

Christians Achieving Success – Aspiring Leadership Group

- **Promoting success spiritually, financially, and personally through mentors, value-adding inner circles, and effective coaching**
 - **Slogans: “Achieving Success Without Losing Your Soul” and “Pivot Toward Success”**
 - “Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.” (1Cor 16:13)
- “Success is determined not by whether or not you face obstacles, but by your reaction to them. And if you look at these obstacles as a containing fence, they become your excuse for failure. If you look at them as a hurdle, each one strengthens you for the next.” – Ben Carson, Pediatric Neurosurgeon and author of Gifted Hands
- Success is boiled down to two things:
 1. Getting what you want, after you’ve eliminated what you thought you wanted
 2. Knowing what’s worth wanting, based on your core values
- “Every entrepreneur knows the feeling: that moment of despair when the only thing you are aware of is the giant gap between where you find yourself and the life and business you imagine. Once you succeed, people see only the success. If you fail, they see only the failure. Rarely do they see the turning points that could have taken you in a completely different direction. But it’s at these inflection points that the most important lessons in business and life are learned.” – Stephen Schwarzman
- “...if you want to make money in the business world, you need to get used to problems, because that’s what business is. It’s actually about finding problems, embracing and even enjoying them – because each problem is an opportunity to remove an obstacle and get closer to success.” – Ludwig Jesselson as recounted by Brad Jacobs, author of How to Make a Few Billion Dollars
- “What makes people successful is,” he said, “are their motivation, drive, and ability to learn from mistakes and how hard they work.” – Professor Vivek Wadhwa
- **“I used to be afraid of failing at the things that really mattered to me, but now I’m more afraid of succeeding at things that don’t matter.” – Bob Goff**
- “The desire to have control over oneself is a strong human drive. Believing that we have the ability to control our fate influences whether we try to achieve goals, how much effort we exert to do so, and how long we persist when we encounter challenges.” – Ethan Kross, Experimental Psychologist and Neuroscientist
 - “When you believe you have a sense of autonomy, a sense of choice in what you’re doing, you feel more self-motivated.” – Scott Geller
- “...the ability to focus and direct attention ‘is *the* distinguishing factor between those who will succeed in any endeavor and those who won’t.” – Dr. Andrew Huberman, Professor of Neurobiology
- “It takes a level of obsession to achieve greatness.” – Kevin Follonier
- “Self-awareness is generally a very good thing for all human beings. You still have to be irrationally ambitious, which is I think very important. And so self-awareness and just immense ambition sometimes don’t go together. It’s better when they do...Everybody who succeeds in a substantial way is good at being competitive.” – Reid Hoffman
- “So here is a challenge, leaders: How do we get people to become success seekers, rather than failure avoiders?” – Scott Keller, Director of the Center for Applied Behavior Systems
- “Rapid success is much more difficult to manage than failure, I believe. It’s just like walking a tight rope. I think the thing is, success changes you radically...” – Don Miller, creator of StoryBrand Framework and author of Building a StoryBrand 2.0
- “Had it not been for all the adversity I experienced, I wouldn’t have had such a strong desire to succeed.” – Patrick Bet-David
- **Christians have spiritual authority and should produce much fruit**
 - “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing...By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.” (Jn 15:5,8)
 - “Behold, I give you the authority [exousia] to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power [dunamis] of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.” (Lk 10:19)
 - “You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.” (1Jn 4:4)
 - “For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.” (1Jn 5:4)
 - “And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.” (Matt 11:12)
 - “So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.” (Lk 14:33)
- **Is pursuing success in this world a contradiction to the biblical lifestyle of a Christian? No, but...**

- “Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.” (1Cor 9:24-25)
- “But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.” (1Cor 15:10)
- “If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.” (Col 3:1-2)
- “But we urge you, brethren, that you increase more and more; that you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you, that you may walk properly toward those who are outside, and that you may lack nothing.” (1Thes 4:10,11-12)
- “Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.” (1Tim 2:1-2)

Why has “Christians Achieving Success” been created?

- To “Add Value” to and “Earn Interest” on God’s investment in Your Uniqueness
 - “All humans by nature are meaning-seeking, meaning-creating individuals...Meaning is something that is confirmed from inside, what is real for me and important for me, is unique to me.” – Dr. James Hollis
 - “No, true enchantment is simply living within the confident belief that there is deep meaning to life, meaning that exists in the world independent of ourselves.” – Rod Dreher who wrote “Living in Wonder”
 - Jesus taught that we are to add value to His investment in us, in the Parables of the Talents (Matt 25:14-30) and of the Minas (Lk 19:11-27)
- To offer Christians a new “group of 5”
 - “Both entrepreneurs and ambitious professionals gather accurate and actionable information from one main source: people in their network.” – Reid Hoffman
 - “Yet your network is frequently a better – and sometimes the only – source of pivotal intelligence.” – Reid Hoffman
 - “Audit the people around you. Make sure that you’re spending time with people who are in line with what you want for your own life.” – David Burkus
 - “You’re the average of the five people spend the most time with.” – Jim Rohn
 - “Show me your friends and I’ll show you your future.”
- To help Christians avoid being conformed to the world, while pursuing success
 - “We am promoting success in the lives of Christians who maintain Christlikeness, without losing their souls to the pressure of conforming to the world's laws for success.”
- To provide edification to Christians who are visionaries, because others are not generally supportive
- To keep the lives of Christians in balance, because we cannot serve God and success, keeping in mind that setting goals and achieving success can be consuming and cause us to lose sight of Jesus.
- To emphasize that sustaining happiness is the result of supportive, healthy relationships

<https://www.weforum.org/videos/harvard-conducted-an-85-year-study-on-happiness-here-s-what-it-found/>
- To promote serving others

“Work that serves other people.” – Arthur Brooks

Pursuing success includes being rich in good works (1Tim 6:18)

Motivational Quotes:

- Talented Leaders: “I’m praying that the Lord will raise up hundreds, thousands, maybe tens of thousands of talented leaders - whether in business or ministry – with hearts committed to Christ.” – David Green, Founder of Hobby Lobby [Leadership Not by the Book by David Green, p. 15]
- “This is the essential craving for life given to us by God. Let’s call this capacity the Primal Drive for Life.” – John Eldredge
- “The design and full living of one’s life is, in my opinion, our most important and creative act of all.” – Susie deVillie
- “If you haven’t pinned your purpose [meaning-and-purpose], try this experiment...continue the value challenge by helping one person in the next thirty days. Add value to just one life, and do so by virtue of your own creation, ingenuity, and hard work.” [Unscripted by MJ DeMarco, p. 217]
 - “...pay attention to how you feel the moment you accomplish the value challenge...This same feeling happens in entrepreneurship once your feedback loop transforms into value loop...it’s what happens when your creative sweat creates value for someone else.” [Unscripted by MJ DeMarco, p. 217]
- “Self-awareness is generally a very good thing for all human beings. You still have to be irrationally ambitious, which is I think very important. And so sometimes self-awareness and just immense ambition sometimes don’t go together. It’s better when they do.” – Reid Hoffman
- “Adding Value” to and “Earning Interest” on your Uniqueness, your primal inclination:

