

Success and Specialization in Christ

We have many concerns that are instinctive.

Is lord your reward? If you despise him as your reward, what other things can you get

Think about

- If it is so easy to think how god will use us, **why did the bible have to talk about perseverance. Effort = outcome?**
- **Did all the bible characters at one point of time, had nothing to hope for but the promise of god?**
- **There were some in the bible who were constantly shamed, yet he still shared painstakingly eg John the Baptist, Jeremiah**

The Lord was with Joseph so that he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. When his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord gave him success in everything he did, Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned.

So Potiphar left everything he had in Joseph's care; with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate. Now Joseph was well-built and handsome, (Genesis 39:2-4, 6 NIV)

Whatever mission Saul sent him on, David was so successful that Saul gave him a high rank in the army. This pleased all the troops, and Saul's officers as well.

The next day an evil spirit from God came forcefully on Saul. He was prophesying in his house, while David was playing the lyre, as he usually did. Saul had a spear in his hand and he hurled it, saying to himself, "I'll pin David to the wall." But David eluded him twice. (1 Samuel 18:5, 10-11 NIV)

But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way.

To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds.

In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom. (Daniel 1:8, 17, 20 NIV)

The Lord is with us (Immanuel)

1. In the glory of our suffering
 - Joseph prospered (successful)
 - Daniel (given wisdom and understanding)
 - David (given courage)

- They all **persevere during the suffering - HS refining you, sustaining you, so that people know it is The Lord who is the one sustaining you**
 - **Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. (Romans 5:3-5 NIV)**
 - Don't be discouraged if you are on a prolonged suffering, because God wants to do His will through the HS (not your will, spare cash)
2. Different world view
- Your typical (not set apart) world view torment you
 - The world view God has given you
 - In 16:33 Christ has overcome the world. You do not need to seek **additional victory(attributes - eg more talent here and that) than what you already had in Christ -->therefore confirm** how God is a victor through your life, your struggle
 - 1 co 1:15-17: **the exaltation of Christ and his church** (in whatever trials and problems, always seek the conversion of souls, benefit of life)
 - Mt 24:14 the gospel will reach the ends of the world --> work harder than anyone
3. Different sense of guidance and victory
- Sense of assurance that comes from seeking and seeking The Lord and His will
 - **We need to hear personal voice from God (you grasp the sense of The Lord who is with you, like how David/Daniel/Joseph..)**

The idea of achievement and successes

1. The concept of grace
1. See the favour of God instead of seeing it as merit (because I have studied.. Worked..)
 2. Given the faith to join God in what He is doing in our life
 - Not shirking responsibility (don't study, don't work.. Etc.. Just heck it and claim to depend on grace)
 - Let God work through your capability to do what you are called to do, and enjoy the grace that God gives to you. So that when you succeed, you won't see it as effort= success (this is faithless). **See the grace that works through you**
 - **Eg David** - knows nothing about fighting only know how to throw stones. But it is God who works through his skills to fight the Goliath
2. **Consistent success**
- **Consistent** listening, reliance, obedience -- consistent **reverence (honouring of God)**
 - Work on the **heart** NOT the skills, successes --> **the sense of the heart is on the outcome not the spirit of looking up to Him**
 - **It's the heart of obedience and reliance of God that He wants to work through you to bring through the "works", not the other way round (then only you become yielding to Him)**
 - **Cultivate the right spirit -> of consistent listening (pray as you live)**
3. Consistent hardwork through seeing Immanuel in life

Specialisation

1. Through prolonged challenges and hardship
2. Through **godly** attitude in your work and studies - Whatever you do, **work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters,** since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.
(Colossians 3:23-24 NIV)
 - HS anoints you supernaturally as you work with the right attitude, without you knowing, you acquired new skills
3. While you are serving with brethren.
 - Mingling of godly people makes you wiser, give greater confirmation etc

It is not that we like suffering, it is just that we have heard so much about god that we cannot do otherwise.