

A man and a child are walking away from the camera on a path towards a lake at sunset. The man is in the foreground, wearing a dark jacket and pants, and the child is slightly behind him, wearing a light-colored jacket and pants. The background shows a calm lake and a sunset sky with warm colors. The text "WELCOME TO THE FAMILY" is overlaid in large, bold, white letters with a yellow outline.

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

NICK BOWLIN

Welcome To The Family 2nd Edition
Nick Bowlin

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All Scripture quotations are from the King James Version of the Bible unless otherwise specified.

Welcome To The Family

What Does It Mean To Be Born Again?

Keys To Be A Successful Christian

1. The Word Of God
2. Prayer
3. Regular Attendance At God's House
4. Get Rid Of Wrong Relationships
5. Be A Soul Winner
6. Be a Giver
7. Don't Look Back

Welcome To The Family

Whether you're a mature believer who's been saved for many years, or you just gave your heart to the Lord. I pray that you grow in the knowledge of God. I pray that you increase in the knowledge of His will. May you take steps every day toward God's plan for your life. My desire is that you take the keys of this book and apply them to your life. Through Jesus, you now can reign in this life. You are an overcomer, you are victorious, and you are more than a conqueror. Jesus has conquered the devil, he is a defeated foe. Now that you've given your heart to Christ, God has come to live on the inside of you through His Holy Spirit. Because He is, now you are also! God is waiting for those who would believe Him and take Him at His Word. God wants to show Himself strong on your behalf. God is looking for a yielded vessel, that will say here I am Lord, use me. Jesus gave His life for us, Jesus bought us with His blood. When we give our hearts to Christ we no longer belong to ourselves, we belong to God. We used to be slaves to the devil, unto the lust of our flesh, we used to yield our body parts to fulfill the lust of the flesh, but God wants us to fully yield to His Holy Spirit. God is waiting for you to rise up and be what He has called you to be, this book will help you

on your new walk with God. May God's presence fill you as you read this book.

From The Author:

I had a strong desire to write this book because I want those who give their hearts to Jesus to have the tools to become strong Christians. I gave my heart to the Lord when I was eleven after a minister knocked on my door and invited me to church. I went and I gave my heart to the Lord. I can truly say that my life changed and I totally felt like a different person and my desires changed. But, I was never disciplined. No one explained to me what just happened to me. No one told me what steps to take to grow in my spiritual walk. No one told me that Jesus made His home in my heart by His Holy Spirit. I didn't know that I could have a personal relationship with God. So naturally, I fell away from the things of God. I fell into drugs and alcohol, lust, and perversion. My life spiraled out of control. The devil tried to kill me. I went to jail many times, was hospitalized for alcohol poisoning, and ran off the side of a mountain after a night of drinking.

One morning I led the police on a car chase after a night of heavy drinking. I was on the wrong side of the interstate, totally incapacitated. The first thing I recall was seeing the blue lights. I pulled over, then the police proceeded to draw their guns on me. I got out of the car and lay on the ground as they instructed me to do. While I was being booked my alcohol content began to dissipate, and my sense of judgment began to return. As I sat in my jail cell I began to think about my life. I thought about how my poor decisions were not only affecting me but also for others around me. I came to the conclusion that my senseless decisions could have killed someone else. I realized that if I didn't change my life I would die, or end up in prison. I knew enough to know that I would spend an eternity in hell. I surrendered my heart to Jesus Christ, and He saved me from my sin. He took away all my pain, all my depression, all my addiction, all my worry, all my fear. He filled me with His joy, He filled me with His peace, He revealed to me His love, and He gave me a purpose for this life. Now, for over the last decade, I have been living out that purpose. I'm letting people know that there is a God in heaven that loves them, that has a plan for them, and that has a purpose for them.

If you're reading this book I want to let you know that God is not done with you yet. I want to let you know that you haven't done too much. You haven't gone too far, you are not a hopeless cause. God will take you out of your mess and turn you into a message. He will take all the tests of your life and turn the rest of your life into a testimony. Right now, there are people waiting on you for you to help them. A person in captivity can't deliver someone else. If you are in bondage you must first break out of the sin that you're in. It is only through the power of God. I pray that as you read this book the Holy Spirit makes Jesus jump off the pages and make Himself so real in your heart!

What does it mean to be born again?

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of

God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Matthew 3:3-6 (KJV)

Nicodemus was a religious leader during the time that Jesus walked the Earth. He saw Jesus performing great miracles and he came inquiring of the truth by night. Even though Nicodemus was a spiritual leader he had no true spiritual understanding. That is because the things of the Spirit are not discerned With our physical senses. The Bible declares *“But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”* 1 Corinthians 2:14(KJV). Jesus told Nicodemus that he must be born again.