- “All humans by nature are meaning-seeking, meaning-creating individuals...Meaning is something that is confirmed from inside, what is real for me and important for me, is unique to me.” – Dr. James Hollis
- #1 “There is a purpose behind the fact that I'm born. And that purpose is I'm unique, I'm different from everybody else, and I'm going to make something that matters that gives me a sense of fulfillment...I was put on the planet for this particular reason, and to me, that's the single most important thing you can have.” – Robert Greene
 - “Having that sense of connection to what makes you different from other people is to me an extremely, extremely important life skill.” – Robert Greene
 - “The second most important thing that is very much related to the first, it's all part of the same wisdom, **is knowing who you are as being self-aware**. That is the point of the of The Laws of Human Nature - the ability to look at yourself with some honesty and detachment.” – Robert Greene
 - “The thing is when you figure out that primal inclination, then you have the energy to be disciplined, to go through boring tasks to learn. You learn at a faster rate because you're emotionally engaged. When you're emotionally engaged in a subject, the brain learns many times as fast as when you're not.” – Robert Greene
- “So finding meaning and purpose in your life is the biggest challenge that most young people have today...What we find is that fewer and fewer and fewer young people are looking for their life's purpose, let alone finding it. There's a reason for that. There's a neurophysiological reason for that. Questions of meaning are in the right hemisphere of the brain.” – Arthur Brooks
 - “The more time you spend on the screen [computer and smart phones], the more time you spend on social media, the more time you spend gaming, the less able you are to examine the meaning questions in your life.” – Arthur Brooks
- Life's Task: “Now that you've discovered or you have a connection to what your life's task must be, you then have to be a very patient and disciplined person...of learning your craft, of learning all of the different codes and conventions that go into training with a master or training with a mentor if that is possible, and trying different things and learning as much skills as possible. That requires being able to put up with tedium.” – Robert Greene
 - “To gain power, to become successful, to master something, is going to require days and weeks of some kind of pain sometimes.” Robert Greene
 - “When it comes to mastery, when it comes to success, when it comes to gaining power in this world, it requires a lot of effort. It requires discipline. It requires hard work. It requires dedication. It requires patience. And if all that is fueling you is your passion, you're never going to be able to have the energy and the patience to go through a lot of monotony that is involved in building anything successful.” – Robert Greene
- “I am convinced that knowledge is *power*.” – Ben Carson
 - To overcome the past
 - To change our own situations
 - To fight new obstacles
 - To make better decisions
 - “**There can be no stronger proof that knowledge is power, and that ignorance is weakness.**” – Thomas Jefferson
- Redeeming Your Time: 7 Biblical Principles for Being Purposeful, Present, and Wildly Productive by Jordan Raynor
 - “Why are we commanded to redeem our time? Not so we will have more time to spend on selfish pursuits. We are called to redeem our time because ‘the days are evil’ and we are running out of time to do ‘the will of the Lord.’” – Jordan Raynor (p. xxiii)
 1. Start with the Word
 2. Let Your Yes Be Yes
 3. Dissent from the Kingdom of Noise
 4. Prioritize Your Yeses
 5. Accept Your “Unipresence”
 6. Embrace Productive Rest
 7. Eliminate All Hurry
- “What is the king now? Kings are CEOs. Kings are business leaders. And I suppose I'm very attracted to the power that these people have. Not for personal enrichment, or fame or anything like this, but in order to have impact with people's lives. And what really pains me is to see, at very often, the best ideas are around, but no one's listening to them.” – Alain de Botton [<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KkB-kpet3eo>]

Core Values:

- **We have wrestled with and have accepted our call to leadership in any and all aspects of business, the church, and life**

- "Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave" (Matt 20:26-27)
- **We have found our life's purposes in knowing Jesus and in serving Jesus and the Gospel**
 - "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it." (Mk 8:35)
 - "that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death" (Phil 3:10)
- **We have forsaken all our ambitions and ideas of worldly success to be uniquely Jesus's, as His disciple, believing He will empower us to do great things and achieve success**
 - "So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple." (Lk 14:33)
 - "to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him" (Col 1:9,10)
 - "for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure." (Phil 2:13)
 - "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father." (Jn 14:12)
- **We, by faith, believe our exaltation will bring us into influential leadership opportunities and success**
 - "Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time" (1Pet 5:6)
 - "Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share" (1Tim 6:17-18)
 - "I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a servant of the church in Cenchrea, that you may receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and assist her in whatever business [pragma] she has need of you; for indeed she has been a helper [prostatis] of many and of myself also." (Rom 16:1-2)
 - "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us" (Eph 3:20)
 - "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." (1Cor 2:9)
 - "Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace [charis], that we may obtain mercy [eleos] and find grace [charis] to help [boetheia=run for help] in time of need." (Heb 4:16)
 - [that you may know and experience] "what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power" (Eph 1:19)
 - "Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful [euchrestos] to me for ministry [diakonia]." (2Tim 4:11)
- **We are visionaries: we see what doesn't exist and expect it to happen as we walk by faith**
 - "Now faith is the substance [hupostatis] of things hoped [elpizo] for, the evidence [elegchos] of things not seen [blepo]." (Heb 11:1)
 - "Commit your works to the Lord [submit and trust them to Him], and your plans will succeed [if you respond to His will and guidance]." (Prov 16:3 AMP)
 - "So the Lord said, If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea, and it would obey you." (Lk 17:6)
 - "Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them." (Acts 16:10)
 - "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways [derek] acknowledge [yada] Him, and He shall direct [yashar] your paths." (Prov 3:5-6)
- **We add to our faith virtue and excellence in all we do, develop self-discipline, prepare ourselves diligently, and improve our competencies**
 - "But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue [arete], to virtue knowledge" (2Pet 1:5)
 - "Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business" (Acts 6:3)
 - "And I have filled him [Bezalel] with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, to design artistic works, to work in gold, in silver, in bronze, in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in all manner of workmanship." (Ex 31:2-5)
 - "And Bezalel and Aholiab, and every gifted artisan in whom the LORD has put wisdom and understanding, to know how to do all manner of work for the service of the sanctuary, shall do according to all that the LORD has commanded." (Ex 36:1)
 - "and four thousand praised the LORD with musical instruments, which I made, said David, for giving praise." (1Chr 23:5)
 - "And he [Uzziah] made devices in Jerusalem, invented by skillful men, to be on the towers and the corners, to shoot arrows and large stones. So his fame spread far and wide, for he was marvelously helped till he became strong." (2Chr 26:15)

