

Slow Down Spirituality | Part 3 | The Process of Success

Key Point: Success is not primarily in physical speed or palace destinations but in the validity of the process and the persons with you.

ONLINE RECORDING

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21 Days of Prayer

- Date/Time: Jan. 10th - 28th 2022 | M-F | 7-8 am est
- Location: Zoom: your computer from wherever you are
- **Meeting ID: 830 9349 2677**
- **Passcode: element**
- Short invite link: <https://bit.ly/3EUUM0U>

GIVING TIME:

- **4 WAYS TO GIVE**
- ONLINE: <https://theelement.churchcenter.com/give>
- APP: Give Tile
- TEXT: Text an “amount” to 84321
- MAIL: PO Box 52 East Lansing MI 48826

TODAY: Part 3 of Series: Slow Down Spirituality

ILL. Cars: Speed Bumps & Vehicle Speed

- Hit a speed bump at 50 = through the roof, destroys car
- Hit a speed bump at 5 = an easy blip, car continues
- Going slower = going faster/more effective

More than cars. Spiritual reality for experiencing life...

ILL. Morning Routine: Slow down at the glass door (see pt. 1)

Slowing down goes against our cultural conditioning

“Hurry is the great enemy of spiritual life in our day.” - Dallas Willard

"Hurry Sickness": consider the following possible symptoms. Which one do you identify with most and why?

HOW ALWAYS BEING IN A HURRY HURTS YOU

- **HURRY increases my stress:**
 - “I had no time to care for myself . . .” Song of Solomon 1:6 (TEV)
- **HURRY decreases my joy:**
 - “My days go by faster than a runner; they fly away without my seeing any joy.” Job 9:25 (NCV)
- **HURRY makes me less productive:**
 - “A person in a hurry makes mistakes.” Proverbs 19:2b (GW)
 - “Careful planning puts you ahead in the long run; hurry and scurry puts you further behind.” Proverbs 21:5 (MSG)
- **HURRY keeps me from hearing God:**
 - “Be still, and know that I am God.” Psalm 46:10 (NIV)

PART 3: The Process of Success

How do you define success?

- Often we don't so we fall into the world's definitions...

Speed?

- Go getters/Self Starters
- Highest Achievers
- The world likes up and the right growth.
- ILL. Climbing a ladder leaned on the wrong building
- ILL. LA Smog Skyline cleaner during corona virus
- ILL. Bible Fruitful
- ILL. Endurance in the expectation of good

Galatians 6:9 - Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

“Progress means getting nearer to the place you want to be. And if you have taken a wrong turn, then to go forward does not get you any nearer. If you are on the wrong road, progress means doing an about-turn and walking back to the right road; and in that case the man who turns back soonest is the most progressive man.” — **C.S. Lewis**

CS Lewis helps us see speed isn't always the answer, but “getting nearer the place you want to be”...

“Getting nearer the place you want to be?” as a good definition?

- Depends on where you want to be?

P. Scott I want to be rich - in a palace.

- Destination
- Title
- Achievement

Palace?

a grand residence, especially a royal residence or the home of a head of state or some other high-ranking dignitary.

We are all traveling or journeying to a grand destination

(at least we hope so)

happiness - success - love - joy - peace

In our own way - we all want to “get to the palace”

But I watch so many people who are “careening toward a palace” and there is a crash...

- they don't make it - lose their way (they stop the journey)
- they make it but they do so unhealthy (the journey stops them)
- they make it and don't like the palace once they are there! (the journey ends in a poor place)

ILL. Joseph in the Bible

- Dreams
- Pit
- Potipher
- Prison
- Palace
- Challenge

We still all want to get to the Palace (in one piece):

How do we get there?

How do we get there healthy?

How do we make sure once there we like what we have?

We need to commitment to Process of Success

- Not necessarily fast (although in seasons can be)
- Needs a valid destination
- A few other things I want to share with you

Success is not primarily measured in physical speed or palace destinations but in the validity of the process and the people accompanying you.

Success isn't measured in speed

Success isn't measured in earthly palaces

Success is measured within the validity of the process

Success is measured within the people accompanying you

#1: Success is not primarily measured in speed

Hebrews 12:1

1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us...

God has a race marked out for us. It is good.

"Nothing that tastes good comes out of a microwave" - Scott Hayes

Good Food takes time.

So does success

You aren't going to get anywhere worth getting quickly.
Success isn't measured by speed

EXODUS 23: 29-30

29 But I will not drive them out in a single year, because the land would become desolate and the wild animals too numerous for you. 30 Little by little I will drive them out before you, until you have increased enough to take possession of the land.

Paraphrase: "I will not drive out your enemies in a single year... I will drive them out little by little so you may develop and increase in your numbers and capacity to manage the land as you take possession of the land little by little."

Success wasn't having all of the land in one year

wild animals taking over the land wasn't a win!

GOD GAVE THEM A SLOWER PROCESS
BECAUSE IT EQUIPPED THEM FOR
THE PLACE HE WAS TAKING THEM INTO

The problem you are facing is very likely the developmental doorway to where you want to go.

