

Success Is, In the End, Being Happy

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October 5, 1975



Photo date and location unknown

The successful person has usually been defined as someone who has a position, who has gained power, who has money. This is termed as success in the world as we know it.

But, I'm afraid, people of the Unification Church, if that's what we're looking for, for success, we're big failures. Because we won't find great position, power, wealth, and all these things.

Let's consider someone who's been successful. There are many people in the world who own a great deal of money. When you talk with them or read stories about them one thing comes out that's almost always universal.

There's one key to success which makes a person say, "Yes, I'm successful." And that is, in the end, if he's happy. When your parents call you, they don't always ask, "Oh, do you have enough money, are you hungry?" The most important question in their mind is, "Are you happy? I might not agree with what you're doing, but if you're happy, I'm happy." That's the heart of a parent.

In the Unification Church we teach that man was created in God's image. In so doing, God created us with the innate ability to have a creative loving experience with Him. In order to accomplish this, it means we have to have a personal relationship with God. It means that God, our Heavenly Father, is not somewhere off in the sky, is not something which we can't contact, which we can't speak with and have a daily relationship with.

Divine Principle also teaches that a subject cannot exist apart from or without its object. Love is what binds subject and object together. The object of God's love is mankind. God the Creator poured out all of His emotions, all of His will, all of His intellect, into the creation of mankind, making man one of the most beautiful parts of all creation.

What Does God Need?

If we want success, if we want happiness, we can't look for happiness just for ourselves alone. We always have: to look for that happiness which brings happiness to God. The biggest and most important question is what would make God happy? What does God need? Does He need things like food, clothing, shelter, money? God can't use these things directly, only through us.

What does God need? We need to know what age we're living in to know what direction to go in, to know how to find joy. In history, there've been three ages that man has lived through. One is the Old Testament Age which is the Age of Law; strict obedience without really understanding; an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth; thou shalt not; do's and don'ts.

This is all that mankind was able to understand in the Old Testament. He was not able to interpret the Law, because his relationship with God was not yet close enough. In this age, following the Law was what success or failure was based on.

When Jesus came, he brought something higher -- the Age of Faith. Through faith, man could succeed or fail. Mankind was not yet really able to interpret the law for himself, but through faith in Christ, through faith in the words that Christ gave, he could understand more and develop a relationship of Father and son. Faith that God is our Father. Faith that you are my brothers and sisters. Faith that to do unto others as you would have them do unto you is true. It was like a blind faith, not questioning. This was what determined success or failure during the New Testament Age.

But we're now in a different age. This is the Age of Attendance, attendance to Christ, attendance to God. This is what determines our success or failure. To follow the law, to have faith is not enough. We have to attend. This is what didn't happen in the Old Testament Age. Even though the disciples proclaimed they believed in Jesus Christ as the Lord of Lords, the King of Kings, Christ their Savior, they didn't attend him when he needed them.

Attendance

When he was walking up the hill, no one came forth and said, "Let me carry this for you." No one said, "I know that man." At the risk of his life, no one would give their life in attendance to Christ their Lord. That is the age we live in now, to fulfill that which was not fulfilled then. To proclaim belief is not enough. To attend is what Christ and God need at this time. To live the word.

We can sit in prayer for hours and hours. It does no good if we get up and walk away and don't do anything. We have to get up and live our prayers.

If we're going to attend the Lord in this age, we need to know what his mission is. The Lord's Prayer says, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." The mission of the Lord is to build the kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Jesus said, "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth." So the Lord's mission is to give us the truth which will guide us down that narrow and steep path to God. His mission is to restore the world. Rev. Moon has a motto which indicates this: "To restore the world let us go forward in the shoes of a servant, but with a Father's heart, sowing sweat for earth, tears for man, and blood for heaven." This is the path of faith and action together.

To attend the Lord we have to prepare ourselves to receive the Lord. Look at the world today. What does God need from us? How can we prepare ourselves? We prepare ourselves by reaching out to fulfill what God needs. The world is really in a state of chaos and lack of trust. Everywhere you turn people are complaining about something being wrong.

It's true there's something wrong. Many movies, books and psychics are predicting tremendous chaos -- earthquakes, fires, and all kinds of things that would destroy the earth literally. What does the world need? The world needs hope.