- “Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.” (1Cor 9:24)
- “So, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and worked; for by occupation they were tentmakers.” (Acts 18:30)
 - “Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working?” (1Cor 9:6)
- **Our success will provide the capital, relationships, and resources to do good works, help other Christians, and glorify our Father in heaven**
 - “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matt 5:16)
 - “And I say to you, make friends for yourselves by unrighteous mammon, that when you fail, they may receive you into an everlasting home.” (Lk 16:9)
 - “For the sons of this world are more shrewd in their generation than the sons of light.” (Lk 16:8)
 - “Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives [parecho=to supply] us richly [plousios] all things to enjoy. Let them do good [agathoergeo=to give well], that they be rich [plouteo] in good works, ready to give [eumetadotos], willing to share” (1Tim 6:17-18)
 - “Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need [chreia].” (Eph 4:28)
 - “For your heavenly Father knows that you need [chrezo=what is required to do God’s will] all these things.” (Matt 6:32)
 - “Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need [chreia] of before you ask Him.” (Matt 6:8)
 - “And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent [anankaaios] needs, that they may not be unfruitful.” (Tit 3:14)
 - “Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.” (Gal 6:10)
- **Intuition plays a key role in our success**
 - “The intuitive mind is a sacred gift and the rational mind a faithful servant. We have created a society that honors the servant and has forgotten the gift.” Albert Einstein [Wired to Create by Barry Scott Kaufman, p. 58]
 - “Intuition arises from unconscious, or spontaneous, information-processing systems, and it plays an important role in how we think, reason, create, and behave socially.” [Wired to Create, p. 64]
 - “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.” (Jm 1:5)
 - “Where there is no counsel, the people fall; but in the multitude of counselors there is safety.” (Prov 11:14)
 - “For by wise counsel you will wage your own war, and in a multitude of counselors there is safety.” (Prov 24:6)
 - “And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.” (Lk 2:40)
- **Identify your dominant form of intelligence – 8 Intelligences or Learning Styles**
 - https://www.wtc.ie/images/pdf/Multiple_Intelligence/mi10.pdf
 - #1 Verbal-Linguistic Intelligence (“word smart” or “book smart”)
 - This intelligence involves the knowing which comes through language; through reading, writing, and speaking.
 - #2 Mathematical-Logical Intelligence (“math smart” or “logic smart”)
 - This intelligence uses numbers, math, and logic to find and understand the various patterns that occur in our lives: thought patterns, number patterns, visual patterns, color patterns, and so on.
 - #3 Visual-Spatial Intelligence (“art smart” or “picture smart”)
 - This intelligence represents the knowing that occurs through the shapes, images, patterns, designs, and textures we see with our external eyes, but also includes all of the images we are able to conjure inside our heads.
 - #4 Intrapersonal Intelligence (“self smart” or “introspection smart”)
 - At the heart of this intelligence are our human self-reflective abilities by which we can step outside of ourselves and think about our own lives.
 - #5 Bodily-Kinesthetic Intelligence (“body smart” or “movement smart”)
 - This way of knowing happens through physical movement and through the knowing of our physical body.
 - #6 Interpersonal (“people smart” or “group smart”)
 - This way of knowing also asks use to develop a whole range of social skills that are needed for effective person-to-person communication and relating.
 - #7 Naturalist Intelligence (“nature smart” or “environment smart”)

- The naturalist intelligence involves the full range of knowing that occurs in and through our encounters with the natural world including our recognition, appreciation, and understanding of the natural environment.
 - #8 Musical-Rhythmic Intelligence (“music smart” or “sound smart”)
 - it is not limited to music and rhythm so I’m calling it auditory-vibrational, for it deals with the whole realm of sound, tones, beats, and vibrational patterns as well as music.
 - “The key to making the most of your capacities is celebrating how you learn and using that learning style to explore as many interests as possible.” [Finding Your Element by Ken Robinson, p. 71]
- **We are creative and must express and implement the best ideas**
- **We recognize that Critical Thinking Skills have been deemphasized and must be developed**
 - <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/the-clarity/202306/the-decline-of-critical-thinking-skills>
- **We cherish and prioritize personal Solitude**
- **We realize the value of power, improve our awareness of power dynamics, and rely on the Holy Spirit to exercise power wisely**
 - Critical Thinking Mastery: Transform Your Mindset for Ultimate Personal Growth (Audiobook)
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XFLcHOA-Q0g>
 - 6 Biases that hold you back:
 - Confirmation bias
 - Conviction bias
 - Appearance bias
 - The group bias
 - Blame bias
 - Superiority bias
 - Create an environment of trust based on living good values:
 - “Trust needs to be the core, the center, the fabric of any culture.” – John Maxwell
 - “Social Trust is the confidence that other people will do what they ought to do most of the time. Trust becomes a very vibrant factor that people thrive in when people do what they ought to do...Where did they get their [understanding of] “ought”? They got it from learning and living good values.” – John Maxwell
 - #1 Value people and connect: show unconditional love
 - #2 Add value to people: increases your influence by serving people
 - #3 Live good values: attracting people through the fruit of the Spirit
 - #4 Share good values: leads to transformation in others
- **Our Purposes align with the Purposes of the Church**
 - to make disciples of Jesus Christ
 - to baptize believers in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit
 - to be witnesses of Jesus Christ’s death, resurrection, and ascension
 - to worship, serve, glorify the Lord in spirit and in truth
 - to equip the saints to serve
 - to edify the saints
 - to be the light of the world
 - to lead sinners to receive forgiveness in Christ
 - to obey the commands of Jesus
 - to grow in grace and knowledge of Jesus
 - to be led by the Holy Spirit as children of God
 - to bear much spiritual fruit
 - to proclaim the truth in Christ
 - to care one another as the Body of Christ
 - to help the weak
 - to send others out to evangelize the world
 - to make known God’s wisdom to the principalities and powers in the heavens
 - to teach others how to study the Bible
 - to be present with the widows and the fatherless in their need
 - to celebrate Communion, remembering the death of Jesus and His cleansing blood
- **Teaching and Modeling Servant Leadership**
 - Starts with self-leadership
 - Requires personal discipline
 - Requires defined personal core values
 - Requires defined boundaries
 - Requires the skill to say No
 - Requires intuition
 - Define your why

- Define your vision
- Growing in confidence as a disciplined person
- Develop your character
- Accept leadership opportunities
- Develop personal self-regulation
- Empowering those you lead
- Delegate authority
- Praise small wins
- Redefining failure as learning and growth
- Focus on personal perseverance
- Incorporate life balance from the start
- Lead with gratitude, joy, compassion
- Make others better for letting you lead them
- Develop leaders

Success Principles to Consider:

- **Business and Christianity should be viewed as “Infinite Games” – popularized by Simon Sinek**
 - No one wins in Christianity, in business, in marriage, in career, in global politics, in education, in local church “competition”
 - Infinite games are defined as:
 - known and unknown players which means new players can join the game at any time
 - the rules are changeable which means every player can play however they want
 - the objective is to perpetuate the game to stay in the game as long as possible
 - The goal of the infinite Game is to stay in the game
 - there may be finite games played within infinite games...
 - Foster: creativity, joy, cooperation, magic of great innovation
 - There is no finish line
 - There are worthy rivals
 - The only true competitor in Infinite Games is myself
 - Infinite games are defined as:
 - known players
 - fixed rules
 - an agreed upon objective
 - there's always a beginning middle and an end
 - there's a winner and there's a loser
 - Cause: the decline of trust, the decline of innovation, and the decline of cooperation
- **6 lies that sabotage [inhibit] your success | Evy Poupouras | TEDxAthens**
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DCh3N2ulmJY>
 - Don't let these inhibitors keep you from living your life.
 - #1 I am special
 - #2 I have to wait for Confidence – you will never take risks
 - #3 I have to wait for motivation – waiting for motivation leads to mediocrity
 - #4 Victim mentality provides excuses to fail
 - #5 Fear becomes your identity, instead of a fleeting emotion
 - #6 Waiting to be emotionally healed will prevent you from seizing opportunities
- **Commitment to Self-Improvement and Self-Mastery**
 - “One of the reasons I think you need coaching in your life is to help you determine how truly clear you are on exactly what it is that you actually want.” – Ed Mylett
 - “A great coach is somebody who sees your hidden potential and then helps you become a better version of yourself.” – Adam Grant
 - A cheerleader is someone who applauds your best self
 - A critic is someone who attacks your worst self
 - Don't ask for feedback (backward-looking), ask for advice (forward-looking)
 - “I think what we've lost sight of is that what people actually enjoy is a sense of progress, feeling like they have forward momentum.” – Adam Grant
 - “I think the key to high level coaching is high level thinking, elite listening. Before you get to high level thinking, you have to get to high level listening.” Erwin McManus
 - The Essence of Creativity Coaching: “...I have witnessed hundreds of clients unearth, remember, and reconnect with their passion, desires, and curiosity.” – Susie deVillie
 - “The number one rule is that you must make self-improvement a way of life.” – Brendon Burchard
 - “Inner growth and daily personal development are a very real form of wealth...” – Robin Sharma
 - “Learning character skills can be more powerful than learning cognitive skills.” – Adam Grant