If you rush past it, you won't get there
FACE WHAT YOU FEAR

The process IS God's gift as much as the Palace is God's gift

James 1: 2-4

2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters whenever you face trials of many kinds, **3** because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. **4** Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

ELEMENT CHURCH - I AM SOOOOO PROUD OF YOU!!

ILL. Saguaro Cactus (Su-wa-rho)

The saguaro cactus grows as a column at a very slow rate, with all growth occurring at the tip, or top of the cactus. It can **take 10 years** for a saguaro cactus to reach 1 inch in height. By 70 years of age, a saguaro cactus can reach 6 and a half feet tall, and will finally start to

produce their first flowers. First arm at 75-100 years of age. Its been learning how to preserve water and sustain the growth in a desert environment.

Culture tells us success looks like “above ground growth”.

- Take the shortcut
- Nobody is watching
- Get yours - you only go around once
- Get popularity & promotion

The Bible says we should focus on “foundation growth”.

- Don't cut corners - it is a marathon
- Your heart knows right & wrong - do it right
- God looks out for us - serve & bless & trust God to meet us
- Get character

ILL. Jesus

30 years in foundational growth/development, in relative obscurity, changed the history of the known world in 3 years.

Success is not always measured by speed...

#2: Success is measured by the validity of the Process/Destination

Let's make sure the PALACE we show up at,
is one worthy of our journey.

Scott, what is my purpose. What should I be doing?

ILL. Wagon & the Scrapyard: Life is like walking through a Scrap Yard. People will wander through the yard and find shiny and new things that look great, “how did someone throw this away?, I will pick this up” and they get to the end with a gathering of cool, newer, shiny stuff. However, if someone at the beginning of the scrap yard trip said, “Here is your objective, on your journey through this yard, build a wagon”. You start to look for different stuff. Instead of getting excited about a newer, working TV, you dance and rejoice over a well worn, possibly traction- less, wagon wheel. You cheer while finding a small axle with pins in the ends.

The objective of building a wagon tells you what to pick up and what to lay down on the journey.

WHAT TO SAY YES AND NO TO.

I am not talking about WHAT JOB YOU SHOULD WORK.
(That isn't purpose. That is a goal).

I am talking about WHY YOU WORK at all. WHY you wake up.

Purpose Driven Excerpt

It is impossible to do everything people want you to do. You have just enough time to do God's will. If you can't get it all done, it means you're trying to do more than God intended you to do (or, possibly, you're watching too much television). - P.31 Rick Warren - Purpose Driven Life

What is the Wagon? that informs the WHY & WHAT through the scrapyard?

THE WESTMINSTER SHORTER CATECHISM

Q. 1. What is the chief end of man?

A. Man's chief end is to glorify God, [a] and to enjoy him for ever. [b]

[a]. [Ps. 86:9](#); [Isa. 60:21](#); [Rom. 11:36](#); [1 Cor. 6:20](#); [10:31](#); Rev. 4:11

[b]. [Ps. 16:5-11](#); [144:15](#); [Isa. 12:2](#); [Luke 2:10](#); [Phil. 4:4](#); Rev. 21:3-4

To glorify God and enjoy him Forever

To enjoy Jesus Christ, worship Him & help others encounter Him

Everyone is in ministry

Q: What do you need to pick up & what do you need to put down?

Success is not measured by speed, but the validity of the process...

#3: Success is measured by the people with you along the way

SUCCESS IS NOT MEASURED BY WHERE YOU ARE IN THE PROCESS, BUT BY WHO YOU ARE WITH WHILE IN IT!

Joseph (Return):

Genesis 39:2 ESV

"The LORD was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, and he was in the house of his Egyptian master."

Genesis 39:21 NIV

"the LORD was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden."

To the physical eye – NOTHING GOOD GOING ON HERE!

He is a slave.

- He faced the test of rejection from his brothers.
- Test of humiliation when he was sold into Egypt as a slave.
- Test of sexual temptation when Potiphar's wife tried to seduce him.
- Test of being falsely accused.
- Test of suffering innocently as he was thrown into prison.
- Test of depression when the man to whom he had brought comfort conveniently forgot him for two years.
- Test of forgiveness & grace toward his brothers
- Test of prosperity

**Joseph was on a serious & slow process
But God was with Him...**

**SO THE ENTIRE TIME -
JOSEPH WAS SUCCESSFUL**

In rejection - Joseph was successful

In false accusation - Joseph was successful

In trial, tribulation, in suffering, in failure

In prison - Joseph was successful

Because God was with Him...

His Palace was to help lead the most powerful nation in the world & save the lives of millions including his own family.

1.) It didn't always look fast:

but it didn't have to - Work was taking place in the unseen

2.) The destination was valid:

it served God's purposes & helped others

3.) The company was right:

Joseph was a successful man because God was with Him

Joseph was a man, who made an commitment to a worthy process, with the right company

Hebrews 12

1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, **2 fixing our eyes on Jesus**, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. **3** Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, **so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.**

Jesus is with us

What do we need to pick up & lay down?

Develop in the right places - Saguaro Cactus

God as the companion

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