Why? Without the new birth experience man’s spirit is dead because of sin. The Bible declares *“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:”* Romans 5:12 (KJV). This is the reason Jesus came, as the second Adam to take our place and make Himself a sacrifice for us. The first Adam was put here to rule the Earth but he gave his authority over to satan when he sinned in the garden. But God knew this all along. The Bible calls Jesus the

lamb that was slain before the foundation of this world
Revelation 3:18 (KJV).

What unconditional love God has for mankind that He would give His only Son for us so that we could have fellowship with Him. The scripture declares *“And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:”* Ephesians 2:1-6 (KJV). Jesus bought us with His precious blood, now we can have fellowship with the Father without any guilt of sin. When we ask Jesus to come into our hearts He makes us a brand new person, and our spirit is brand new. *“For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even*

dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life” Romans 5:6-10 (KJV).

Now that you have accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you now have been adopted into the family of God. The Bible declares that we have been *“...delivered from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son”* Colossians 1:13 (KJV).

Now we have been welcomed to a new Kingdom, the Kingdom of God. Welcome to the Family of God! In this book, you'll find seven keys that will help you become a successful Christian. If you put all seven keys into practice you will flourish in your relationship with God. God has ordained us that we might be fruitful and that our fruit would remain. As you read this book I pray that the Holy Spirit enlightens your spiritual eyes and that you will become a very successful Christian.

Chapter 1

1st Key To Becoming A Successful Christian The Word Of God

“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”

Psalms 119:105 (KJV)

God's Word is God's will for our lives. If you want to know God's will, you will have to develop a relationship with God's Word. *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God”* John 1:1 (KJV). The Bible declares that Jesus is the Word made flesh. Without God's Word, we would never know all that is available to us through Jesus Christ. The Bible is not a dead book, and we can't read it like a magazine. It's a living book that corrects and shapes our lives. When you read the Word of God you have to see that the Word is God speaking to you. As you read God's Word you have to let it read you. *“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”*

Hebrews 4:12 (KJV). The Word of God is like a mirror that shows you things you need to allow God to change in your life through His power. God's Word holds Kingdom secrets for those that love him. In God's Word are hidden treasures, and as we search it, revelation comes to us. The Bible declares that “ *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge...*”.

Hebrews 4:6 (KJV). The Bible also teaches “*that satan is the god of this world and he has blinded the minds of them that do not believe..*” 2 Corinthians 4:4 (KJV). But when we believe God's Word, the Light of the Gospel shines and darkness no longer has dominion over us.

The Word is our Manual

When you buy a new car, a new computer, or a new phone, that item always has an instruction manual. This manual is produced by the manufacturer to reveal the purpose of the product and to assist the consumer in getting the full benefit of that new item. That manual also has precautions to keep that product and the consumer safe. The Bible is the handbook for our lives. God is our manufacturer, and we are His product. He knows everything about us because He created us. He knows what will be helpful to our spiritual development. He also knows what will be

detrimental to us. As we follow God's word for our lives we will excel in life.

Some millionaires and billionaires aren't Christians but they have applied spiritual principles in their lives, and as a result, they have become very successful. As you read God's handbook for your life, and make it the final authority in your life, you will see your life get brighter and brighter. You have to conclude that if God's Word says it then it's true. If God's Word says that you can have it, then you can have it. If the Bible says you can do it, then you can do it. Let God be true and every man be a liar. Religion will tell you that the Word works for some but not for all. God's Word declares that "*...God is no respecter of persons.*" Acts 10:34 (KJV). But He is a respecter of those who would put faith in His Word.

God is looking for people who would read it, then believe it, then act upon it. Religion will also tell you that certain things in the Bible were only for special times. They will say miracles were for the Early Church, but not for us. They will say healing was for the Early Church, but not for today. I tell you today as you read this book that Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever. You can see the same results as Peter, James, or John. You can see the same results as Paul, you can

even see the same results as Jesus. Jesus said “...*He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.*” John 14:12 (KJV). As a believer, the Word must have the utmost importance in your life.

It's important to have a daily devotion in God's Word. Humans eat food daily to keep themselves physically nourished. The Word of God is like food for the spirit man. Jesus was tempted by the devil in the desert to turn stone into bread. Jesus was hungry and He defeated the enemy with the Word of God. Jesus said to the devil, “...*It is written: Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.*” Matthew 4:4 (KJV)

We need daily spiritual bread, the Bible declares “*As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.*” 1 Peter 2:2 (KJV). As you begin to learn the primary doctrines of Christ, you become spiritually mature to discern between what's good and evil. Then you'll be able to digest the meat of God's Word, making you spiritually strong. When you do this you won't be susceptible to the wiles of the devil, or false doctrine of man. When you do something wrong the Word will convict you by the

Holy Spirit. As you read God's Word it washes your mind. As you renew your mind to the Word of God daily, your thought patterns will change. This is important because the devil works through the mind.