- “A coach will provide very little value to you unless you are committed to self-development and self-improvement, and you are seeking clarity on what you want to achieve.” – Robert Lettau
- Info sponging – learn one new thing a day for 10 min a day that I don’t need to know and write it down
- **Achieving Your Goals in Business**
 - #1 Master Knowing Yourself
 - #2 Master the Ability to Reason
 - #3 Master Building the Right Team
 - #4 Master Strategy to Scale
 - #5 Master Power Plays
 - [Your Next Five Moves by Patrick Bet-David, p. xx]
- **Achieve Your Dreams (Seth Godin):**
 - #1 Get clear on, develop clarity on, what your dreams are
 - Soft, intuitive undisclosed dreams actually disrupt your soul
 - Specific dreams present challenges, provide opportunities to evaluate
 - Be clear on what you don’t want
 - #2 Be very clear about the changes you need to make in yourself and others
 - People may be unhelpful as they go along with you as you pursue your dreams
 - #3 Develop the empathy to realize others don’t see what you want to achieve
 - They don’t see what you see, don’t want what you want, don’t need what you need
 - Can I help them achieve something as I pursue what I want to achieve?
- **Self-Mastery**
 - “But beware lest somehow this liberty [exousia] of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak.” (1Cor 8:9)
 - “All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful [sumphero]. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power [exousiazō] of any.” (1Cor 6:12)
 - “All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful [sumphero]; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify [oikodomeo].” (1Cor 10:23)
- **Description of EntreLeaders:**
 - Passionately Serving
 - Mavericks who have integrity
 - Disciplined risk takers
 - Courageous while humble
 - Motivated visionaries
 - Driven while loyal
 - Influential learners
- **Essential to Exercising Good Judgment** – Shane Parrish
 - Self-Accountability
 - Self-Knowledge
 - Self-Control
 - Self-Confidence
- **The Value of a Coach or Mentor**
 - “The **best mentor** is someone you want to be like when you grow up.” – Jeff Hoffman
 - Choose someone who has the trial-tested character you want to emulate.
 - **Character of a mentor:**
 - Humility – someone who never stops growing, never stops learning. Managing success (a seldom emphasized skill) is critical to maintaining ongoing success.
 - Empathy – it is essential to be a caring and effective listener, picking up on unspoken cues
 - Networking – socializing business solutions, successful people ignite success in others
 - has the Goal to pursue personal excellence, to succeed, to make a positive difference, to help others succeed
 - Impact – have helped make something or someone better somewhere
 - Experiences – broaden your awareness of people through varied experiences in life in order to better help people grow and learn
 - Failure – how you overcome failure determines your success potential and your influence as a leader
 - Learning Lunch Questions:
 - What is the most important lesson you have ever learned in your life?
 - What are you learning now?
 - How has failure shaped your life?
 - Who do you know that I should know?
 - What should I read?
 - What have you done that I should do?

- How can I add value to you?
 - “Successful people are busy and unavailable to mentor. Ask them to recommend one book to you. Read and send them a note highlighting 5 things you learned from the book.” – Jon Acuff
 - People may be too busy to have coffee, recommended by John Maxwell.
- **Success Associations and Networks**
 - The Law of the **Inner Circle** states “a leader’s potential is determined by those closest to him.” – John Maxwell
 - To leverage the law of the inner circle then, we must surround ourselves continually with people we admire and respect; people we want to become like as we grow.
 - The members of an inner circle must share a deep sense of trust and respect for one another. This enables them to engage in open and honest dialogue, which is essential for effective problem-solving and decision-making.
 - Maxwell writes that no leader starts off with a strong inner circle: it’s something that develops over time. Take stock of the people closest to you now and ask yourself some tough questions about what value they add to your life and your business. If your inner circle brings you down, it might be time to seek out better leaders to have your back.
 - “The leader finds greatness in the group, and he or she helps the members find it in themselves.” – Warren Bennis [The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership by John Maxwell, p. 131]
 - “First, I was exerting my influence on him – sharing my values, vision, and philosophy of leadership with him.”
 - “Inner circle members should also add value to you personally. If they have a negative effect, they will hinder your ability to lead well, and that can hurt your people and the organization.”
 - **The Law of Modeling:** Modeling requires practicing what you preach. It gives you integrity as a leader and establishes you as a credible role model and authority. [The 15 Invaluable Laws of Growth]
 - “Get around other amazing people.” – Brendon Burchard
 - “Groups hold you accountable to keep the promises you make to yourself and to live in congruency with your values.”
 - “Do not be deceived: Evil company corrupts good habits.” (1Cor 15:33)
 - “For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.” (Gal 6:8)
 - “Yes, release the energy vampires and detox from the dream vultures. Free yourself from the happiness stealers.” [Robin Sharma, p. 312]
- **4 Pillars of a Meaningful Life:**
 - **Belonging** – springs from love - you’re valued for who are intrinsically and where you value others as well
 - **Purpose** – the key is to use your strengths to serve others, discovering your “Why”
 - **Transcendence** – Stepping Beyond Yourself – you feel connected to a higher reality – transcendent experiences change you
 - **Storytelling** – creating a narrative from the events of your life brings clarity. Make it a Redemptive Story (Daniel McAdams): the bad is redeemed by the good. The key is to change the narrative, if necessary, to bring more health to it and then to sustain it with purpose.
 - Healthy narratives are defined by redemption, growth, and love
 - It could take years and it will be painful
 - Living a meaningful life is an ongoing process...continually adding to our story
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y9Trdafp83U> – Emily Esfahani Smith
- **James Hollis: The Goal Of Life Is Meaning, Not Happiness**
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pd1ciG55SZI>
 - “All humans by nature are meaning-seeking, meaning-creating individuals...Meaning is something that is confirmed from inside, what is real for me and important for me, is unique to me.” – Dr. James Hollis
 - “People are admitting, at least I’ve heard this more and more, meaning is something I need more of in my life...It’s clear to me that I don’t have as meaningful a life as I want.” – Tami Simon
 - @18:19 “All humans by nature are meaning-seeking, meaning-creating individuals...Meaning is something that is confirmed from inside, what is real for me and important for me, is unique to me.” – Dr. James Hollis
 - @18:55 “We have these elemental systems in us that we take for granted all the time one of which is the feeling function. We don’t choose feelings. We can choose to discard them, to anesthetize them, to project them onto others. But if healing is the continuing qualitative analysis of how things are going as experienced by the psyche. And so to pay attention and sort of say but what is that really telling me is to be in touch with this evaluative system that we have. It’s also true that we have energy systems and when our energies are being spent in the right direction as seen from the experience of psyche, then you know we’re on a roll. We have that sense of flow. We can put up with all kinds of conflict and suffering & travail.” – Dr. James Hollis