God Needs Leaders

Who's going to give the world hope except for those who attend Christ and God? What God needs are successful leaders, especially here in America. God very badly needs American leaders to save America.

God looks for several things in His leaders. Of course He looks for a personality with potential for leadership. Everybody has a potential for leadership, whether it's of one person, 10 people, 20 people, or a million people. If you have something to give, then you can lead. All you have to do is connect with Christ. He's your leader. If he leads, you can lead. There's another aspect which God is looking for -- people who are restoring their fallen nature.

We live in a fallen world, we're filled with fallen nature. But we can't just wallow around in self-pity and use it as an excuse: "I can't succeed because I have fallen nature." God doesn't accept that, because He's given us the way to overcome it.

What happened at the time of the fall, the time when God was separated from man, the time when God lost His object of love? Man failed to take God's viewpoint, so God is searching for those who are searching to take His viewpoint, to think beyond themselves.

If we were connected with God's purpose and mission for America, we'd go without eating or sleeping before we'd let America die. We wouldn't be able to eat or sleep if we felt we weren't fulfilling our portion of responsibility. If we search for God's viewpoint, He'll show it to us.

Secondly, each of us has some kind of responsibility. What's our mission? To fulfill that mission. Many times people daydream about a future mission. "Oh, I want to do this or I want to do that." Or they forget about their mission and take somebody else's mission. Doing something for somebody else before we even finish what we have to do ourselves is leaving our missions. We need to fulfill our own missions, and then we'll be given more. That's what was lost at the time of the fall. Lucifer left his position; he didn't fulfill his position.

Thirdly, at the time of the fall there was a reversal of dominion. Lucifer wanted to take God's position and become the father of mankind. In the Bible, Jesus says, "You are of your father the devil." God is looking for people who want to change that, who want to make God their Father. How do we do that? By pushing

other people ahead of us, doing our best to make other people's missions successful and by loving other people as God loves them.

Multiply Goodness

Fourthly, what happened at the time of the fall was that evil came into existence and was multiplied. So we need to multiply goodness wherever we go. There's a saying, "I expect to pass through this world but once. Any good, therefore, that I can do or any kindness that I can show to my fellow creatures, let me not defer nor neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again." When we do something, we have no idea of the effect that we have on people. If in our hearts we're always hungry to multiply goodness we'll leave a trail of goodness and happiness behind us. We'll leave a trail of success behind us.

These are the fallen natures that we are born with. We want to restore them, but it's not so easy.

It's only easy to talk about. Between man and God there's a very thick wall. To come to the other side of that wall takes every bit of strength that we have; it takes 100 percent of our effort, of our will power before we can find that success.

There are certain qualities that we need to succeed in overcoming our fallen nature. One is patience. Rev. Moon said in a speech in March of this year, "In order for you to avoid unhappiness and misery, what frame of mind should you have and in what way do you have to walk the path of life? In order to be victorious, what word must be given? Patience. Patience is the most important virtue to embody. Jesus' success in God's sight is that he was ever patient and he was sacrificial for humanity."

Rev. Moon is an extremely patient man. When he was in prison in North Korea for three years, if he weren't a patient man, he could not have come out of there successful. He has said that if he were not a patient man, he would have left America long ago.

Ever-Patient God

"Patience is a virtue" is a well-known saying. God is ever patient. Can you imagine how many times God has wanted to simply do away with the whole thing? If it weren't for the leaders that came up in the most critical times in history, where would God's hope be? Moses was an ever-patient man. Many times he was rejected, many times he had to go before God and ask forgiveness of his people. We have to have more patience than that, we have to have more forgiveness than that in our heart to be successful.

Another virtue is sacrifice for others. There's going to be suffering in going back to God. Everybody in the world suffers, I don't care who they are. It's much better if you know what it's all about and can handle it. There's never been a person in history who has been successful without sacrificing for others, giving the r i s t i v e s for others. This has been preached and re-preached and re-preached: Sacrifice yourself for others. You must lose your life in order to gain your life.