The Bible says we are to be "*Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;*" 2 Corinthians 10:5 (KJV). As we stated before the knowledge of God is His Word. When the devil puts thoughts in your mind you will be able to cast them down.

The best way to renew your mind is to study the Word of God, and then to act upon what you've learned. It's not the Word that you know that makes an impact. It's the Word that you put into practice that makes an impact in your life. If a person does not act on the Word that really means that they do not believe the Word with their whole heart. It also reveals that their mind is not truly renewed. The Bible says "*But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.*" James 1:22 (KJV). The Bible actually says that a person deceives themselves if they are only hearers.

There is something called a “mental assent of the Word of God”. This is where people fail in their faith. People in this condition believe the Word with their minds but there’s no heart change. But there is a heart knowledge of the Word where it becomes the engrafted word that’s able to save our souls. Your soul is made up of your mind, your will, and your emotions. If the devil can get you in any arena, it’s going to be in the soulish realm. That’s why we must stay full of the Word of God. We must constantly put into practice the things that we learn in the Word. The Bible says: *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another...”* Colossians 3:16 (KJV). Another way for the Word to dwell in you richly is to teach others. As you water you will get watered yourself.

Let the Word of God be your Teacher, let It live in you, let It guide you, let It direct your path, and let It sustain you. The Bible says *“If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.”* John 15:7-8 (KJV).

When you’re a doer of the Word you’ll become a fruitful believer. When you are a fruitful believer, you

glorify Jesus, and you are a witness to the world. On the contrary, when you call yourself a believer and you act contrary to the Word of God you dishonor God, and you are a hindrance to those around you that aren't believers. That's why we must stay submitted to the Word of God.

The Word of God will give you the power to resist the temptations of the devil. The Word is the incorruptible seed. Our hearts must be prepared so that we bear much fruit. Our hearts are like soil, Jesus taught concerning the four types of heart soil:

“Hearken; Behold, there went out a sower to sow: And it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the wayside, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up. And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of earth: But when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit. And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred.. And he said unto them, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear. Mark 4:3-9 (KJV). Then in verse 14, He begins to explain to the disciples the meaning of the parable:

"The sower soweth the word. And these are they by the wayside, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts. And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness; And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended. And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful. And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred." Mark 4:14-20 (KJV) . The seed by the wayside never went into the heart and the devil stole the Word. The seed on stony ground produces fruit but the heart hasn't grasped the revelation of the Word for it to remain. The seed on thorny ground is where the Word goes in the heart but it's unfruitful because the heart is full of the things of the World. Then there is a good ground where the heart is fully surrendered to the Spirit of God. When the Word comes it takes roots and produces much fruit.

Chapter 2

2nd Key To Becoming A Successful Christian Prayer

Ephesians 6:18 AMP Pray at all times (on every occasion, in every season) in the Spirit, with all [manner of] prayer and entreaty. To that end keep alert and watch with strong purpose and perseverance, interceding in behalf of all the saints (God's consecrated people).

Prayer is communicating directly to God. Communication is a vital part of any Earthly relationship. The strength of our relationship with God is based on our prayer life. We can look in the Gospels and see that Jesus was successful because He had a strong relationship with the Father through prayer. Jesus instructs us when we pray, that we pray to the Father in Jesus' name. That means because of what Jesus did we have access to the Father, and the Father hears us. When we pray, we must pray in line with God's will. As we saw in the last chapter, God's will is his Word. So our prayers must be full of the Word of God.

There are rules of engagement for your prayer life. If you want results in prayer, then you have to follow the rules. There are different kinds of prayer in the Bible. The different types of prayer have different rules, just as there are different rules for different sports. You cannot pray the same prayer for every situation. Prayer is an art that anyone can learn. There is a time when you do business with God on the basis of His Word. Years ago I prayed, "God if You will take away my addictions and my depression, I will serve You". Today my life is a product of that prayer. God answered my prayer and through His grace, I'm keeping my vow to God.

The prayer of consecration is the prayer that Jesus prayed in the garden before He was crucified. He prayed if it be your will let this cup pass from me. Many Christians are using the wrong prayer when it comes to the prayer of consecration. Some will pray "Lord if it be your will save me". Well, we know the Bible gives us God's will on this subject. God is not willing that any should perish but all should come to the knowledge of the truth. Some will pray "God if it be your will heal me of cancer. We know God's Word declares *"For he was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities, and the chastisement of our peace was upon Him and with His stripes we are healed.* Isaiah

53:5 (KJV). That is why it's important to know the different rules for prayer. That is also why we as Christians must know what belongs to us through God's Word. There are times when you will need to pray the prayer of consecration. If God is asking you to do something that is not in His written Word, such as marrying someone, moving to a new city, or taking on a new endeavor. These are times when you are inquiring of the Lord for a certain topic. In Bible school, I knew that I was called into ministry but I didn't know where I was to go. I prayed a prayer of consecration. "Lord I don't know where you want me to go, but wherever you want me to go I will go when you tell me."