- @19:49 "And when we're pushing against the current, we find ourselves experiencing exhaustion burnout etc. And of course as I mentioned our dreams. They are other sources in which there's this kind of continuing critique of our lives and a kind of rebalancing. Jung felt that the primary function of dreams, of which there are several functions, was compensatory. As my conscious life and participation and outer culture pushes me in one direction to one-sidedness. So the psyche has to start nudging us in the other direction, to pick up other aspects of our life and our personality. So meaning to me is so much more important than happiness." – Dr. James Hollis
- **Practical Ways to Find Direction**
 - "Earn Interest" for the Lord on your Uniqueness, your primal inclination:
 - Discover and connect to your life's task
 - Golden Purpose (Jeff Hoffman):
 - Intersection of 3 things:
 - The thing you're best at
 - The thing you love doing
 - Something the world values
 - "Entrepreneurship isn't a job. It's a mindset, a toolset, and a skillset." – Jeff Hoffman
 - The skillset of entrepreneurship is the skillset of self-determination
 - Entrepreneurship is turning ideas into companies
 - Connect Your Lifeview and Your Workview:
 - Define who you are
 - Identify your level of Loneliness: the unmet need for belonging may cause disillusionment and a lack of definition around your purpose
 - Define your core values
 - Identify your Intelligence (from the 8 above) or learning style
 - How and why have you demonstrated ambition?
 - What have you persevered through?
 - What do you want to see improved or eradicated in this world?
 - Identify your purpose or primal inclination
 - How are you unique?
 - Rate your emotional intelligence
 - What is your soul and how do you love God with all of it?
 - Simon Sinek: "I FEEL LONELY!" How To Deal With Loneliness! | E230 Diary CEO
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D46zvJl-njU&t=16s>
 - Define your Workview
 - Why do you work?
 - What's your motivation?
 - What's work in service of?
 - Define your Lifeview
 - Why are you here?
 - What's your faith?
 - What's your view of the world?
 - Meaningful Life: Connecting your Lifeview and your Workview in a coherent way, aligned with who you are
 - Find Your Why
 - "Our life's purpose was already predetermined before we were made. It was set forth beforehand. This changed everything for me, because I thought I had to create purpose, I thought I had to create my life's purpose. But our Creator, the highest Being, with purest intentions, with no flaw, decided our purpose before we were even here on this earth." – Tyler Cerny
 - The thing you live for, The reason for being (Ikigai)
 - The Intersection of:
 - What you love to do
 - What the world needs
 - What you could get paid to do
 - What you are good at
 - Simon Sinek's Golden Circle: "Why, How, What."
 - Your Why can't change
 - "No, you are who you are. We are the products of our upbringing. We are the sum total of the experiences we had when we were children, and our personalities are fully formed by the time we're probably in our mid to late teens. And the why is who you are at your core, who you are at your natural best. The rest of our lives simply offer us opportunities to live in balance with our why." – Simon Sinek

- Your Just Cause can change.
 - **Just Cause:**
 - Must be Resilient – can withstand technological, political, and cultural change
 - Must be Inclusive – an invitation to those who believe what you believe
 - Must be Service-Oriented – in all relationships there's a benefactor and a contributor... so and contribute to others
- Find Your Element
 - "Stopping the noise, changing perspective, and giving it a try are three core processes for finding your Element." – Ken Robinson
 - "The Element is where natural aptitude meets personal passion." – Ken Robinson
 - "It's [your Element] about doing something that feels so completely natural to you, that resonates so strongly with you, that you feel that this is who you really are." – Ken Robinson
- Daily 5 M's
 - Meditate (pray)
 - Morning Pages (journal)
 - Movement (physical movement)
 - Moments of Inspired Learning
 - "...they foster connection to our imagination and intuition and create a sense of community with both the creator of the content and all others who are consuming it." [
 - Making Something (exercise your creativity and create)
- Four (Five) Things Seminary Never Taught Me Seminar – John Maxwell
 - #1 Relationships
 - #2 Equipping: How to equip and train people
 - #3 Attitude Development: how to handle adversity and not quit
 - #4 Leadership
 - #5 Living intentionally: good intentions are not good unless they turn into good actions
 - Leadership is intentional
- **Biases – Awareness and Purposes of**
 - 15 Biases that hold you back:
 - Confirmation Bias
 - Conviction Bias
 - Appearance Bias
 - Group Bias
 - Blame Bias
 - Superiority Bias
 - Negativity Bias
 - Gender Bias
 - Anchoring Bias
 - Actor-Observer Bias
 - Optimism Bias
 - Self-Serving Bias
 - Halo Effect
 - Hindsight Bias
 - Misinformation Effect
 - According to the Cognitive Bias Codex, there are an estimated 180 cognitive biases (this list is frequently updated.)
 - Why biases are constructed and utilized – 4 Main Scenarios:
 - #1 What should we remember?
 - #2 Too much information
 - #3 Not enough meaning
 - #4 Need to act fast

Access to Power Brokers

- Don't waste their time: be prepared
- Be direct in your communication
- Restate your reason to meet with them
- Listen to them attentively
- Ask them respectfully if you can take notes as they speak
- State the length of time you need to meet and do not exceed it
- Ask them to recommend an actionable task
- Give them a synopsis of the outcome of their recommendations

- Ask them how you can assist them
- Relentlessly position yourself as a protégé seeking a mentor
- If unavailable, ask the power broker if they can recommend a book to read or activity to do

