

# CHARACTER AND SUCCESS

Sylvester Onyemalechi

Success in life is the pursuit of every man with a vision in life. It takes a lot to be successful. Many are willing to give it all it takes to be successful, while some are not willing to give it their best shot. Many in the pursuit of success have done some unthinkable and unclean things to attain success. Integrity is forgotten because success must be attained by all means.

Many as it were have slapped God in the face to attain success. They have forgotten their creator and maker because of success. Some have backslidden from the faith and done things that they were not expected to do as Christians because they want to be successful in life. **Success that cost one his salvation is suicide.** Success is worthy of pursuit but not at the expense of one's relationship with his Creator and Saviour.

Many businesses closed up, many dreams shattered, many hopes dashed, and many shamed and disgraced because of manifestation of evil character in their lives. King Solomon failed and lost all his honour in the sight of God because his insatiable desire for women led to his backsliding toward his later years. His success made it possible for him to afford 700 wives and 300 concubines against God's law that Israel's kings should not marry many wives, and Israeli's should not marry outside Israel. Samson lost his glory, power and dignity, and was humiliated by the Philistines by gouging out his eyes and making him to grind at the mill because of his immoral life with Delilah. King David suffered humiliation in the hands of his own son, ran from Israel for his life, had his 10 concubines defiled by his son Absalom because of his lust for women. Evil character can ruin an entire life achievement. Integrity is very important to all that intend to succeed and remain a success.

## 31 FACTS YOU MUST KNOW ABOUT SUCCESS

1. God is a God of success. He is successful in all He does and teaches man to be successful in all his endeavours.
2. God is not against being successful in life.
3. To pursue success in life is not a sin or a sign of worldliness.
4. To pursue success at the detriment of one's salvation is not good but evil.
5. Success is a sign of growth, commitment to what has been learnt and wisdom.
6. Fools never succeed.
7. Success requires your best ideas, skills, ability and strength.
8. Success and failure are functions of the mind.
9. It takes resourceful thinking to formulate ideas and plans that will make for success.
10. Creative thinking creates success.
11. Enthusiasm is the lubricant of the engine of success.
12. It takes positive thinking to take positive steps that will lead to success.
13. Those who look up to God in faith and in prayer always succeed.
14. Success is the heritage of the believer in Christ. (Deuteronomy 28:8; 2 Corinthians 2:14)
15. It takes determination to succeed. Those who refuse to give up always make it to the top.
16. It takes strong faith in God, your vision and in yourself to succeed.
17. The faithful application of the principles of God's word for success makes success happen.

18. Success makes a man's face to shine.
19. Success can make a man to come closer to God and can take a man away from God.
20. Your present level of success can become an enemy and stop you from moving forward, for it will make you think that you have arrived.
21. The danger of success is that it can make one proud and arrogant, and this will lead to a fall and destruction. (Proverbs. 16:18; 29:23)
22. Success can enhance your relationships or alienate you from people who love you and have been around you and a blessing to you before the success came.
23. Success is good but can become a tool for a man's downfall in the hands of the devil.
24. You cannot succeed alone. You need people to succeed.
25. Time management is essential to success.
26. You need management skills to have success.
27. The pursuit of divine purpose leads to success.
28. You can only succeed in the area of your call and gifting.
29. It takes focus to make it in life. Broken focus is the real reason why men fail.
30. A positive mental attitude is a criterion for success.
31. There is no substitute to information in the school of success.

#### **28 FACTS YOU MUST KNOW ABOUT CHARACTER**

1. There are places only a good character can take you in and to, and nothing else will.
2. An evil character will always close a door that God opened to help you succeed.
3. Evil character is an excess luggage on your life that will make progress very slow and sometimes non-existent.
4. The real reason why a lot of people have problem in their place of work is their character. Gossip, rudeness, anger, quarrelling, use of abusive language, dirtiness, lateness to work, immoral behaviour, disrespect for authority, etc. are character problems that create problems at the place of work.
5. Many unexplainable problems of hard workers are traceable to their character.
6. The weakness or evil character you fail to destroy will eventually destroy you and all you have laboured for.
7. The evil character you are willing to deal with in your life determines what God will bring to you.
8. You cannot correct what you are unwilling to confront.
9. Until you get angry at the evil character in your life, you cannot fight it not to talk of overcoming it.
10. What you can tolerate you cannot change.
11. Every relationship in your life will feed a weakness or strength in your life.
12. Wrong people breathe life into what God is trying to kill in you. Be careful of the company you keep.
13. A life's accomplishment can be lost by one display of a negative character.
14. It is not easy to build, but very easy to destroy.
15. Many people get hurt each time you manifest an evil character.
16. A weakness can blind your eyes such that you cannot see a pitfall that is before you that God is interested in showing you to save you from calamity.