Why do we have to keep having these things told to us over and over and over again? Because they're not ours yet. Until we live them, they're not ours. They belong to God, they belong to Christ. Once we live them, we don't have to be told anymore. Sacrificing for others is a key to success, success in our relationship with God, success in restoring the world. And success brings happiness; we can't have success without happiness.

We say we want to bring joy to God. What is joy? Joy to God is the joy of accomplishment; that's what we want to bring to God. We should never feel that we can't do it. God wants this world restored more than we do. God prays for man more than man prays for God. If we go out talking to people trying to give the word of God out to this world, who wants it more than we? God.

No Limit to Success

So what's holding God back? We are. There's no limit to what success we can have because our success should be God's success. God will succeed through us if we let Him, if we work at it. He's given us the truth, which is the tool that we need. Every single one of you has a foundation for God to speak through you. Open your mouth and it will come out.

St. Paul in his letter to the Philippians, when he was in prison, says, "So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any incentive of love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfishness or conceit, but in humility count others better than yourselves... For God is at work in you... for his good pleasure." Our success brings God pleasure, happiness.

Paul continues, "Do all thin s without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world." That could have been written today. "Do all things without grumbling or complaining." This means to embrace suffering; it's going to be there. Take it and use it.

Rev. Moon is successful, Christ is successful, every leader has been successful in history. Why? Because they have learned from their suffering every step of the way. It's all right there before us to study. Study

the Word day and night. It must become a daily diet, the Word coming into our spirit every day and our going out to share it with the world every day in some way until we become the embodiment of it, until it becomes carved in our hearts.

Embrace Difficulties

Don't complain. We've heard it over and over. It does no good to complain. If we complain, we leave a trail of sadness behind us, we multiply not goodness but complaining. Complaining ends up wallowing in self-pity. God can't listen to you. Learn to embrace the difficulties. The path is narrow and the path is steep. And it's filled with blood and sweat and tears and no one said it was going to be easy. Face it. We're not living in the Kingdom of Heaven yet, we're building it.

That's the hope -- that God has never given up, is ever patient; He's always forgiving.

When in our prayers we've asked for forgiveness He's forgiven us. We should keep going and look for that success that can bring God happiness, success that can bring us happiness because without it we aren't happy.

We see people with big beautiful houses and lots of money and who can go off to the mountains and relax for a weekend or they can have all the goodies they want and watch TV all day. But it's very temporary and will not bring ultimate happiness. If we're looking for immediate happiness we'll only have it a little while.

Prayer is the last important thing that, we need. We need to have deep prayer, not only simple prayer. And a daily diet of giving to each other, sharing with each other and with the world around us -- that will bring the kind of success that will mean success for your children and for your ancestors. The only one holding you back is you. If we can really believe that, if we can know that God not only exists, not only created the world but know that God is involved with the world, that God wants success, then you won't have any doubts.

Formula for Success

In working with Col. Bo Hi Pak, I asked him one time, what is your formula for success? Everything he does is successful. One thing that he said is that he never thinks failure. Failure is not even a word in his vocabulary. There's no such thing as failure. It doesn't exist. Because with God all is success.

No matter how difficult the path, always there is success at the end. Just don't give up. When you give up, that's when you fail. You might make mistakes, even big mistakes, but don't give up. That's one of the key things I've seen him enact in his daily life. I'll be saying, "What are you going to do now?" and he'll reply, "Don't worry, something will happen." I know it works; I've seen it work in him.

Rev. Moon never thinks of failure. He always has an alternative path. Never put all of your apples in one barrel. To have an alternative route is also God's way. Many times when we do something and it doesn't succeed it seems like we're moving backwards; but we're not, we're just moving over in order to succeed, making a right turn before going forward. It doesn't mean going backwards, it doesn't mean stopping, it just means moving over.

We must implement that in our lives, also -- to have alternative routes. "I must accomplish this goal so I will go this way. But if something happens, then I will go that way."

Through prayer God will show you all the alternative routes. Try to go the shortest possible route first, but if it's not possible, make a detour. This is what brings success in God's eyes.

What we need is prayer and action, patience, and embracing suffering. If we can implement those things in our lives we'll see tremendous differences. That patience we have with each other will give each other patience. It's catching, like love is catching. Also, complaining is catching, hate is catching. We want to make our environment one of hope and goodness.