Power Dynamics in the Bible that Led to Success or Failure

- Abraham trusting God when asked to leave his old life behind while building a new life with no details
- Abraham training his own militia
- Abraham giving honor to Melchizedek, even though he was chosen by God
- Abraham negotiating with Ephron for a burial plot
- Abraham lying to Abimelech king of Gerar
- Isaac lying to Abimelech king of the Philistines
- Isaac acquiescing to the Philistines in confrontations over wells
- Jacob interacting with his father-in-law Laban
- Jacob was not just a wandering shepherd, he was a fighter ()
- Joseph serving Potiphar
- Joseph preparing and complying with protocol to meet Pharaoh
- Joseph not using his authority to punish his brothers but exercising forgiveness, love, and grace
- Moses confronting Pharaoh to release the Jewish people
- Rahab hiding the Israelite spies
- Joshua allowing the Gibeonites to live
- Samuel declaring a Jewish king will take the choicest young men for the military, the choicest young people to serve him as king, and the choicest land for his benefit and status
- David serving King Saul as a musician and as a faithful warrior
- David surviving and persevering while building his army
- David yielding in unfair difficulties, rather than resisting them and they developed him into an effective and strategic leader
- David's allegiance to Jonathan
- David protecting of Abiathar and the slaughter of many priests
- Abigail's boldness in preventing David from acting on sinful anger against Nabal her husband
- David lacking trust in God which led to the burning of Ziklag
- David misusing power in committing adultery with Bathsheba
- David accepting, with humility, Nathan's exposure of his adultery
- David making a request of the king of Moab for his parents
- David showing respect for Ammonite king Nahash's death and the humiliation of his soldiers
- David preserving of Shimei's life
- David taking care of Mephibosheth, Jonathan's son
- David dispatching Hushai to counterbalance the advice/counsel of Ahithophel
- David excessively mourning Absalom's death
- David accepting the denial to build a Temple for God while praising the Lord for God's favor on his life
- Absalom murdering his half-brother Amnon for raping his full sister Tamar
- Absalom winning the hearts of the people in his traitorous move to take the throne from David
- David dismissing Ahimaaz because Ahimaaz did not have useful information
- Joab confronting with David's request to number the people and the subsequent plague
- Bathsheba advocating for Solomon to be king as David was dying
- Bathsheba discerning the adversarial role of scheming Adonijah
- Solomon asking for an understanding heart
- Joab choosing to serve Adonijah
- Abiathar choosing to serve Adonijah
- Solomon carrying out acts of justice for his father David
- Solomon committing to walk in obedience, integrity of heart, and uprightness
- Solomon unwisely accumulating horses, wives, and silver and gold
- Rehoboam's lack of wisdom in listening to the wrong advisors
- Elijah having access to King Ahab
- Elisha having access to the King of Israel, when he led the Syrian army to Israel's capital city Samaria
- Elisha prophesying that Hazael would be king of Syria and an enemy of Israel, by assassinating Syrian King Ben-Hadad
- Jezebel misusing power to accuse Naboth of blasphemy, consenting to his stoning, and seizing his vineyard
- Jehoshaphat arranging for Ahab and Jezebel's daughter Athaliah to marry his son Jehoram
- King Jehoshaphat of Judah entering into an ill-advised business with the King of Israel and ships were destroyed

- Athaliah (daughter of Jezebel and Ahab) influencing her husband King Jehoram (Jehoshaphat's son) to do evil
- King Jehoram killing all his brothers and princes to strengthen his power
- Athaliah killing all the royal heirs after her son King Ahaziah died and seizing of the throne of Judah
- Jehoiada protecting the child King Joash and overthrowing Athaliah
- King Hezekiah resisting the King of Assyria and God was with him
- King Josiah ignoring the advice of an enemy king and being fatally wounded in battle
- Jehu being anointed by Elisha to be King of Israel to kill Ahab and Jezebel's descendants
- Gedaliah being a naïve and trusting leader which led to Ishmael killing him
- Daniel faithfully serving Nebuchadnezzar and his genuine care during Nebuchadnezzar's humiliation
- 3 Hebrew young men who defied Nebuchadnezzar's statue worship
- Daniel faithfully serving to Darius, living his faith, and surviving the lions
- King Darius respecting Daniel
- Cyrus decreeing the Jews could return to Jerusalem and rebuild their Temple, in obedience to God
- The Jews restarting the rebuilding of the Temple after a 16-year delay
- Governor Zerubbabel demonstrating crisis leadership in rebuilding the Temple
- Ezra requesting funds from Darius to re-initiate Temple sacrifices
- Nehemiah serving King Darius
- Nehemiah demonstrating crisis leadership in rebuilding the wall around Jerusalem
- Nehemiah discerning that enemies of Israel were trying to kill him to prevent the rebuilding of the wall
- Jesus being pressured to be king by appreciative, opportunistic followers
- [Praying confident, effective prayers, being led by and taught by the Holy Spirit](#)
- Jesus exposing the hostility that the Kingdom of God will experience
- The centurion's requesting the healing of his ailing servant and causing Jesus to marvel
- The gentile woman persistently requesting the healing of her daughter and causing Jesus to marvel
- Politically connected women (Joanna) following Jesus and supporting Him
- Christians appearing before leaders and accusers, within systems of justice, while defending the faith
- Jesus respecting Roman tax laws
- Jesus respecting Roman tax collectors, even though they extorted Jews
- Jesus paying Temple tax, avoiding scandal, with coin
 - "When they had come to Capernaum, those who received the temple tax [didrachmon] came to Peter and said, Does your Teacher [didaskalos] not pay the temple tax [didrachmon = Temple tax for two]?...Nevertheless, lest we offend [skandalizo] them, go to the sea, cast in a hook, and take the fish that comes up first. And when you have opened its mouth, you will find a piece of money [stater]; take that and give it to them [Temple treasury agents] for Me and you." (Matt 17:24,27)
- Jesus perceiving the craftiness and evil intent of accusatory religious leaders
 - "But He perceived their craftiness [panourgia], and said to them, Why do you test [peirazo] Me?" (Lk 20:23)
- Jesus dining with a very wealthy tax collector Zacchaeus and leading him to saving faith
- Jesus acting tenderly and respectfully towards a confrontational Samaritan woman
- Jesus acknowledging and affirming a sinful woman (prostitute?) who worshiped Him in a Pharisee's home
 - "Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he spoke to himself, saying, This Man, if He were a prophet, would know who and what manner of woman this is who is touching Him, for she is a sinner." (Lk 7:39)
- Jesus acknowledging the power dynamics of Gentiles lording over others
- Jesus responding boldly in His confrontation with Pilate
- Apostle John having access to the High Priest, during Jesus' trials
 - "And Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Now that disciple was known to the high priest, and went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest. But Peter stood at the door outside. Then the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to her who kept the door, and brought Peter in." (Jn 18:15-16)
- Simon the Cyrenian being forced to carry the cross of Jesus, who just happened to be enroute from the country (Cyrene, Libya 800 miles away to attend Passover) and complied
 - "Now as they led Him away, they laid hold of a certain man, Simon a Cyrenian, who was coming from the country, and on him they laid the cross that he might bear it after Jesus." (Lk 23:26)
 - [The Bible does not explicitly state that Jesus fell while carrying the cross...](#)
- The humility of the centurion acknowledging the righteousness of Jesus on the cross
- Joseph of Arimathea having access to and requesting from Pilate for Jesus' body
- Pharisees intervening for the soldiers not to be killed for dereliction of duty, who guarded the tomb, after Jesus was resurrected and His body was missing
- Jesus preparing His disciples after His ascension to purchase a sword and a knapsack

