

*Excerpt for Positioning Yourself for Success-  
Doing it God's Way by Stephanie L. McKenny*

## **Chapter 11**

### **Be Productive**

Don't just sit there! Do something about your own success! What we do today will effect our tomorrows. In order for anyone to achieve their goals, fulfill the plan of God and achieve good success, it will require work. Success begins with a thought, but it is achieved through our actions. You must do something in order to cause success to unfold in your life. Yes, we must have faith, but faith without works is dead (James 2:26). There must be some work performed on our part mixed together with our faith to get the job done.

Any task that is presented to you can only get accomplished when you work on it. The Bible often talks about the slothful person and how they will constantly be in want and under tribute (Proverb 12:24) because of their overall actions or lack thereof. It is through your diligent acts that things will be accomplished in your life. You may not know all the steps you have to take to accomplish your future goals, but you can at least do what you know to do. You may need to ask questions, you may need to make a few phone calls, or you may need to sit quietly, whatever it is that you need to do, do it. Your success depends on your level of productivity. Yes, you can position yourself for success, but until you put your plan into action, it will just be another plan written on pieces of paper or thoughts running through your mind.

Even the four lepers realized how important it was to do something in order to get out of the situation they were in (2 Kings 7:1-3). At first it appeared as though they weren't in a winning situation, but they knew they had to do something. They asked themselves, why should we sit here until we die? They had nothing to lose, but everything to gain. They had to make a choice. They had to seize the opportunity to change their present situation. As a result of them doing something about their situation they were able to reap the benefits. The only way you're going to see the will of God

performed in your life is by doing something about it. God will give you the plan, the tools and even make the divine connections, but you must implement the plan. You may or may not believe this, but there are quite a few people that are depending on your success. The amount of lives that you will impact because of the level of success that you will achieve will be innumerable. Believe it or not, everyone is not against you. There are some people that are in your corner one hundred percent. They are your motivators, encouragers and those that inspire you to press forward. And as long as you are doing what God has assigned for you to do, you have His backing as well. You have nothing to lose, but everything to gain. Work towards your goals, work towards your dreams, work towards your vision. The success of it will blow your mind! It will take a sacrifice on your part, but it will be worth the sacrifice. You have to make a determination as to how bad you want to achieve your goals. If you are sincere about your success, then I'm sure you are willing to make the sacrifices that are required to see it through. I'm sure that you are well aware of the fact that anything you've ever achieved or accomplished in life took work, but when the trophy was won the victory outweighed all the efforts that it took to achieve it.

In the book of Habakkuk, he was told to write the vision, make it plain, so that those that read it would run. If you are going to achieve your goals, you must become a runner. There are various levels of success, but you must be willing to do what it takes to get there, maintain it and be willing to continue working to see it progress. The person that is the runner is an individual that sees the vision and understands what needs to be done and does it. Anybody can talk about becoming a success, a millionaire, having their own business, etc., but the person that takes the necessary steps to get there is the real success. It's ok to discuss what you are planning to do, but at some point the talking must stop and the work must be initiated.

When you begin to work towards your goals, don't get in the mode of starting and stopping. You must keep moving forward with the intentions of completing the task that is before you. No one can actually hinder you or hold you back; the ball is in your court and you determine the outcome of the game. Don't allow yourself to get involved in the blame game as to why you are not successful. Whenever we have not accomplished our goals, we are quick to say if it wasn't for so and so or if it weren't for the things I

went through I would have completed my goals. I hate to bust your bubble, but there are millions of people that have experienced the same drama, if not more, and have accomplished great endeavors. Save the drama you have experienced as a testimony when you have reached the level of success that you are aspiring to reach. The story sounds better when it is expressed after you have overcome the obstacles in life and still have achieved your goals.

The mode of starting and stopping causes you to take longer to complete your goals. Get in a practice of bringing things to a closure. By doing this, other opportunities will become available to you. When these opportunities present themselves you will be free to partake in them because you would have completed your prior tasks. Sometimes people can't complete things in a timely manner because they have too much on their plate. You must decipher what things are most important for you to accomplish. Prioritize your goals and recognize your deadlines. Long term goals you can work on periodically, but short-term goals you must work on daily until they are completed. When you have too much on your plate you can't be as productive, and the level of your performance may not be at your highest capacity. You will have to learn how to tell people no when they ask you to do things that will interfere with your own personal goals. It's not like you're trying to be mean, but you can only spread yourself but so thin. Work on your assignments, complete them and if time permits by all means assist others as needed.

