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SALVATION

If you are not a believer in Jesus Christ, or aren't sure and would like to become one, then you need to believe that Jesus Christ was and is the Son of God, that he was God who became a man, that he lived a sinless and perfect life, keeping the Law of God perfect in every way, that he kept faith perfectly, and that he was crucified on that cruel cross for your sins, mine and the entire world- he died for our sins! His death on the cross paid the penalty fully, one time for all sins that we have ever committed and that we will ever commit. He died; he went down into the bowels of the earth, even into Hell, and was raised from the dead on the third day in a resurrected, eternal body. He ascended back into heaven, was seated at the right hand of God, and is now Lord over heaven and earth. He is coming again to judge the world, to raise the dead, where he will give an eternal, resurrected, glorified body to everyone that has believed on him as their Lord and Savior, and to establish his kingdom one earth.

You come become a Christian right now as you read this, by personally placing your faith and trust in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior; believing that he is God's only begotten Son, that he died on the cross for you and that he was raised from the dead and is now seated in heaven at the right hand of God the Father. *"Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.."* Acts 16:31a And when you do trust Christ, and Christ alone, as your Lord and Savior, then go to God the Father in heaven in prayer and tell him so. Tell him that you have believed on his Son, thank him for his Son, and thank him for forgiving your sins and saving you! *"That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord", and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."* Romans 10:9,10 *"For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."* Romans 10:13 *"Therefore, being justified by faith (declared righteous), we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."* Romans 5:1

6 Reasons Why

This is a very simple study giving us six reasons why your plans will not succeed; why you will not reach your faith objective, or why you will not have God's blessings on your venture.

1. It isn't the will of God for you.

There are things that **God wants us to do in life** and there are **things that he allows us to do**; the **direct will** of God and the **permissive will** of God. The things that we want to do out of carnality, worldliness, flesh gratification and selfish ambition are not what God wills for us. We should not deceive ourselves into thinking that we can expect God to bless us. **One needs to have the mental attitude of a willingness to do the will of God, and prayer also is a very important factor.**

But, **if we are doing the will of God, then the Father will bless us.** As it says of the Lord concerning the will of the Father, "*And the will of Yahweh will prosper in his hand.*" Isaiah 53:10. So the Christian needs to ascertain, first of all, as to whether he or she is doing God's will for their life, and if they're not, then change it. It could very well be why they are not being blessed.

2. Not utilizing faith in their activity.

Once the believer is doing the will of God, which he began by a decision and a step of faith, then he has to realize **that faith is to be the daily dynamic concerning doing the will of God in his life.** This means that prayer, faith, claiming the promises, being in the Word of God everyday, putting your trust in the Father to provide for you, living in the new nature, being filled with the Holy Spirit and trusting that the Father will take care of you is how you are to live in the will of God, whether in business, school, the military, the ministry, or any other endeavor.

Failing to do this will mean failure to reach your next faith objective and will mean that you will not succeed, at least not in the plan of God for your life. The believer must be exercising faith in the vocational and geographical will of God, "*for we walk by faith not by sight*"! **And failure is not an option.** But look at it from the positive standpoint; **success is guaranteed if we walk by faith!**

3. No activity of faith.

"*For we walk by faith, not by sight*", this **looks at the whole process from the standpoint of the many active steps of faith that we will take in our journey.** Faith without works is dead", that is, faith without activity is dead; it means that we are not

really believing if there is no activity. These are not meaningless words, but words that are living and powerful, and mean exactly what they say and can have a tremendous impact on our lives. **We have to believe then act on that faith.**

Regardless of what we do in life, the vocational will of God, there will be decisions that have to be made, actions that have to take place, things that will have to be done, for life is always changing and things change with it, so the believer has to keep up with the changes. Therefore faith will be the central dynamic behind our decisions and actions.

If we are not exercising faith in the Word of God and trust in the Father; if we are not exercising faith in our decisions; if there is no action based upon faith, then we will fail. **We will revert back to the works of the flesh and we will fail.** We will fall short of attaining to our faith objectives. And worse yet, if we do not correct the situation in all these areas; we will shrink back; we will retreat from moving forward in faith!

4. Getting advice from unbelievers, or non-doctrinal believers.

“Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers.” Psalms 1:1

If you are receiving; **if you have opened yourself up to get advice**, counsel, suggestion, input, or even being influenced by unbelievers, or believers who are not grace-oriented, not living by faith themselves and not positive to Bible Doctrine, then your plans will not succeed. You will fail! You will not reach your next faith objective!

