

God's perspective on success

The introduction lays out an important question: what does it mean to be prosperous and successful from God's perspective? It suggests that everyone naturally seeks prosperity and success but often looks in various places to achieve them, some good and others harmful. The passage directs us to Scripture, specifically Joshua 1:1-9, as a framework for understanding God's perspective.

In Joshua 1:8, the concept of meditation on God's word is introduced as the key to prosperity and success. Here, God commands Joshua to meditate on the "book of the law" day and night and promises that this will make his way prosperous and successful. The passage emphasizes meditation as an ongoing and intentional practice, not a suggestion or occasional activity. It's a command from God for those who desire to achieve success according to His standards.

The idea is that meditation on Scripture helps deepen understanding. Like physically chewing food breaks it down for easier swallowing, meditating on God's word "breaks down" spiritual truth for better comprehension and application. This process not only enriches understanding but also ensures that the word remains within the individual, preventing it from being easily taken away or forgotten. Psalms 1:1-3 reflects this by comparing a person who meditates on God's word to a tree planted by streams of water, flourishing in all they do.

The biblical definitions of "prosperous" and "successful" provide further insight. In Hebrew, "prosperous" refers to advancing, succeeding, or being victorious, while "successful" involves acting with insight, understanding, and prudence. These definitions indicate that biblical prosperity and success are not solely about material wealth or achievements but involve living wisely, advancing in God's purpose, and discerning how to apply His word in everyday life.

For a believer, being prosperous and successful means more than worldly accomplishments; it involves advancing in spiritual maturity, making prudent decisions, and living a life that aligns with God's will. Thus, the pursuit of prosperity and success, according to this perspective, is rooted in continually meditating on and applying God's word.

Meditation, from a biblical perspective, is a focused, intentional reflection on God's Word. It involves more than just reading; it's about engaging deeply with Scripture and allowing it to shape your thoughts, attitudes, and actions. **Here are steps on how to meditate biblically:**

1. Find a Quiet Place and Time

- **Set aside time:** Meditation requires focused attention. Start by setting a specific time each day, whether morning or evening, to meditate on God's Word.
- **Create a peaceful environment:** Find a quiet place where you won't be distracted, allowing you to focus on God's presence and His Word.

2. Begin with Prayer

- **Invite the Holy Spirit:** Ask God to open your heart and mind, to give you understanding of His Word, and to guide your meditation. You might pray something like, *"Father, open my heart to hear from You. Help me to understand Your Word and meditate on it in a way that draws me closer to You, in Jesus name amen"*

3. Choose a Scripture Passage

- **Select a specific verse or passage:** You can meditate on a verse that speaks to your current situation or one that the Lord has laid on your heart. For example, Joshua 1:8, Psalm 23, or Philippians 4:8.
- **Short passages work well:** Start with shorter verses that are easy to remember and reflect on deeply. Practice memorizing the **reference first** then the verse or verses

4. Read Slowly and Repeatedly

- **Read the Scripture slowly:** Let each word sink in. Pay attention to the meaning and rhythm of the verse.
- **Repeat the verse:** Read it several times aloud or silently. **Repetition** allows the verse to become part of your thought process and makes it easier to focus.

5. Reflect on the Meaning

- **Ask questions:** Think about what the verse means and how it applies to your life. Consider questions like:
 - What is this verse saying about God's character?
 - What does this passage reveal about God's will for me?
 - How does it challenge or comfort me?
- **Picture it:** Visualize the Scripture in your mind. If the verse uses imagery (like Psalm 1's "tree planted by streams of water"), imagine what that looks like. This makes the verse come alive and engages your senses.

6. Personalize the Scripture

- **Make it personal:** Apply the verse to your life. Replace general terms with personal ones. For instance, instead of "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked," you can say, "Blessed am *I* when I do not walk in the counsel of the wicked."
- **Ask how it speaks to you today:** Reflect on how you can live according to the Scripture in your everyday actions, thoughts, and relationships.

