

BBCC Bible Study Notes
“How to be Successful in this New Year”
January 7, 2018

How do you define success?

A biblical definition of success:

- Success is the process of _____ the _____ God created you to be as you _____ the _____ He has given you.

How can you be successful?

1. _____ for God’s guidance in _____ your goals.

“When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.” Nehemiah 1:4 NIV

2. _____ for success in _____ these goals.

“O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give your servant success today by granting him favor in the presence of this man.” Nehemiah 1:11 NIV

3. _____ for how you will _____ these goals.

“Three days after my arrival at Jerusalem, I slipped out during the night, taking only a few others with me. I had not told anyone about the plans God had put in my heart for Jerusalem.” Nehemiah 2:11-12 NLT

4. _____ your goals despite _____.

“But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official and Geshem the Arab heard about it, they mocked and ridiculed us, “What is this you are doing?” they asked. “Are you rebelling against the king?” I answered them by saying, “The God of heaven will give us success.” Nehemiah 2:19-20 NIV

5. _____ in reaching your goals.

“So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of Elul, in fifty-two days. When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God.” Nehemiah 6:15-16 NIV

BBCC Verse of the Week: *“The LORD says, ‘I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you.’” Psalm 32:8 NLT*

BBCC Devotional Guide for January 7-13, 2018

Sunday: How do you define success? Here is a biblical definition of success: *Success is the process of becoming the person God created you to be as you achieve the goals He has given you.* Read Psalm 32:8. How does this promise affect your perspective on this New Year?

Monday: To be successful you must pray for God's guidance in setting your goals. Read Nehemiah 1:1-4. When Nehemiah hears about the plight of God's people his first response is to pray. As you set goals for this year, why is it important to pray before you begin setting goals?

Tuesday: To be successful it is important to pray for God to help you reach the goals you have set. Read Nehemiah 1:5-11. Notice that Nehemiah specifically asks God to grant him success as he goes and speaks to the king. What does this teach us about how we should pray about our goals?

Wednesday: Accomplishing the goals God has given you requires a plan. Read Nehemiah 2:1-10. When the king asks Nehemiah what he wants it is clear that Nehemiah has a plan. Whether you want to get in shape, get out of debt, go back to school, or grow spiritually—you need a plan. What plans with clear action steps do you need to develop for this New Year?

Thursday: God's plan for success involves your connection with other people. Read Nehemiah 2:11-12. Notice that when Nehemiah sets out to survey the situation he does not go alone. God never intended for you to accomplish His plans for your life alone—we need each other! How do your plans for this New Year involve others?

Friday: To be successful you must pursue your goals despite opposition. Read Nehemiah 4:1-4. As Nehemiah begins pursuing his plans he encounters opposition. When you pursue plans that honor God (for example plans for sexual purity as a teen or plans for personal integrity in the workplace) you will face ridicule and opposition. What should you do when this happens? How should you pray when this happens?

Saturday: To be successful you must persevere in reaching your goals. Read Nehemiah 6:15-16 and Hebrews 12:1. As you run the race God has set before you this year you need keep your eyes on Jesus. What are some practical ways that you can do this?

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3. Plan for how you will achieve these goals.

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4. Pursue your goals despite opposition.

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