Whatever possessed you to think that an unbeliever, or a believer who is not positive to doctrinal teaching, one who is anti-grace, or one who is not living by active faith themselves in their own lives would have the mind of God and **could be remotely qualified to advise you on how to live the faith rest life?** The Old Testament is full of the examples of great men who came to nothing in the plan of God because they had surrounded themselves with evil people full of human viewpoint. They lost their fortunes, their positions and some even their lives.

People, whether unbelievers, or believers who are not grace-oriented, under doctrinal teaching and not living but faith cannot give us the divine viewpoint of God. At best all they have to offer is human viewpoint, (their own opinion, or the opinion of society), and at worse they can be giving satanic viewpoint!

Following their advice, listening to their suggestions, or being influenced by their negative opinions, encouraging their input, (which is always contrary to God’s mind), is a surefire guarantee that you will fail! Their input will prevent you from going on and reaching your next faith objective- guaranteed! **If they’re non-doctrinal, anti-grace, or not living by faith themselves do not listen to them!**

You have to ask yourself the question, “What are they doing that close to you anyway?” **How is it that you have allowed these negative types to get close enough to you to give you input on your life?** Did you invite them? Did you encourage them? How did

you open up your private life to those who are not sold out for the Word of God? However it is that you did this; it will be your undoing as it was with King Hezekiah.

There is only one solution for this problem and that is you must separate yourself from them. You cannot expect to go forward in life by faith, if you have people who hold you back. The faith rest life is not just about faith and the Word, but about obedience as well. Failure or refusal to do this means that you will fail! You will not succeed, and you will keep on failing, unless you separate yourself from those who are not walking with the Lord in faith and his Word.

5. Major flaws in the organizational structure.

Even in faith there must be sound organizational structure to be successful. If there aren't, there will be degrees of failure related to the degrees of flaws in the system. Unsound business practices do lead to failure of one degree or another.

For example, you have a business that meets the public, but you hire your sister's kid out of guilt, or some other subjective emotion, but they are unkempt, slovenly, dirty, or have a bad m/a, listen to rock music, etc., and end up driving your customers away! What do you think will happen to your profits now? What do you do? You do what you have to do; you fire them and hire someone who will be an asset to your store and bring in the business. If you have surrounded yourself with negative people, or people who are incompetent, no drive, no knowledge, no team effort, you have a recipe for failure. What do you do? **Surround yourself with winners!**

Or let's say that you're a sub-contractor of something **who refuses to go along with the advancements of technology.** This person doesn't want to use fax machines, answering machines, computers, cell phones, digital cameras, or any other new fangled gadget. Word of mouth is good enough for him. How do you think his business will fare when every other contractor out there keeps pace with the technology? He gets by, but barely. Why? Because all the other contractors in town only want to work with subcontractors who have phones, cell phones, fax machines, etc.; it's the reality of the 21st century. They don't have the time to try to track you down to get in touch with you. It's a waste of their time and a waste of money and it's simply not sound business practice.

What do you have to do? You'll have to change the way that you're doing business and bring it up out of the '70's and start doing it like everybody else is doing it today, and be still changing more in the future. **Being a Christian living by faith and owning a business doesn't mean that you are exempt from sound business practices from the setup of your business to its daily operation.** You may not need all this stuff if you're a monk living in a monastery, but if you're in the business world you will.

6. Violation of doctrinal issues in the setup.

If there are doctrinal violations in the way that you have set your business up, or in its daily operation, it will fail. If you are in business with an unbeliever, God will not bless you, for you have violated the command to not be unequally yoked. If you have apportioned a part of your profits to go to unbelievers, or non-doctrinal types or

organizations, God will not bless you. Why should he? He's not going to give his blessings to those who hate Christ and his Word.

If you have brought unbelievers or non-doctrinal believers into the inner circle in a power sharing arrangement, or advisory capacity, or into a situation where they can influence your decisions, you have violated a major doctrinal issue and God will not bless you.

Remember, this is your faith concept; it's between just you and the Lord; and the only way that you can be sure that only you and the Lord are in it is to keep out all the negative types, both saved and unsaved. And if you have not separated yourself from them in **every respect**, then **you can be sure they are influencing** you! They are shaping and influencing you and your decisions, only you don't know it. You can say, "They're not telling me what to do"; they don't have to; they do it through **the power of suggestion**! The subtle power of suggestion is a mighty force in getting people to do something without them knowing it, just ask Eve about the Garden. The only way to prevent that is to keep them away from you altogether,

The last five reasons for why Christians fail deal with believers who are already in their right geographical location and in their right vocational will from God, but for some reason are not having the success they desire in them. Failure in anyone of these areas will mean failure for the whole faith objective, so these issues must be followed, if you want to have success.

Pastor Mike