7. Speak the Word Aloud

- **Confess the Scripture:** Speaking the verse aloud helps it stay in your mind and makes it more real. You are declaring God's truth over your life.
- **Memorize if possible:** The more you meditate, the easier it will be to memorize key Scriptures. This makes it easier to meditate throughout your day.

8. Meditate Throughout the Day

- **Continue reflecting:** Even after your dedicated time of meditation, continue to ponder the verse during your daily activities. As you go about your day, let the verse come to mind and consider how it applies to different situations.
- **Keep God's Word close:** You can write down the verse or keep it somewhere accessible, like your phone, journal, or a note card, to revisit it throughout the day.

9. Listen for God's Voice

- **Be still and listen:** After meditating on the Scripture, take a few moments to be quiet and listen for God's voice. He may speak to your heart through thoughts, impressions, or a sense of peace.
- **Respond to what God is saying:** Reflect on how the Scripture is shaping your life. If God reveals something through meditation, ask for His help in applying it.

10. End with Prayer

- **Thank God for His Word:** Close by thanking God for speaking to you and ask Him to help you live out what you've meditated on. Commit the insights you've gained to His care, asking Him to guide you in making the necessary changes in your life.

Example: Meditating on Joshua 1:8

- **Verse:** "This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success."
- **Step 1:** Begin by finding a quiet place and praying for understanding.
- **Step 2:** Slowly read the verse several times, emphasizing different parts each time.
- **Step 3:** Reflect on how God's command to meditate on His Word day and night applies to your current life. What areas need more attention to God's Word?
- **Step 4:** Personalize the verse. "I will not let God's Word depart from my mouth. I will meditate on it day and night so that I can live according to it."
- **Step 5:** Speak the verse aloud, and think of how you can apply it during your daily activities.
- **Step 6:** Conclude with prayer, thanking God for His Word and asking for strength to follow it.

Through these steps, meditation becomes an ongoing process of drawing closer to God, understanding His will, and living a prosperous and successful life in His eyes,

Additional Tips:

- **Start Small:** Begin with just a few minutes each day, gradually increasing as you grow more comfortable.
- **Find a Quiet Place:** Reduce distractions to help you focus on God's word.
- **Meditate Day and Night:** Consistently engage with Scripture in the morning and before bedtime.

Meditating on God's word, as described in Joshua 1:8, is a continuous process. It invites you to deeply engage with Scripture and allows the Holy Spirit to transform your heart and mind.

Meditating on God's word "day and night" means maintaining a continuous awareness of His presence and teachings throughout our daily lives. While we need sleep and have responsibilities like work, **it doesn't mean we need to engage in formal study constantly**. Instead, it involves a mindset of ongoing fellowship with God, inviting Him into our thoughts, actions, and decisions.

This can be done by:

1. **Integrating God into Daily Activities:** Bringing thoughts of God and His teachings into everyday tasks. This means being mindful of His presence, praying, or reflecting on scripture during breaks, while commuting, or even in moments of silence.
2. **Short Prayers or Thoughts:** Offering quick prayers or thoughts to God during the day. It doesn't require long periods but simple moments of connection.
3. **Engaging with Scripture in Small Ways:** Keeping scripture verses in mind or on hand to refer to throughout the day can help keep God's word close. You can focus on a single verse and revisit it as a reminder of God's promises.
4. **Speaking in Tongues or Silent Prayers:** For those who practice speaking in tongues, it can be a means to stay spiritually connected throughout the day. Silent prayers or worship songs can also help maintain that connection.
5. **Diligent Study During Dedicated Times:** Setting aside specific times for focused study can deepen understanding, while maintaining a mindset of meditation throughout the day reinforces it.

Meditation, then, is not just about sitting and thinking quietly but about **inviting** God into every part of life, making our **relationship** with Him an **ongoing experience**.

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