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*Success*

People in the secular world often judge the quality of another's life by the amount of money and material possessions he has accumulated. Yet what criterion should be used when discerning the quality of a person's life of faith?

It is hard for anyone to overcome pride and inferiority complexes. People in secular society don't have as many chances to hone down their defenses. Yet every Unificationist spends some time fundraising and witnessing; these are two activities which are "blockbusters" for a life of faith, avenues that lead us to shake off pride and root out inferiority complexes. Once we defeat those barriers in our mind, we will be the winner. It won't even matter to us if people slap us in the face physically or spiritually. In the end, we will walk away with the victor's cup.

There are people in society who may have tremendous assets and a luxurious lifestyle, but what really counts at the end of life is the quality of character we have managed to chisel out of our own marble—not how extensive and handsome our wardrobe is or how many homes and castles we own. So-called "normal" life cannot compare to the way a life of faith builds character.

Be successful in the truest sense of the word. Build up your character. Learn how to survive and ford upstream by constantly developing your spiritual strengths.

Everyone has to find the way to provide for his tomorrow. Unless you are alert and have foresight, you could run out of money. To avoid that takes planning ahead. But it is most important to contemplate and outline what you desire to make of your life, before you run out of time. Each of us must face physical death someday. No one can escape that inevitability. But unless we plan for that eventuality, we may make far less of the life God has given us to fashion than He expects or anticipates.

Father often encourages us to think that we have only two years to live and therefore to accomplish everything we want to within that span of time. Goals and success go together. Nobody knows when he will die. But if you died suddenly before you reached some of your goals, what legacy would you leave behind? How successful could you consider your life to be if you accomplished only a little for God and True Parents?

It is sometimes hard to see the goals and milestones you reach when witnessing. And it is harder to make and accomplish a concrete goal in wit-

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nessing than when fundraising. The checkpoint is your conscience. Several times a day you can ask yourself, "What is my standard? How much *could I* be doing?"

If you gain a tangible result, then you can have the satisfaction that you did reach a certain goal. Yet if nothing occurs, then even the desire to keep going becomes more difficult. The relationship between your heart and God's heart at that time plays the greatest role in deciding whether or not you achieved your aim. Unfortunately, a conversion experience or a change of heart is quite invisible.

The person who is most blocked is usually the most selfish and insecure, and the one who achieves the smallest result. The people who have grown spiritually free, move forward, and usually become successful. I have discovered that a person's result—whether in a certain activity, in marriage or relationships, and even in life, reflects the depth of his personal relationship with God.

Each of us must have dreams. One secret to finding happiness in life is to never let your dreams die or fade. And once one of your dreams is fulfilled, make sure you have another dream. People fail because they lack direction. But we are responsible for the outcome of our own life. And when we team up with God, we have a much better chance to be victorious.

Even if it has not been a habit in our life of faith thus far, we should attempt to be goal setters and goal reachers. Too often we don't believe we can do something, so we stop dreaming that dream in our mind long before we allow our body to give it a try. Never be without something to reach for. People without dreams are dead. Desire to do something big for God and humanity!

Keep your eyes focused on your goal and if you are really intent on reaching it, don't ever let them deviate from it. It is *your* goal and ideal—others around you have their own. Neither copy theirs nor expect them to adopt yours. But hold fast to your dream and never let it slip away from you. Once you have a vision of what you want to accomplish, daily visualize that picture of success—continuously painting it with hope, fulfillment, love, strength and all the power you need to make it a reality. Don't go to an inexperienced art critic; he may just destroy your creation. Have your own mind-studio in which you work every day. If you want, put a veil or cur-

tain over your painting every night so that others cannot go in to destroy it. But make sure that you take at least some time every day to add a few brushstrokes and keep your dream alive.

How do you do that? Even before you begin painting your dream, I think it would be best to check with the head of the "art gallery" whether or not there is a market for such a painting now or will be in the future. Luckily that director is your Heavenly Father, God. The safest thing to do is to verify your dream with Him. If you cannot seem to get a total confirmation from Him, why not talk it over with one of His assistants. You may get the go-ahead to proceed immediately.