As you read the Word you will find over thirty thousand promises of God. To receive them, you first must know that it is His will. Then you build your faith on that subject by meditating on scriptures on that subject. Then you pray in line with that Word believing that that promise is yours. This type of prayer is called the prayer of petition. The Bible declares "*And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.*" 1 John 5:14" (KJV). The Bible also declares "*For this reason*

I am telling you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe (trust and be confident) that it is granted to you, and you will [get it].” You can only pray this prayer for yourself. Mark 11:24 (AMP)

So what you do between the time you pray and the time that you receive. You pray a prayer of thanksgiving. This type of prayer is the highest form of prayer in the Word of God. We read: *“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.”* Philippians 4:6 (NKJV). We should live a lifestyle of praise, worship, and thanksgiving. We are thankful for what God has already done and we are in expectation of what He is going to do. The human tendency is to worry. Living a lifestyle of worship is the cure for living in worry. Worry magnifies your mountain, worship magnifies your mountain-moving God.

In Alaska, there is a runaway on the side of a mountain. At ground level, the mountain looks so big. But as the plane takes off you ascend into the sky the mountain appears smaller the higher you climb. Your perspective changes things. Take your focus off your problems, find your solution in His Word, thank Him, and worship Him. I had a legal battle from my past life.

The legal, and financial mountains seemed like they would never go away in the natural. But I put the Word of God on a sheet of paper and put it on my wall. Every time I walked past that sheet of paper I spoke the Word over my situation. This is the verse of scripture that I stood on: *“ For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.”* Mark 11:23-24 (KJV)

Then I thanked Him for the victory in advance. Within months my legal, and financial situation was fully resolved. What mountains are you facing? Put your trust in God, take your eyes off the circumstances and you will be telling of the great things God did for you! Maybe you need someone to stand with you in prayer. The Bible declares *“Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.”* Matthew 18:19 (KJV). This type of prayer is called the prayer of agreement. This is when two or more people pray united in faith believing for God to

do something specific. The Bible doesn't say that that if any two come together it might be done, no the Bible declares that it shall be done!

There are times when we don't know what to pray. That is why God has put His Holy Spirit on the inside of us. The Bible declares: "*Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.*" Romans 8:26-27 (KJV). That is why it's so important to receive the Baptism of the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in tongues. For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries." 1 Corinthians 14:2 (KJV)

So the Holy Spirit speaks through us as we open our mouths in faith, the Holy Spirit will pray through your mouth the perfect will of God. You won't understand it, it may sound unfruitful but it's the

perfect will of God. The devil also won't understand it either. That is why he hates it so much. He also knows that it makes believers stronger. The Bible says "*But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost*". Jude 1:20 (KJV). We see this in Acts chapter 2, the eleven disciples were full of fear after Jesus was crucified. But they were told to go and wait in the upper room for the promise of the Father. The Holy Ghost fell on them and they began to speak in tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. The whole city heard the noise and came to see what the commotion was all about. The same Peter that just denied that he knew Jesus to a little girl at a fire, was full of the fire of God. He began to boldly preach the great Pentecostal message and three thousand were saved. We need this Holy Ghost prayer power to be a witness to the world around us. If you've never had this experience pray this out loud in faith.

Jesus, you are the Baptizer of the Holy Spirit and the fire of God. Now I'm asking you to baptize me in the Holy Spirit and the fire of God now! Now open up your mouth in faith and just begin to speak. Don't speak in English, Spanish, German, or any other language, and don't worry what it sounds like. Pray in the Spirit daily and watch your life drastically change.

Chapter 3

3rd Key To Becoming A Successful Christian Regular Attendance At The House Of God

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. Hebrews 10:25 (KJV).

Being vitally connected to the House of God is important to your spiritual development. Before I was serving God I was dedicated to my lifestyle. I smoked marijuana from sun up to sun down. I drank almost every day, and for a long period of time, I went to nightclubs and bars six nights a week. But when Jesus made himself real to me I traded my devotion from the things of the world, and of the devil, to the things of God. At that time we had Sunday morning service, Sunday night service, Wednesday night service, and Friday night prayer. I began to go to church every time the doors were open even though the church was forty-five minutes away. I was so grateful for what Jesus did for me. We as Christians must be humble, teachable, available, and hungry to fully yield to God for our lives. I know if I wouldn't have submitted myself

to spiritual leadership I would have never begun to accomplish Heaven's assignment for my life.

