



What Is The Secret to Lasting Success?
Legacy Lesson
Sunday, June 12, 2011
Joshua 1:7

Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go (Joshua 1:7—ESV).

Joshua achieved great success in the Promised Land because he kept himself mentally and physically strong as much as possible, chose to act courageously, and maintained high moral standards in accordance with God's law.

The Bible also illustrates that people can be strong and courageous, but fail when they disregard God's law. For example, Samson fought with enormous strength and courage, but because he consistently violated God's law, he lost his sight and his life. The Bible traces every one of King David's failures back to one of his moral failures, though he turned back to God after he sinned.

On the other hand, we can trace the great achievements of Daniel and Elijah to their strength and courage when they adhered to God's law as they faced idolatrous rulers, who would have murdered them if God had not been with them.

God said that obeying His law included not turning “from it to the right hand,” which may mean not interpreting God’s law more strictly than God intended and not adding our rules to God’s law. To turn from God’s law “to the left” may involve applying God’s law more leniently than God intended or making exceptions to the enforcement of God’s law. In both these ways, the scribes and Pharisees created traditions that violated God’s law. As the leader who followed Moses, if Joshua had violated either of these principles, he could have established traditions that might have misled the generations that followed him.

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