What if it is not yet the time in God's dispensation that such a painting can be done and go on display? If you feel strongly that this goal is a definite sign from God, then without taking too much time away from your present work or going against the direction of your superior, look into ways you can prepare to make your dream a reality *someday*. For instance, if you used to play the piano and desire to do it again but presently don't have one to practice on, play in your mind the compositions with which you are most familiar—from fingering the keys, to working on your timing, and actually "hearing" the melody. When you transfer all that practice to a real piano, you might find you play the piece perfectly on your first try!

Yet you can do this with anything. It is a matter of setting your mind to achieving success in reaching even the most seemingly impossible goals.

Success does not necessarily depend upon overcoming every personal struggle. Rather, put your own difficulties aside and instead persevere for the sake of God. If you do that for God and the higher purpose, your personal goal will be fulfilled automatically. If you live for God with one hundred percent zeal and dedication, how can He refuse to soothe your heart and uplift you? Even if you are unaware of it. He will work to comfort your heart.

We all need to reach milestones in our life of faith and keep spiritually active. Set yourself certain goals, but make sure that some are short-term and some long-term. Realize that both need preparation. Don't set them too high; if you try to reach your ideal in one week, you surely will not make it. Yet if you set short-term goals while keeping in front of you the vision of your highest goal, and then proceed step-by-step, you *will* accomplish great things.

Make sure that you complete all that is necessary to make your goal

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and refuse to do anything only halfway. That in itself will help you develop great capability and qualify you in certain areas. And then your future will be bright with possibilities to be successful for God.

Whenever you do achieve a level of success, the most important thing is to offer it to God. If somebody appreciates what you have done, give him your thanks, but then offer that praise to God—it really belongs to Him. If you only keep it for yourself, you repeat Lucifer's mistake. People who occupy the archangel position often repeat the behavior of the fall. One extremely important principle is to stay humble and report to God all progress made toward fulfillment of any goals—individual or group. Even if you are doing the majority of the work, make sure that you are not the one glorified. It is God who should be given the honor and receive the greatest esteem.

The first thing to do is to set the goal. That in itself speaks to your mind and heart and clarifies your objective. After that it will become easier to expend your energy to fulfill it. When you think you just cannot do one more thing but disregard your exhaustion and push on anyway, all of a sudden you may just go into automatic pilot and find that you sprint ahead. And in the eyes of God, that is one measure of success.

Don't underestimate yourself. Sometimes your personal problems may seem overwhelming, but all of us have personal problems. Sometimes they may get the best of you. But living a life of faith is bound to be a struggle because we are traveling the path from spiritual death to spiritual life.

You have to have both long-term and short-term goals. And you have to systematically tackle one goal after another. At the same time, it is important to become centered upon the whole purpose and simultaneously keep your ultimate goal—that of reaching perfection. When you are able to practice pacing yourself, you will find that you don't easily become exhausted physically, mentally, or spiritually, but that you can keep going for years and years.

The Kingdom of Heaven is a reality, not a fantasy. Because we have heard Father talk about it so often, it may seem fantastic, but it is not a fantasy. And to build it is a very real task confronting us—undoubtedly full of

pain and suffering. If you were to set yourself a goal for the next ten years, determine that you will pay and struggle to help erect it, and be willing to do anything to be the victor, you would stand on quite a high plateau at the end of those ten years. You would see the whole world, including yourself, from a very different perspective.

It is not realistic to expect to notice great and pronounced advancements from day to day. But if you reflect back on the last year, I am sure that you will see how much you have grown. Whether or not anyone else notices it, at least *you* can see that during the past year you have developed and advanced in spiritual strength and stability, in character and perception. Maybe you made it a goal to develop those very qualities. If so, congratulations; you succeeded! If you didn't make personal development a conscious goal, realize that even your short-term goals and conditions brought you far. Instead of looking at your potential as being limited, view it as *unlimited*.