17. When you fail to recognize your limitations, you overstep your boundary and run into trouble. God struck King Uzziah with leprosy because he overstepped his boundary and wanted to perform the duty of a priest in the temple (2 Chronicles 26:16-21). What is missing in you is in another. You don't know all things, and cannot do all things.
18. Destruction awaits the man who refuses to correct the wrongs in his life (Proverbs 13:13,18; 15:10; 29:1).
19. A man who gains success or wealth by deceit will come to destruction (Proverbs 20:17; 21:6).
20. Your sins will always find you out (Numbers 32:23).
21. Success gives you a name. Good character gives you a good name.

*Prov 22:1*

*22:1 A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold.*

*KJV*

22. A man or woman of noble character will always be sought after. (Isaiah 62:12; Proverbs 31:10)
23. People place their confidence on a man or woman of noble character. They want to do business with such a person because they know he will not disappoint.
24. A man of good character is always respected honoured and spoken good of.
25. People welcome and fellowship easily with a man of good character. There is something about them that attracts and make people at peace in their presence.
26. The words and counsel of people of good character are cherished and received with joy (Proverbs 31:26; Job 29:7-25).
27. God makes the enemies of the one whose lifestyle pleases Him to be at peace with him. (Proverbs 16:7)
28. Endless promotions await the man whose life is lived in accordance with the principles of God.

*Luke 16:10*

*10 He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.*

*KJV*

### **RECOGNIZE YOUR DOMINANT WEAKNESS**

Every human has one weakness or the other. And God knows that and bears with our weaknesses.

*Ps 78:39*

*39 For he remembered that they were but flesh; a wind that passeth away, and cometh not again.*

*KJV*

One weakness can destroy you. Your refusal to recognize it guarantees your destruction. Recognition of your dominant weakness can save you a thousand nights of tears, failures and devastation.

Little weakness if permitted with time can become big and ruin a man and all he has laboured for. Greed, lust, lying, prayerlessness, anger, rudeness and even gossip can grow until that weakness becomes a raging inferno.

You cannot afford to ignore your dominant weakness. Your weakness is like a living person within you. It is like a living organism. It is a force, silent and deadly, that moves your life toward destruction. If ignored, it will wreck every dream, sabotage every worthy relationship and ultimately make you a monument of disgrace on earth.

Your success, relevance and future lies with what you do with the weaknesses in your life today.

### **18 FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT YOUR WEAKNESS.**

**1. Everyone has a weakness.** That includes you.

*Rom 3:23*

*23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*

*KJV*

Abraham, Moses, Kings David and Solomon, the Apostles all had their weaknesses. You too have your own. The earlier you recognize it the better for you.

**2. Your heavenly Father is fully aware of your personal weakness.**

*Ps 78:39*

*39 For he remembered that they were but flesh; a wind that passeth away, and cometh not again.*

*KJV*

**3. Your weakness is the entry point for demonic spirits.**

It was greed in the life of Judas Iscariot that opened the door for Satan to enter his life and betray Jesus his master. (John 13:26-27)

**4. God will make every effort to reveal your weakness to you before it destroys you.**

*Luke 22:31*

*31 And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:*

*KJV*

**5. Someone will be assigned by the devil to feed and strengthen your weakness.**

In the case of Samson, Delilah was assigned to him. (Judges 16:4,5)

**6. Your weakness will pursue, embrace and seize any friendship that permits it, feeds on it and enjoys it.**

Have you not noticed that you are more at peace with those who approve and tolerate the evils in your life.

**7. Your weakness has an agenda, a plan to take over your life and sabotage it.**

The end result of every evil desire and character is your ruin and destruction.

*James 1:15*

*15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.*

*KJV*

**8. Your weakness will bond you with wrong people.**

Samson was bonded to Delilah so much so that he didn't think it right to separate from her when it was obvious she was seeking to know the source of his strength by all means to destroy him. (Judges 16:4-20)

**9. Your weakness will separate you from right people.**

Your weakness makes you uncomfortable in the presence of those who refuse to justify it. Adam and Eve were cut off from the sweet fellowship of the Lord God. (Genesis 3:8)

**10. Your weakness can emerge at any time in your life, including your closing years.**

Dr. Summral said, "What you fail to master in your early years will master you in your later years."

**11. Your weakness cannot be overcome with human effort, philosophy, explanations and self-will power.**

Only Jesus Christ through the ministry of the Holy Spirit can help. Look up to God for deliverance from that evil habit. Call on him now.

*Rom 10:13*

*13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*

*KJV*

**12. Your weakness does not necessarily require a personal confession to everybody or anybody, but recognition of it in the presence of God. (Psalm 34:18; James 5:16)**

**13. The easiest time to destroy your weakness is at its beginning stages.**

If you allow a weakness to develop and gain grounds in your life, it will become much more difficult to overcome. But if you attend to it the very moment you notice it manifesting in your life, then you will overcome with ease.

**14. God will permit you to enjoy many victories even while your weakness is operating within you.**

That God answers your prayers and meets your needs does not mean he approves everything you think, say and do. Many have been deceived to think that God approves of all they do because He is blessing them. Read Matthew 7:21-23.

