  
And He shall direct your paths.

Christians are to walk by faith.

7 For we walk by faith, not by sight. (2 Corinthians 5:7)

In addition to prayer, notice what a Christian should be doing:

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.'  
38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."  
(Matthew 22:37-40)

By loving God and loving His neighbor Christians live as they should. For those that endure to the end, this leads to Christian success.

And, "he who endures to the end shall be saved" (Matthew 24:13). That will be success!

Notice the following:

"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard,

Nor have entered into the heart of man  
The things which God has prepared for those who love Him." (1 Corinthians 2:9)

Success is possible for all who will put God truly first and apply the biblical laws of success.

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[Christian Success](#) Does the Bible teach that Christians are to be successful? Are there at least seven laws of success that Christians should follow? How does the Bible teach we are to become successfully spiritually? Does the Bible really teach that Christians should be successful physically? This video answers these questions and more from the Bible. This is a YouTube sermon.

[Why Were You Born?](#) Why did God make you? [Herbert W. Armstrong](#) wrote this as a booklet on this important subject. You may also wish to read the article [What is Your Destiny?](#) or watch the video, also titled [What is Your Destiny?](#)

[What is the Meaning of Life?](#) Who does God say is happy? What is your ultimate destiny? Do you really know? Does God actually have a plan for YOU personally? There is also a video titled [What is the meaning of your life?](#)

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