
Series: Planning for REAL Success

Proverbs 16:3 (NIV)

*Commit to the Lord whatever you do,
and your plans will succeed.*

R-emembering My Priorities

E-valuating My Possessions

A-dmitting My Problems

L-iving Out My Purpose

Admitting My Problems

2 Corinthians 4:7-18 (NIV)

But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. ⁸We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. ¹⁰We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. ¹¹For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may be revealed in our mortal body. ¹²So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.

¹³It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak, ¹⁴because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you in his presence. ¹⁵All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.

¹⁶Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

When I admit my problems I:

- 1. ACKNOWLEDGE THAT GOD'S PLAN FOR ME IS GREATER THAN MY PROBLEMS. V. 7**
 - God knows about our frailties, but still wants to use us.
 - God put the light in cracked vessels to let the light shine through.
 - Everyone can see that it's God's power, not ours.
- 2. RECOGNIZE GOD IS WORKING RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF MY TROUBLES. V. 8-10**
 - We are:
 - Pressed but not crushed
 - Perplexed but we don't give up.
 - Persecuted but not abandoned
 - Pummeled but we keep getting up.
 - Troubles allow us to experience temporal death in order to have eternal life.
- 3. OPEN THE DOOR TO SUCCESS BY PERSISTENT FAITH IN THE ONE WHO WAS VICTORIOUS. V. 16-18**
 - We may lose some battles but we will win the war.
 - Our present troubles won't last, but they produce a glory that last's forever.
 - Success comes by focusing beyond our troubles toward victory in Christ Jesus.

Even though my problems are real, success comes when I am available to be used by God.