**15. Those you love are waiting in the shadows for you to overcome and triumph over your weakness.**

When your weakness is in manifestation, people hurt. They look forward to the day that you will change and turn a new leaf. Bear this in mind always.

**16. You are only enslaved by what you permit.**

*Rom 6:16*

*16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?*

*KJV*

Your thoughts give birth to your actions, you're repeated actions become your habit, and your habit with time becomes your character. And your character will either make you or mar you. Watch what you permit in your life.

**17. Your weakness can only be overcome by the word of God.**

*John 8:32*

*32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*

*KJV*

It takes the knowledge of God's Word to be free. Faith in the Word, and faithful application of the Word of God will bring complete deliverance in your area of weakness. Give yourself to studying and meditation on the Word of God, and you will be free.

**18. Overcoming your weakness will bring you an incredible reward for eternity.** When a man is really free, his joy will know no bounds. It is good to be free. Jesus came to set us free. Let him do it in your life and you will be really happy. Living clean is the best in life. Pursue it with all vigour.

### CONCLUSION

If you will pursue character with the same determination with which you pursue success, you will not only be a happy man, but also have *enduring success*. If you will give yourself to improving yourself, you will celebrate, and your celebration of success will not be cut short, or will your promotion be delayed or denied. Good character guarantees the success you are looking for. Pursue it with the same zeal that you use in pursuing success and you will find what you are looking for.

### SUCCESS TIT-BITS

- 1. What you do not desire, you will never have.**
- 2. What you do not desire, you will never pursue.**
- 3. What you do not desire, you will never accomplish or achieve.**
- 4. What you do not desire, you will never appreciate.**
- 5. And what you do not place value on, you will never desire.**
- 6. Desire is a product of the value we place on a thing or person.**
- 7. What you do not desire, you will not have energy and zeal to pursue and possess.**
- 8. Strong desire fires a man up to action. It is the motivating force that drives a man to pursue and achieve his dream.**

9. A burning desire to be and to do is the starting point from which the dreamer must take off. Dreams are not born of indifference laziness, or lack of ambition - it is born out of a strong desire.
10. Desire is a living force that can trigger a man's brain to create ideas by which the desired can be actualized.
11. The desire for achievement and for possessing a particular thing causes a man to be persistent, hoping and believing for its actualization in the midst of stiff opposition and challenges.
12. Strong desire causes one not to give up. Those with strong desire for the actualization of their dream don't quit. They stay on, hang on, fight and win.
13. A man full of strong desire for accomplishment always encourages himself in the Lord; while he doubts his doubts and believes that "*all things are possible to him that believes*" (Mk. 9:23), and that he can "*do all things through Christ that strengthens him*" (Phil. 4:13).
14. A man with strong desire is a self-motivator.
15. Strong desire is an action motivator.
16. Strong desire keeps dreams alive. It charges, energizes, propels and pushes a man to go and go and go till it is a reality. Develop strong desire for the accomplishment of your dreams.

## **WISDOM FOR ASSOCIATION**

- 1 Life is a collection of relationships.
- 2 Everyone we associate with impacts us one way or the other.
- 3 Every relationship in your life will either be a positive influence on you, or a negative influence.
- 4 Your life is a sum total of the people you move with.
- 5 Your vision in life determines whom you relate with.
- 6 When vision changes, relationships changes.
- 7 Stay away from people who have no positive contribution to make in your life.
- 8 Follow people who have vision and you will develop one.
- 9 Bring God into your relationships or you will regret.
- 10 Let the laws and principles of God guide your relationships or you will have a sad story to tell.
- 11 Ungodly relationship will always lead to ungodly acts.
- 12 Assess every relationship from time to time to know the one that is still necessary, and what shape it will take.

## **RENEWING THE MIND**

1. With creative thinking, every condition can change for the better.
2. With creative thinking, advancement and prosperity is inevitable – it is a must.
3. Great thinkers are great achievers.
4. Every time there is a problem put the brain to work.
5. Our brains become magnetized with the dominating thoughts which we hold in our minds, and by means with which no man is familiar, these “magnets” attract to us

**the forces, the people, and the circumstances of life which harmonize with the nature of our dominating thought.**

- 6. It is said that man can create anything he imagines. Whatever the mind of man can imagine, or conceive and believe, it can actualize. So, don't throw away that idea that is forming in your mind.**
- 7. A healthy thought life is necessary for the mind to be creative. Evil thoughts hinder the mind from being creative.**
- 8. The pursuit of excellence causes a man to think creatively. There is nothing in its finished stage. There is always room for improvement. The desire to improve on your achievements will make you think creatively.**
- 9. The drive to be ahead of others makes a man to think creatively.**
- 10. The desire to remain relevant makes a man to think creatively. When there is nothing at stake, you are not challenged or propelled to think. Creative thinking is the answer to the problems of life.**
- 11. The desire to make a name or be famous makes a man to tax his brain and produce great products.**