The House of God is a place where Christians are trained, equipped, motivated, loved, exhorted, reproved, and rebuked. Everyone needs someone to look them in the eyes and tell them the truth in love. There are those who argue that they don't need to go to church because they are the Church. Yes, the Bible clearly states that you become the temple of the Holy Spirit when you get saved. Most of these people aren't bad people but they have been hurt by someone in the Church. Maybe you're reading this book and you have been hurt by spiritual leadership. Don't allow the devil to steal from your life any longer. Allow God to remove every hurt in your heart.

Many times I have witnessed to people on the street, and they have been hurt by someone at a church. I always tell them that if I went to a local burger place and it was dirty, the people were rude, and the food was stale. I wouldn't stop eating burgers, but I would stop going to that establishment. People aren't perfect but God is, and He has told us not to stop meeting together, especially in these last days. God has given the five ministry gifts to help build the body of Christ.

Ephesians 4:11-16 explains, "He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love."(ESV)

There was a reason the Early Church was so successful. They had a strong prayer life, they went house to house fellowshiping daily, and they held steadfastly to the apostle's doctrine. God is calling you to be a successful Christian, but to do so you must be rooted in the house of God. If you don't have a church that you call home, it's imperative that you find one. Pray and ask for God's help. You need to be in a church

that believes the entirety of the scripture. A place that will challenge you, a place that will help you on your journey. Don't stay in a dead church or you'll eventually also succumb to spiritual slumber. Stay connected to an on-fire church, that wins souls, that has a large vision to shake their region.

Don't be a Sunday morning Christian, don't lightly regard God. Don't compartmentalize your life and try to add God to your schedule. The Bible declares *"Wherefore the LORD God of Israel saith, I said indeed that thy house, and the house of thy father, should walk before me forever: but now the LORD saith, Be it far from me; for them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed. 1 Samuel 2:30 (KJV).* So if you honor God, His Word, His people, His House, He will honor you. But, if you lightly esteem God He will lightly esteem you. Get involved in the helps ministry, diligently serve, learn, and grow. The Bible says to know those that labor among you. If you can leave your church for weeks without being missed you're doing something wrong. Stay planted in the House of God, where He has called you to be, and you will flourish.

Chapter 4

4th Key To Becoming A Successful Christian Get Rid Of Wrong Relationships

“Do not be so deceived and misled! Evil companionships (communion, associations) corrupt and deprave good manners and morals and character.” 1 Corinthians 15:33 (AMPC)

I first came back to the Lord in 2007 after first being saved as an eleven year old boy. I had an encounter with the Lord. God delivered me from my addictions and my depression. But I had such a hard time cutting ties with those that I used to hang around. I felt that if I ended these friendships I would be disloyal. Also, there were no young single people at my church so I was concerned about being lonely. So I decided to continue hanging out with my old friends. I figured that I might be able to be a witness to them. Just like the scripture said I was totally deceived and misled. If I had heeded this scripture, I would have saved myself years of turmoil. There is a very distinct difference between being a witness and being a companion. Jesus was a witness to the tax collectors and sinners. But you never saw Jesus hanging out

with these people, doing the things that they were doing.

Friends are like escalators, some bring you up and some bring you down. So even though God really changed me I struggled for three years. Two of those years I completely stopped serving the Lord because I could no longer live two different lifestyles. The Bible says *“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?”* 1 Corinthians 6:14 (KJV) So if you hang out with the wrong people, they will rub off on you. I had to make the decision to give God all of my life, even all of my relationships. I went through a period of loneliness. But during this time I drew closer to God. You have to trust God with your whole life. The Bible says that if you try to gain your life you will lose it. But if you lose your life you will find it. God will put you around godly friends if you will be willing to lay down the relationships that He is asking you to lay down.

For everything the Word of God tells you to do there is a blessing for those that follow and do what the Word is telling them to do. Now I have friends who are doing great things for God. I have friends who encourage me to do more than I'm doing. The Bible

declares that *“As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend. Proverbs 27:17.* You should have friends in your life who encourage you to fulfill God’s purpose for your life. You should be a friend who is a godly influence to your friends. The Bible says *“He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.” Proverbs 13:20 (KJV)*

Jesus Christ wants to be the Lord of your life. If He is not Lord over everything in your life then He is not Lord over anything in your life. Just as if I had a guest in my home. Many times I would clean the kitchen, the living room, the bathroom downstairs, the dining room, and any other common room. But before the guest arrived, I would probably shut all the closets, in all the bedroom doors. That’s what many people do to God. They will allow Jesus to have their Sunday mornings. Some will allow God to have some other areas in their life. But when it comes to other things, they shut the door on God in that area of their lives. I implore you, to give every area to the Lord. Allow him to be the Lord of your relationships. Allow him to be the Lord of your friendships. I’m telling you today that Jesus has your best interest at heart. He only has good things for you.

