

Nothing Can Succeed Against The Lord! - Zanga Schutte, November 17, 2024

2 Timothy 3:16 NIV All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

Proverbs 21:30 There is no wisdom, no insight, no plan that can succeed against the LORD.

Notes: All our preparation for any task is ultimately useless without God. But even with God's help we still must do our part and prepare. His control of the outcome does not offset our responsibilities. God will accomplish his purposes, and he will be able to use us if we have done our part by being well prepared.

Proverbs 21:31 NIV The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but victory rests with the Lord.

5 Points:

1. Be Prepared: Proverbs 24:27

Put your outdoor work in order and get your fields ready; after that, build your house.

Notes: We should carry out our work in its proper order. We can work hard and still lose everything if we disregard proper timing or if we don't have the resources to carry out our plans.

Proverbs 16:3 NIV Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.

Notes: We must maintain a delicate balance – trusting God as if everything depended on him, while working as if everything depended on us. Think of a specific effort in which you are involved right now. Have you committed it to the Lord from start to finish?

2. Count The Cost: Luke 14:28-30 NIV 28 "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? 29 For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, 30 saying, 'This person began to build and wasn't able to finish.'

Notes: When a builder doesn't count the cost or estimates it inaccurately, the building may be left uncompleted. -Will you abandon the Christian life after a little while because you did not count the cost of commitment to Jesus?

What is that cost? Christians may face loss of social status or wealth. They may have to give up control of their money, their time, or their careers. They may be hated, separated from their families, and even put to death. Following Jesus does not mean having a trouble-free life. We must carefully count the cost of becoming his disciples so that we will firmly hold to our faith and won't be tempted later to turn back.

3. Jesus Laid The Foundation: 1 Corinthians 3:10-11 NIV 10 By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. 11 For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Notes: Jesus Christ forms the foundation of the church – of all believers. Nothing and no one else will do. A building with no foundation, or one poorly constructed, will not last. A home constructed with the finest materials will quickly crumble if it is resting on unstable ground. Any building is only as solid as its foundation. Our foundation is Jesus Christ; he is our base, our reason for being. -Everything we are and do must rest on the foundation of his life and his Word. Are we building our life on the only real and lasting foundation, or are we building on a faulty foundation, such as wealth, security, success, or a human relationship? Be careful what you build on.

4. Who Am I: Matthew 16:13-19 NIV 13 When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" 14 They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

15 "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

17 Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven.

18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Notes: Just as Peter had revealed the true identity of Christ, Jesus revealed Peter's identity and role. Later, Peter would remind Christians that they are the church built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Jesus Christ as the cornerstone. All believers are joined into this church by faith in Jesus Christ as Savior, the same faith that Peter expressed here. Jesus praised Peter for his confession of faith. It is faith like Peter's that is the foundation of Christ's Kingdom.

5. Build On Solid Rock: Matthew 7:24-27 NIV 24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

Notes: The two people Jesus compares at the end of the Sermon on the Mount have several points in common: they both build, they both hear Jesus' teaching, -and they both experience the same set of circumstances in life. The difference between them isn't lack of knowledge but that one ignores Jesus' words. Externally their lives may look similar, but the lasting, structural differences will be revealed by the storms of life. When you follow Jesus, the immediate differences between your life and the lives of others may not be obvious at first, but the benefits will eventually affect your eternal destiny. Are you a wise builder, practicing the powerful teachings and promises Jesus gave in this sermon? **To build "on solid rock"** means to be a hearing, responding disciple, not a phony, superficial one. **Practicing obedience** forms the **solid foundation**, enabling us to weather the storms of life. We learn how to do this by **following God's Word as he intended.**

Romans 8:28 NIV

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Nothing Can Succeed Against The Lord! Amen and Amen