- Christians pursuing spiritual maturity in preparation for greater Christian service: the Christian men in Acts 6 were already filled with the Spirit, wise, and had exemplary character before being appointed as servants to widows
- Philip starting a revival even though he was just a spiritual believer who have been appointed as servant to widows
- Paul escaping from Jews plotting his death in both Damascus and Jerusalem
- Paul rejecting Mark from accompany Barnabas and himself on a missionary journey
- Paul's interacting with Proconsul Sergius Paulus and the bling of Elymas
- Paul's confronting with the Philippian magistrates
- Paul's defense before Governor Felix and his respect for the governor
- Paul's defense before King Agrippa and respect for the king
- Paul's defense before Governor Festus and his respect for the governor
- Paul miscalculating the authority of Ananias the High Priest and apologizing
- Paul using wisdom to cause conflict between the Pharisees and the Sadducees
- Paul strategically using his Roman citizenship
- Paul exercising authority over Philemon
- Paul respecting Roman law and the jailer's life in Philippi
- Paul warning Christian leaders that savage wolves will come into churches to devour Christians and cultic leaders will arise from within the churches to mislead Christians
- Paul prophesying to the ship captain not to set sail, before the ship was destroyed
- Paul confidently handling the snake bite which led to meeting with Publius, a leader on the island of Malta, to pray for and heal his father
- Paul commanding rich Christians to be rich in good works
- Many leading women in Thessalonica believing in the Gospel
- Phoebe developing herself as a trusted leader in the Apostle Paul's stead
- Reformed thieves choosing legitimate work and meeting the needs of others
- the centurion in Caesarea, having honorable character, led to Peter's confidence to enter his house and preach
- Herod killing James and then imprisoning Peter to kill him, which eventually caused the death of prison guards, even though God incapacitated the guards in Peter's escape
- Entrepreneurs Aquila and Priscilla starting churches in Corinth and Rome
- Apollos being discipled and growing in spiritual maturity which led to leadership opportunities in different cities
- Paul praising an exemplary unnamed leader, known to everyone, who accompanied Titus
- Diotrefes usurping spiritual power to become a cult leader
- Jesus using Apostle John's spiritual authority to send His messages to the seven churches in Revelation
- Jesus warning his readers that only overcomers will inherit eternal life: not cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars

• **Modern Examples**

- Barry Meguiar, a Christian, almost lost his family business due to underhanded power manipulation
- John Maxwell, as a new pastor, realizing he did not have the authority in the church, but an old farmer did
- Christian employers firing either Christian or non-Christian employees
- Christian employers promoting non-Christians instead of Christian employees
- Modern American pastors discrediting (undermining, attacking) any staff member or church member who publicly confronts and/or contradicts them

Outsmart Anyone with Niccolo Machiavelli's 8 Timeless Principles for POWER

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hp5fVJC0HC8>
- **Principle 1: Master the art of adaptability**
- **Principle 2: Understanding fear vs. love**
- **Principle 3: The fox and the lion principle**
- **Principle 4: The power of perception**
- **Principle 5: Strategic action vs. force**
- **Principle 6: The importance of timing**
- **Principle 7: Managing your circle**
- **Principle 8: The Art of decision-making**
- Machiavelli was not teaching manipulation
- He was showing us how the world works, stripped of idealistic illusions and delusions
- Make better strategic decisions

Spiritual Foundation for Your Christian Life

- Wash Your Soul and Renew Your Mind Daily by Reading and Studying the Bible
- Fellowship Daily with Jesus and the Father
- Pray Daily with Intelligence and Specificity
- Write in a Journal Daily
- Faithfully Attend a Local Church
- Experience the Lord's Supper often
- Love and Serve God and Others Daily
- Be Rich in Doing Good Works
- Wash the Feet of Needy People as often as Possible
- Learn from and contemplate lessons from Power Dynamics in the Bible

Fear of and Reverence for the Lord

- "Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to depart from evil is understanding." (Job 28:28)
- "The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever" (Ps 19:9)
- "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom" (Ps 111:10)
- "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge" (Prov 1:7)
- "The fear of the LORD is to hate evil" (Prov 8:13)
- "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom" (Prov 9:10)
- "The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life" (Prov 14:27)
- "The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom, and before honor is humility." (Prov 15:33)
- "The fear of the LORD leads to life" (Prov 19:23)
- "By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches and honor and life." (Prov 22:4)
- "The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD." (Isa 11:2)
- "His delight is in the fear of the LORD" (Isa 11:3)
- "The fear of the LORD is His treasure." (Isa 33:6)

Exousia – The Indisputable Authority of Jesus and of Believers

- Christians have been given authority by Jesus, who has authority over everything. Although the world is dark and the devil is formidable, Christians should be delivering souls from darkness and Satan's authority, advancing God's kingdom, and bringing healing and freedom to humanity.
- **Jesus**
 - "And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, All authority [exousia] has been given to Me in heaven and on earth." (Matt 28:18)
 - "who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities [exousia] and powers [dunamis] having been made subject to Him." (1Pet 3:22)
 - "to God our Savior, Who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion [kratos] and power [exousia], both now and forever. Amen." (Jude 1:25)
 - "as You have given Him authority [exousia] over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him." (Jn 17:2)
 - "No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power [exousia] to lay it down, and I have power [exousia] to take it again. This command I have received from My Father." (Jn 10:18)
 - "But that you may know that the Son of Man has power [exousia] on earth to forgive sins" (Matt 9:6)
- **As Adopted Children**
 - "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right [exousia] to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." (Jn 1:12-13)
 - "Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right [exousia] to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city." (Rev 22:14)
 - "For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, Abba, Father." (Rom 8:15)
 - "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind." (2Tim 1:7)
 - "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love." (1Jn 4:18)
- **Of the Believer**
 - "Behold, I give you the authority [exousia] to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power [dunamis] of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you." (Lk 10:19)
 - "And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power [exousia] over the nations" (Rev 2:26)

- “to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power [exousia=authority] of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified [hagiazō] by faith in Me.” (Acts 26:18)
- “And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power [exousia] over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease.” (Matt 10:1)
- “Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power [dunamis] and authority [exousia] over all demons, and to cure diseases.” (Lk 9:1)
- “And He called the twelve to Himself, and began to send them out two by two, and gave them power [exousia] over unclean spirits.” (Mk 6:7)
- “For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.” (1Jn 5:4)
- “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer [tharseō], I have overcome the world.” (Jn 16:33)
- “For sin shall not have dominion [kurieuō=lordship over] over you, for you are not under law but under grace.” (Rom 6:14)
- And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.” (Rom 6:18)
- **Authority of Death**
 - “Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power [exousia], but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.” (Rev 20:6)
 - “Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power [kratos] of death, that is, the devil” (Heb 2:14)
- **Over Pilate**
 - “Then Pilate said to Him, Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power [exousia] to crucify You, and power [exousia] to release You? Jesus answered, You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above [anothen]. Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin.” (Jn 19:10-11)
- **Over the Spirit World**
 - “which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality [archē] and power [exousia] and might [dunamis] and dominion [kuriotes], and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.” (Eph 1:20-21)
 - “having disarmed [apekduomai] principalities [archē] and powers [exousia], He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing [thriambeuō] over them in it.” (Col 2:15)
 - “Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule [archē] and all authority [exousia] and power [dunamis].” (1Cor 15:24)
 - “to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities [archē] and powers [exousia] in the heavenly places” (Eph 3:10)
 - “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities [archē], against powers [exousia], against the rulers [kosmokrator] of the darkness [skotos] of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness [poneria] in the heavenly places.” (Eph 6:12)
 - “For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones [thronos] or dominions [kuriotes] or principalities [archē] or powers [exousia]. All things were created through Him and for Him.” (Col 1:16)
 - “and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality [archē] and power [exousia].” (Col 2:10)
 - “to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power [exousia=authority] of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified [hagiazō] by faith in Me.” (Acts 26:18)
 - “And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power [exousia] over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease.” (Matt 10:1)
 - “Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power [dunamis] and authority [exousia] over all demons, and to cure diseases.” (Lk 9:1)
 - “And He called the twelve to Himself, and began to send them out two by two, and gave them power [exousia] over unclean spirits.” (Mk 6:7)
 - “Behold, I give you the authority [exousia] to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power [dunamis] of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.” (Lk 10:19)
- **Laying on of hands**
 - “saying, Give me this power [exousia] also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 18:9)

- **Predestination**

- "Does not the potter have power [exousia] over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor?"