Chapter 5

5th Key To Becoming A Successful Christian - Be A Soul Winner

“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.” Mark 16:15-20 (KJV)

There is a false notion that only the fivefold ministers are called to preach the Gospel. The Bible clearly states that all believers in Christ are called to preach the Gospel, heal the sick, and cast out devils.(see Mark 16:15-20)

2 Corinthians 5:10-21 states: *“For one day we will all be openly revealed before Christ on his throne so that each of us will be duly recompensed for our actions done in life, whether good or worthless. Since we are those who stand in holy awe of the Lord, we make it our passion to persuade others to turn to him. We know that our lives are transparent before the God who knows us fully, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. Again, we are not taking an opportunity to brag, but giving you information that will enable you to be proud of us, and to answer those who esteem outward appearances while overlooking what is in the heart. If we are out of our minds in a blissful, divine ecstasy, it is for God, but if we are in our right minds, it is for your benefit. For it is Christ’s love that fuels our passion and motivates us, because we are absolutely convinced that he has given his life for all of us. This means all died with him, so that those who live should no longer live self-absorbed lives but lives that are poured out for him—the one who died for us and now lives again. So then, from now on, we have a new perspective that refuses to evaluate people merely by their outward appearances. For that’s how we once viewed the Anointed One, but no longer do we see him with limited human insight. Now, if anyone is enfolded into Christ, he has become an entirely new person. All that*

is related to the old order has vanished. Behold, everything is fresh and new. And God has made all things new, and reconciled us to himself, and given us the ministry of reconciling others to God. In other words, it was through the Anointed One that God was shepherding the world, not even keeping records of their transgressions, and he has entrusted to us the ministry of opening the door of reconciliation to God. We are ambassadors of the Anointed One who carry the message of Christ to the world, as though God were tenderly pleading with them directly through our lips. So we tenderly plead with you on Christ's behalf, "Turn back to God and be reconciled to him." For God made the only one who did not know sin to become sin for us, so that we who did not know righteousness might become the righteousness of God through our union with him." 2 Corinthians 5:10-21 (TPT)

Jesus carried out his mission upon the earth. He came for a purpose, to restore man back to fellowship with God. Before you left the Earth, He told his disciples that He was not going to leave them without a Comforter, a Helper, an Intercessor, a Standby. When Jesus died on the cross, the price was paid when the blood was shed.

Jesus went to hell for us and took the keys from the devil. Then he ascended to Heaven. He sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. When a person sits down that means their work is finished. Jesus has already done everything He's going to do. Now we believers have a job to do. Jesus has given us His Word, His Holy Spirit, His anointing, his blood, his name, and his angels. He also gave us the great commission in the Gospels. If Jesus only wanted us to be saved then he would take us to have an as soon as We accept him. The Bible asks "*...And how shall they hear without a preacher?*" Romans 10:14 (KJV).

Jesus is not going to come off the throne to preach to someone here on the earth. He saves us, He fills us, He equips us, He sends us to do his work. The Bible says: *But you shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost has come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*" Acts 1:8 (KJV). We are to be witnesses that Jesus is alive. We will give an account of our lives. Every single believer will face judgment. Not all judgment is bad, I pray that when you stand before God he judges you as a good and faithful servant.

Those who never received Christ will face the white throne judgment. They'll have no recourse, they'll have no more room for repentance. Only eternal damnation in hell forever. Hell is not a place for mankind. Hell is the place meant for the devil and his angels. Jesus is not willing that any man should perish but that all should come to the knowledge of the truth. That is why we must tell people the truth. We must tell people that Jesus is the way the truth and the life that there's no other way to the Father except through him. As Christians, we will face another judgment. We will face the judgment Seat of Christ. Where all of our works will be tried by fire.

Our whole lives will flash before our eyes. The only thing that we did for eternity will remain. We can't take our jobs with us. We can't take her house with us. We can't take our money with us. The only thing we can take with us to eternity is people. How many people will you share the Gospel with before you meet Him? The Bible says "*...Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; .*" 2 Corinthians 5:11 (KJV). This means that if we know the truth we must shake those that are living in a lie. We must be the light of the world, Bringing people from darkness into his marvelous light.

