

# ***Principles Which Produce Spiritual Success***

**Scripture:** Mark 12:30-33  
Luke 13:3  
Jeremiah 38:20

## **Introduction**

God wants us to be successful in our spiritual quest to know Him and live godly lives. Our success is limited only to the degree that we follow these principles.

## **I. Three principles of success**

***Joshua 1:8*** This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

### A. Love God without limit - Attitude

***Luke 12:28-31*** And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, 29 Which is the first commandment of all? 30 And Jesus answered him, {The first of all the commandments [is], Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord;} {And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this [is] the first commandment.} 31 {And the second [is] like, [namely] this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.}

#### 1. Hindrances to an unlimited love for God

- a. Our family model
- b. Present human relationships
- c. Selfish attitudes
- d. Low self esteem

### B. Set a new course - goal

***Luke 13:3*** {I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.}

1. Change your attitude about your past
2. Change your attitude about godliness
3. Change your direction for your future

***Philippians 3:8-9*** But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. 9 Yea doubtless, and I count all things [but] loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them [but] dung, that I may win Christ,

### C. Learn to be under authority - obedience

***Jeremiah 38:20*** But Jeremiah said, They shall not deliver [thee]. Obey, I beseech thee, the voice of the LORD, which I speak unto thee: so it shall be well unto thee, and thy soul shall live.

***Matthew 8:8-10*** The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.

For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this [man], Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth [it].

When Jesus heard [it], he marvelled, and said to them that followed, {Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.}

1. Learn discipline
2. Learn to follow orders

## **II. Some observations about these principles**

### A. Regarding loving God whole heartedly

1. It brings us into his throne room
2. It makes God "show up" for us

### B. Regarding setting a new course

1. Repentance is for our sake

2. Repentance is designed to stop repeated offenses
  3. Repentance involves growth
  4. Unrepentance involves stubbornness/idolatry
- C. Regarding being under authority
1. There is no victory without obedience
  2. Incomplete obedience can have terrible consequences
- Example: Saul and the Amalekites

### **III. How to apply these principles for your own success**

- A. Make the Word of God your standard
- B. Set your will to love God
  1. Love is not an emotion or feeling
  2. Love is an act of the will
- C. Set a godly course
  1. Repudiate your past direction
  2. Determine to live your life by the Book
- D. Learn the principles of and submit to authority
  1. Learn to follow orders
  2. Learn to follow orders completely