

SUCCESSFUL CHRISTIANS by Andrew Roberts

“Every person who has become successful has simply formed the habit of doing things that failures dislike doing and will not do.” – John Maxwell

What a powerful observation! And in our own experience, wouldn't we have to agree that this principle is true? Those people that succeed in business and realize their goals as professionals consistently display the discipline, commitment, loyalty and responsibility that others simply don't. The successful worker forms habits, good habits, which create a continuous higher level of performance. These people succeed.

Far be it from me to suggest that we earn our salvation or our place in Christ's kingdom. But when we struggle from weak faith or wrestle with the same sinful practices over and over again, don't we feel like we're not succeeding as Christians? When we are apathetic toward worship and Bible study or downright cold toward aspects of the Christian's work outside of the church-building, are we successful Christians? Perhaps we need to form some godly habits.

We need to form a habit toward worship (Heb.10:23-25).

Christians at the church in Jerusalem had gotten lax in meeting together for worship. And the Hebrew writer encourages them to stay in the habit of assembling together so they could encourage and stimulate each other to love and good works.

As we understand that worship glorifies God and offers spiritual renewal for the Christian participating in it, we see the importance of making it a habit to meet together and worship. Yet some struggle to make it to services on time, they straggle in late, sit in the back and often are the first to leave. They blame their kids for detaining them or the weather or alarm clocks or work or whatever. But when it is the same people week after week, one can discern what their habit is. This is not to impugn motives or suggest that some don't want to come to church however we can look at our own attendance over the last month or two and see what kind of habits we've formed toward worship.

We need to form a habit toward Bible study (2 Pet.1:3). What an amazing promise the Holy Spirit offers us through Peter when he writes that everything we need for life and godliness is in the true knowledge of Jesus Christ. Wow! And where is "true knowledge" to be found but the Bible, the inspired word of God? But how many have really developed good habits toward Bible study?

Often our only exposure to the word of God is the few scriptures quoted from the pulpit. Sound preaching is needed and healthy but it will not sustain us spiritually. The Word of God is the bread of life for our souls (John 1:1; 6:33-35). Now if we only ate once a week we'd be some skinny, weak little people. We'd be malnourished. Yet we'll starve our souls by withholding precious spiritual nourishment for weeks at a time. We need to get in the habit of Bible study.

We need to form a habit toward prayer (Phil.4:6-7; 1 Thess.5:17-18; Heb. 4:15-16; Jas.1:5-8). Does God recognize our voice or would he have to think for a second because He hasn't heard it in so long? Does God only hear

from us when we're in trouble? The Bible speaks about the need for us to get in the habit of praying to God. When we are anxious or worried about jobs, family, sickness, anything... we need to pray about it. There is peace for those who will pray. We need to pray constantly in times of feast and famine. It should be our habit. When we face temptation we need to pray about it. Jesus has faced it too and He will give us grace in the time of our need. And when we need wisdom, we need to pray for it. God gives liberally to those that ask, but we must ask!

We can look forward to feelings of success and victory over feelings of failure or frustration when we form habits of Christian devotion in our lives.