Before we were Christians we lived self-absorbed lives. Now we have been bought by the precious blood of Jesus. Our lives are not our own, and we must lay down their lives to accomplish heaven's mission on earth. God has made us brand new. God has reconciled us back to Himself through Jesus Christ. That means he paid the price so that we could be in fellowship together. The price has been paid for every single person on the face of the Earth. Many are blinded by satan and his demons. Not only did Jesus reconcile us. But he made us ministers of reconciliation. That means that every single believer is a minister. That's right, you are a minister of Jesus Christ! You may feel inadequate, you may feel unqualified. But you have been qualified by God himself. I began winning souls about 10 years ago. I felt like I wasn't good enough. I felt like I didn't know enough about the Bible. I was afraid of being rejected by man. But I just began to go and as I did I began to see many people get saved. In a decade my wife and I have personally led over 30,000 people to Christ using a simple tool that we added to the back of this book. It is very simple. All you have to do is just read it. It's the gospel, and the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation to those who believe. You will see mighty miracles as you go and obey the great commission. Not only are you a minister but you are also an ambassador for the Kingdom of Heaven.

We are in this World, but not of this World. Here is an example: if I as an American go to a different country, and visit the US Embassy in that country. Though I am technically inside of that country the moment I stepped foot on the US Embassy I am now on US territory. I am no longer under the laws of that country but under US law. Now you are in this World. But through Christ, you're not of this World. You are a citizen of the kingdom of heaven. The job of an ambassador is to speak on behalf of their country. To represent that country, to other countries. Now your job is to speak on behalf of Heaven's kingdom. I implore you to set a lifetime soul goal. Determine that for the rest of your life you'll win souls, as you go about your day. It's not something that you have to do on a Saturday for your church. It's a lifestyle that you live out. You can speak to people while you're doing your shopping. You can speak to people while you are at work. You can lead your family members to Jesus. Everywhere you go you are to be a billboard for Jesus!

Chapter 6

6th Key To Becoming A Successful Christian

Be A Giver

"[Remember] this: he who sows sparingly and grudgingly will also reap sparingly and grudgingly, and he who sows generously [that blessings may come to someone] will also reap generously and with blessings. Let each one [give] as he has made up his own mind and purposed in his heart, not reluctantly or sorrowfully or under compulsion, for God loves (He takes pleasure in, prizes above other things, and is unwilling to abandon or to do without) a cheerful (joyous, "prompt to do it") giver [whose heart is in his giving]. [Prov. 22:9.] And God is able to make all grace (every favor and earthly blessing) come to you in abundance, so that you may always and under all circumstances and whatever the need be self-sufficient [possessing enough to require no aid or support and furnished in abundance for every good work and charitable donation]. As it is written, He [the benevolent person] scatters abroad; He gives to the poor; His deeds of justice and goodness and kindness

and benevolence will go on and endure forever! [Ps. 112:9.] And [God] Who provides seed for the sower and bread for eating will also provide and multiply your [resources for] sowing and increase the fruits of your righteousness [which manifests itself in active goodness, kindness, and charity]. [Isa. 55:10; Hos. 10:12.] Thus you will be enriched in all things and in every way, so that you can be generous, and [your generosity as it is] administered by us will bring forth thanksgiving to God. For the service that the ministering of this fund renders does not only fully supply what is lacking to the saints (God's people), but it also overflows in many [cries of] thanksgiving to God. Because at [your] standing of the test of this ministry, they will glorify God for your loyalty and obedience to the Gospel of Christ which you confess, as well as for your generous-hearted liberality to them and to all [the other needy ones]." 2 Corinthians 9:1-13 (AMPC)

There is no bigger giver than God Himself. God so loved the world that He gave His only Son. That's why when you get touched by God you have the desire to be a giver, because you become more like Him. God owns everything, we have to come to the conclusion that we own nothing. We are merely stewards of everything God has put in our lives. When you have

this revelation it will change the way you think about things. The Bible declares that are to *“Bring all the tithes (the whole tenth of your income) into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and prove Me now by it, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.* Malachi 3:10 (AMPC). Why did God command us to tithe? He doesn't need the money. He is a very rich God He owns everything. But what God is after is our hearts.

The Bible says: *For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.* Matthew 6:21 (KJV). You can find what you value the most by looking at your bank statements. What you spend your money on reveals where your heart is invested. The first key to personal revival is giving our hearts fully to God. Because when God has your heart he has you.

God is not looking to take away from you, actually, God wants to bless you. He has put spiritual principles in place to bless you. You can't pray your way into a financial miracle. You can't beg yourself into a financial miracle. You can't fast your way into a financial miracle. The only way to break through financially is to give. The world system would tell you to save, to spend less,

invest. But God says give, invest in my Kingdom, put Me first, and I will bless you. I can attest that every year my finances get better and better because of my faithfulness to give my tithes and offerings.