If you are determined to achieve a certain goal, you might pray about it or simply talk about it and proclaim it to spirit world. The most effective way to announce it is not in terms of "I," but rather in terms of "we." Then they will listen. They have to see that you are serious, and then they will agree to help you. There are many achievers in spirit world who have high goals. Perhaps the most lofty dream they have is to be resurrected to the highest realm in the spirit world and live with God eternally; it is the same one Unificationists maintain. Many spirits know that if they assist you, they resurrect along with you. They serve God because they love Him. And in the process, they are also elevated. Our success definitely depends upon the cooperation of both God and the spirit world.

Every result you make—all you have done in the past, what you do today, and what you do tomorrow—is written in heaven. In the future, you may work in Asia, Europe, or even the Middle East. You might dig in a coal mine or become a school teacher. In one sense, the physical work you do is not the important point. From small victories to large, *whatever* you accomplish is recorded in spirit world. Therefore, why lose even one day. Rather than being too light-footed or too light-hearted, take all your goals—and every success—seriously.

Sometimes we fail to accomplish a task or job. Sometimes we don't do as well as we expected of ourselves. But when that happens, too often we brand ourselves as total and complete "*failures*." We are relentless in whip-

ping ourselves; with visions of a low self-image, we once again conjure up in our mind all the times in the past that *we* felt we were inefficient, or did not do something perfectly.

If we neglected to do something and in the process exposed our shortcomings, we may have experienced a failure, but that does not make *us* a failure. And to accept defeat and place ourselves in that category will weaken our possibility to be either an achiever or a success. We must know the difference and come to believe it.

Real life is neither fantasy nor fancy. In order to be full of spirit and actively participate in life, you need a dream. Yet once you fulfill that dream, make sure you replace it with another one. And when you dream, put your mind to work. Visualize yourself reaching that goal. We are not living our lives just for personal satisfaction, so make your dreams consistent with God's own. Reaching your objectives on His behalf will definitely allow you to feel tremendous satisfaction.

You should accept the help of the many good spirits who surround you. You have to believe in their existence and cooperation even if you cannot feel it at all times. We do not accomplish things exclusively on our own. God and spirit world offer great assistance. When you are on the frontline and confronted by a serious situation, you may feel God and spirit world with you. It is when we are willing to go above and beyond the normal line of duty that they begin intense cooperation. When you pour out everything and literally cannot go another step, spirit world will support you. If you pour out everything you have—all your heart and energies—and *still* keep going, you will find you achieve a great outcome.

Why do some people have certain results and others achieve very little? It is not just because some run faster than others. There is an underlying cause. It does not matter whether someone starts moving first and then is spurred on by some motivation, or whether he feels motivated and then starts moving. His success is based on his connection to God. Sometimes I can motivate you, but the impetus to really get you moving must start within your own spirit. You may direct your physical body to run, but it is your intellect that gives the order to "go." And then you begin to move. The potential to build up momentum and attain remarkable success is within each of us.

As you strive to reach your goal, you could eventually have thousands or even millions of spirits around you. But make sure they are the kind of spirits who desire to do something for God. If hordes of spiritual beings

with that kind of motivation work with you, you will be victorious. But you forfeit their help if you change your mind and compromise before you reach the goal.

Some people have fixed barriers and constrict themselves to working only within a certain framework. Therefore, the spirits are free to work only within those limits. But it is just as possible to allow spiritual beings from throughout the world to assist you. Spiritual beings who are cognizant of the ultimate goal of perfection would automatically cooperate with those human beings who are determined to reach perfection within the shortest possible time. What would you do if you were a spirit? Many definitely look for the best opportunities. They want to work with the people who manifest the greatest love and who will make the greatest impact. Spirits want to successfully return home to God. And not only will they applaud your efforts to do the same, but will assist and accompany you on your journey.

There is one important principle for success which has helped me in my own life and which I want to share with you. I have noticed that the more you give, the more you receive. If you give sevenfold, you may get a *thousandfold* in return. Be generous—in giving love, in giving money, in giving of yourself. If you give your personal energy and your heart, you are guaranteed a good return.