- **Governments**

- "Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities [exousia]. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority [exousia] resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority [exousia]? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same." (Rom 13:1-3)
- "Remind them to be subject to rulers [arche] and authorities [exousia], to obey [peitharcheo], to be ready for every good work" (Tit 3:1)
- "And He said to them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship [kurieuo] over them, and those who exercise authority [exousiazō] over them are called benefactors." (Lk 22:25)

- **Self-Mastery**

- "But beware lest somehow this liberty [exousia] of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak." (1Cor 8:9)
- "All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful [sumphero]. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power [exousiazō] of any." (1Cor 6:12)
- "All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful [sumphero]; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify [oikodomeo]." (1Cor 10:23)

- **Authority of Darkness**

- "He has delivered us from the power [exousia] of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love" (Col 1:13)

- **Victory of the Believer**

- "Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors [hupernikao] through Him who loved us." (Rom 8:37)
- "But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (1Cor 15:57)
- "Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place." (2Cor 2:14)
- "For whatever is born of God overcomes [nikao] the world. And this is the victory that has overcome [nikao] the world—our faith." (1Jn 5:4)
- "For He Himself has said, I will never leave you nor forsake you. So we may boldly say: The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?" (Heb 13:5,6)
- "And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom." (2Tim 4:18)
- "And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force." (Matt 11:12)
- "Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus." (Acts 4:29-30)
- "and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen." (Matt 28:20)
- "that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us" (Lk 1:71)
- "The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken in pieces; from heaven He will thunder against them." (1Sam 2:10)
- "No weapon formed against you shall prosper" (Isa 54:17)
- "The LORD shall go forth like a mighty man; He shall stir up His zeal like a man of war. He shall cry out, yes, shout aloud; He shall prevail against His enemies." (Isa 42:13)
- "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith" (1Pet 5:8,9)
- "I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the wicked one." (1Jn 2:14)
- "You who fear the LORD, trust in the LORD; He is their help and their shield." (Ps 115:11)
- "The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my shield [magen] and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold." (Ps 18:2)
- "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand." (Jn 10:28)
- "My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand." (Jn 10:29)
- "Blessed be the LORD my Rock, Who trains my hands for war, and my fingers for battle – my lovingkindness and my fortress, my high tower and my deliverer, my shield and the One in whom I take refuge" (Ps 144:1,2)
- "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens [endunamoo] me." (Phil 4:13)
- "You therefore, my son, be strong [endunamoo] in the grace [charis] that is in Christ Jesus." (2Tim 2:1)

- <https://www.mulberrytreeministries.org/the-indisputable-authority-of-jesus-and-of-believers/>

Regarding Eternal Spiritual Incentives, i.e. rewards:

- Christians Achieving Success in this world can be motivated by and compensated with rewards.
- Enduring persecution can become hopeless, and we need to know that enduring persecution will be rewarded by God.
- If we approach rewards with the wrong motivation, through discipleship and the conviction of the Holy Spirit, our motivations will change.
- Incentives and rewards have been advocated for by God.
 - "Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward [misthos] according to his own labor...If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward [misthos]. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire." (1Cor 3:8,14-15)
 - "Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward [misthos] in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you." (Matt 5:12)
 - "Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward [misthos] from your Father in heaven." (Matt 6:1)
 - "But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward [apodidomi] you openly." (Matt 6:6)
 - "And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward [misthos]." (Matt 10:42)
 - "Blessed are you when men hate you, and when they exclude you, and revile you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of Man's sake. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy! For indeed your reward [misthos] is great in heaven, for in like manner their fathers did to the prophets." (Lk 6:22-23)
 - "And he who reaps receives wages [misthos], and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together." (Jn 4:36)
 - "For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel! For if I do this willingly, I have a reward [misthos]; but if against my will, I have been entrusted with a stewardship." (1Cor 9:16-17)
 - "Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but that we may receive a full reward [misthos]." (2Jn 1:8)
 - "Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward [mishapodosia]." (Heb 10:35)
 - "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder [mishapodotes] of those who diligently seek Him." (Heb 11:6)
 - "And everyone who competes [agonizomai] for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain [lambano] a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown." (1Cor 9:25)
 - "Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified." (1Cor 9:26-27)
 - "And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules." (2Tim 2:5)
 - "The hardworking farmer must be first to partake of the crops." (2Tim 2:6)
 - "Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain [tunchano] the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory." (2Tim 2:10)
 - "But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me." (1Cor 15:10)
 - "Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Heb 12:1-2)
 - "And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward [antapodosis] of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ." (Col 3:23-24)
 - "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." (1Cor 15:58)
 - "And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart." (Gal 6:9)

- "His lord said to him, Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord." (Matt 25:21)
- "For I say to you, that to everyone who has will be given; and from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him." (Lk 19:26)
- Prize
 - "I press toward the goal for the prize [brabeion] of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." (Phil 3:14)
 - "Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize [brabeion]? Run in such a way that you may obtain [lambano] it." (1Cor 9:24)
- Jesus gives us rewards
 - "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward [misthos] is with Me, to give to every one according to his work." (Rev 22:12)
 - "For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward [apodidomi] each according to his works." (Matt 16:27)
- Rewards of humility
 - "By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches and honor and life." (Prov 22:4)
- "Crown of..." (something precious, a reward, a symbol of status and power)
 - Riches are a crown
 - "The crown of the wise is their riches" (Prov 14:24)
 - The Lord is our crown
 - "In that day the LORD of hosts will be for a crown of glory and a diadem of beauty to the remnant of His people" (Isa 28:5)
 - We are crowns of the Lord
 - "You shall also be a crown of glory in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God." (Isa 62:3)
 - Believers are a crown to pastors, evangelists, apostles
 - "For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?" (1Thes 2:19)
 - "Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved." (Phil 4:1)
 - "Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing." (2Tim 4:8)
 - "Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him." (Jm 1:12)
 - "when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away." (1Pet 5:4)
 - "Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life." (Rev 2:10)
 - "Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown." (Rev 3:11)
 - "Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads...the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne; You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created." (Rev 4:4,10-11)
- The need for Self-Examination is comparative
 - "Examine [peirazo] yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test [dokimazo] yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified." (2Cor 13:5)
 - "But let each one examine [dokimazo] his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another." (Gal 6:4)
- Faith without works is dead is comparative
 - "But someone will say, You have faith, and I have works. Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works." (Jm 2:18)
 - "But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?" (Jm 2:20)
 - "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also." (Jm 2:26)
- Rewards for communion with God: Grace, Mercy, and Help
 - "Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." (Heb 4:16)
- Eternal Abundance
 - "Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." (2Pet 1:10-11)