Years ago, I was making around \$300 every two weeks, and I really needed a financial breakthrough. One time in particular, I felt led by the Lord to give my entire two-week check away. So I put it in the offering and I believed God that he was going to bless me. I was expecting a big check in the mail, or for someone to give me a big sum of money. But that never happened! A week later someone came up to me and offered me a job making \$1200 every two weeks. God blessed me with a way to make more money. I truly believe that that opportunity would have never come to pass if I wouldn't have been obedient in giving the \$300. Many people want God to do something for them, but they are unwilling to give what is in their hands.

The miracle that you need is in your hand. No matter how small it may seem, our God will take something small and will multiply it. As you continue to give faithfully God will continue to promote you in the level of financial prosperity. The testimony doesn't end with an awesome job. I was no longer needed at

that job later that year. I just remained faithful. I got another job that I did not qualify for. They also gave me a dollar raise three months in a row. Within months, I was making \$1,000 a week. God does not want to trust in your job, in your bank account, or in any other thing I put on this Earth. God wants you to put your faith and trust in Him.

I believe streams of income dissipate to keep our trust in God. Our jobs and other income streams are not our source. God is our source of supply. God uses different channels to get money to us. If one channel is no longer available God will open up new channels to get money to you. That's why we must keep our trust in God himself.

God tells us to make up our minds and purpose in our own hearts what to give. Your heart should be in your giving. God doesn't want you to give with the wrong heart motive. We don't give to keep the lights on in the church. We don't give so we look good in front of other people. We don't give because we have to have to. Giving is worship unto God. When you give, you must give in faith. When you give, you must believe that

God receives your offering that you give. God desires that we will be cheerful givers. I love giving to the house of God. I love giving to other people. When you give, you must believe that God is able to bless you. You must believe that God is and that he is a rewarder of those who seek him.

The Bible says “*God gives you seed for sowing and bread for eating*” 2 Corinthians 9:10 (KJV).

That means you have to have wisdom to differentiate between what is bread and with the seed. If you eat your seed then you won't have bread tomorrow. If you are a giver you can always expect seed, because God gives seed to the sower. As you give God takes what you give and multiplies it so that you're able to give more.

God gets glory when you give to others because God is using you as His channel to bless others. What a blessing for God to be able to use us as a channel of blessing. That's why the Bible says ... *it is more blessed to give than receive.*” Acts 20:35 (KJV). My favorite part of this passage is that you actually exchange this natural money and in return, you store up for yourself treasure in Heaven. Our money here is corruptible, it really means nothing, it's printed paper. But when we

give it to God in faith, it goes into our heavenly account.

There's no better exchange rate here on Earth than the Heavenly one. I pray that you receive such a grace to give that you'll have to be restrained from your giving. As you put the spiritual principles in practice watch how God begins to bless your life!

Chapter 7

7th Key To Becoming A Successful Christian

Don't Look Back

- *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."* 2 Corinthians 5:17 (KJV)

To repent means that you turn from your former path and walk the other way. You Are not who you used to be. Not only has God given you a brand new start, He has made you a brand new person. In drug rehabilitation centers they teach you to identify that you are an alcoholic or an addict. But when Jesus changes you you are no longer an addict. My old self was an alcoholic and an addict. But that man died when I gave my heart to Jesus. I'm not a sinner saved by grace. I'm the righteousness of God in Christ. I was dead in my sin but now I'm alive through Jesus Christ. It's no longer I that lives but it's Christ living in me by His Holy Spirit. We need to come to the same conclusion that Paul came to.

We learn this when we read; *"For we who worship by the Spirit of God are the ones who are truly*

circumcised. We rely on what Christ Jesus has done for us. We put no confidence in human effort, though I could have confidence in my own effort if anyone could. Indeed, if others have reason for confidence in their own efforts, I have even more! I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin—a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault. I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ and become one with him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith. I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead! I don't mean to say that I have already achieved

these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.”

Philippians 3:3-14 (NLT)

So you can no longer identify with your past because Jesus took your past. Paul says in another translation: *“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,“* Philippians 3:8 (KJV). He was willing to give up everything so he could know Jesus. You can't keep the old stuff in your life and be a successful Christian. Jesus is the Author and Finisher of our Faith. (see Hebrews 12:2).

Jesus endured the cross, despised the shame of a criminal's death, and sat down with the right hand of the throne of God because you were the joy that was set before him. Jesus came to the earth with a mission. He never looked behind him, he always pressed

toward the future. If a farmer was plowing a field and he got his eyes off of the future to look at the past he would miss his harvest because he would go off track. When you are pressing towards the high mark of God, if you look into your past long enough you're going to crash. Just keep your eyes on Jesus, keep your eyes on his word. Continue to be faithful, and you shall be fruitful.