But if you limit yourself, you become stingy both physically and spiritually. The "Scrooges" of this world are always poor and no matter how much money they accumulate, are never really successful. Those who may not have tremendous amounts to give, but lovingly give of what they have, are the richest people. The act of giving just multiplies and multiplies. To be deemed a success in the eyes of God, we need to be generous of heart. We must never just limit ourselves and give out in only one direction.

Even if you are tired, be benevolent and continue to give of yourself. Anyone who does that, becomes spiritually rich. Most people say that they tried their best, but often have a fixed idea of what that is. They may have an unrealistically low idea of the boundaries of "best." Of course there are certain restrictions in this world governed by time and space, and all of us face them. But it is yielding those personal limitations we set in our minds which prevents us from becoming the achievers God hopes we will be. Although we claim that we did our best, our accomplishment may just measure up to the standard we *think* we can do. I believe no matter how much we do, we can always find ways to do better, and to accomplish that much more.

Some people live almost totally in the past, recalling mistakes, and remembering former glories. But those people do not necessarily recognize the reality of what they can do *now*. Before Father went to America he had never spoken to the general public. But God called him to do just that. Following Heavenly Father's direction, he established several speaking tours which took him to the major cities and eventually all fifty states in America. In subsequent years, he spoke to crowds of thousands at Madison Square Garden, Yankee Stadium, and Washington Monument. At Yoido Plaza in Seoul, Korea he spoke to over one million people. Where would the Unification movement be today if he had just clung to the idea of what he *thought* he could accomplish? He received a mandate from heaven and just had faith in God that it could be done. He knew that he had to be successful and he just did it.

You can actually do anything you set your mind to. Absolutely anything. The problem is that we too often think in terms of what we *can't* do, instead of what we *can*. It is best if you don't give yourself too much room and rationalize yourself out of trying. If the boss says that he needs someone to do something, raise your hand to volunteer! Even if you don't know how to do it, donate your time and your energy anyway; think of all you will learn. Cultivate the spirit and attitude of desiring to do something for God. And make the dynamism behind your donation that of love. When you do, you will elicit the response of both God and the spirit world. Offer your talents and abilities to accomplish the work of God. Your spirit of sacrifice will be replenished many times over.

Activate spirit world. You are working to do God's will but if you work separate from Him, you will not make much headway. You need to evoke some response from God and the spirit world. If you bring in large amounts of money through fundraising you are not necessarily a successful person. To be successful in life, a person needs to tap the unlimited reservoir of God. But if you recoil from establishing this kind of connection, you may feel depressed.

If you pray from the depths of your heart, cry tears, suffer, and struggle to do something great for the sake of God and humanity, spirits cannot just stand idle and watch you. They will have compassion and cooperate with you. When a person becomes desperate to accomplish, God and the spirit world step in to help him.

If you only sit and pray with mediocrity and little or no intensity, you might tend to just live from day to day. But that will not activate spiritual beings. When *you* work hard, they will do the same.

To be successful you must always remember that you are a representative of God, and your feeling of dignity should pervade in whatever you say and do. Remember too that we have the mission to go out and reveal what God has sparked within us.

Any spiritual block or complication you find within yourself is really your own problem. It is often necessary or warranted to take the time to conquer a spiritual impasse, but if you take great amounts of time to do so', you may fall short of your goal, and have almost no energy left to work for God. If you only center on how to overcome your problems, you will have little time to make a purified offering to God. It does not matter where you work or what you do. The more time you spend talking to others about becoming the best person you can be, the less time you will spend working and the less effective you will be. Rather than talk to others about it, why not share your thoughts and ambitions primarily with God. He is the one who can be instrumental in helping any of us to affect changes within.

We need dreams to stay alive spiritually. If you ever lose your vision or your God, you will waver and become unable to steer your ship. Once you are on the ocean and see one light on the high seas, you can be guided home as long as you either focus on sighting that lighthouse or listening for the tolling of her bell. But if you lose track of it, you may be engulfed in spiritual fog and unable to perceive which way to turn.

Gather all your strength and go toward the light. Take every possible measure to secure your direction and set your compass correctly so that you stay on course. We are crafts tossed about by a stormy sea, but it is God who can successfully guide us through any choppy water, by the very light of His compassion.