You can't expect to achieve anything in life without putting forth some effort to reach those achievements. You would be driving yourself insane to think you will get something accomplished in life without any effort on your part. Nothing is going to be given to you on a silver platter. When no effort is made on our part it puts us in the arena of dependency. You should never want to become totally dependent upon anyone, but God. Being totally dependent upon someone gives them too much power over your life. You have to be willing to take the initiative that is necessary to get you in position for the success that you have been dreaming about achieving. Dreaming is good, but in order for that dream to become a reality you must be productive. You must do your part to usher it into existence. When we become unproductive on a consistent basis we will find that we will always be in want. You have the capability to make some

things happen in your life. God is not going to do everything for you, but He will provide you with the resources and connect you with the right people to position you for success. However, you must make the effort to work the resources given and talk to the people that know what you need to know. In essence, you determine the harvest in your garden. You have the option of having a beautiful garden to view or you can have brown patches of grass with nothing but weeds and dandelions in the midst. Sow into your life of success by putting forth some effort towards achieving it.

Read over Proverbs 24:30-34. In this scripture we see that the proverbial writer learned about one of the causes of why poverty exists. When he observed the field of the slothful he noticed that nothing was growing. Don't allow yourself to get in a rut that causes you to cease in growth. Don't ever stop reaching for your future goals and don't allow yourself to become slothful in following through with the plan of God for your life. Get up from that state of do nothing and do something quick! You weren't created to do nothing. You were created to do something great. There is something great that must be accomplished by your hands. It's that very idea you had that you thought you weren't capable enough to accomplish. Believe me; if God placed it in your heart to do it, then it is possible. Let Him lead you and guide you and when He does, follow through with the instructions exactly as they are given. Be diligent about it because your success depends on it.

There is no time for laziness for those who want to achieve. Of course we all have our lazy days, but those days should not turn into weeks, months and years. Those ideas that keep coming to you are not going to happen until you do something to make them become realities. Even the Proverbial Woman in Proverbs 31 realized that you can't eat the bread of idleness and expect to achieve. This woman accomplished many things and to some her tasks seemed overwhelming, but this woman wanted more out of life and she did her part to cause that to happen. Her accomplishments were not done overnight, but it took time, effort and self-discipline.

A lot of times the keys to our success are right in the palm of our hands. We must use what God has given us and work it to our advantage. Moses was uncertain as to how he was going to lead the people of Israel out of bondage and into the land that God promised the people. Moses knew Pharaoh's authority in Egypt and how much

power he had over the people. So he questioned God as to how he would accomplish what God was telling him to do. He knew the people wouldn't believe him nor hearken unto him. God's response was in the form of a question, what is in your hand? In Exodus 4:1-5, God showed Moses that everything he needed was already with him. God will use what is in your hand to develop your success. God has equipped you with so many talents and gifts so He is fully aware of what you are capable of and He waits for you to use what He has already given you to become successful in life and to bring Him glory. Everything you need to live a successful life is within you. It may be lying dormant, but you have what it takes to be successful. Use the gifts and talents you have been given to work for you and to bring glory to God. Use what you have and more will be given to you. The gifts and talents that God has given you to use is part of your success story.

In Matthew 25, it is written that the master of the servants gave each of them talents according to their several abilities. Two of them took what they were given and made it increase. The third servant hid his talent because he was afraid. He didn't multiply it or use it, he just hid it. Don't allow fear to grip you from being productive. You won't know if you can or cannot accomplish anything unless you try. At least make an effort to reach your goals. You never know, you may actually reach them. Don't allow yourself to become like the servant that hid his talent. This servant had what I call hidden potential. The potential was always there, but never used. Use what you've been given. Don't allow your talents to go to waste because they were given to you with a purpose in mind. You have to put forth an effort if you want to see your goals accomplished. Success will come to those who work to achieve it. It doesn't happen overnight, but your efforts are needed to get the results you are expecting.

Begin working towards achieving your goals and successes today. God will assist you as much as He can with your success, but ultimately the responsibility of its accomplishment will be on you. Do something about it today!