

## “Conditions For Success”

**Text: Joshua 1:1-9**

### Introduction:

- ◆ May I begin by saying that there is a plethora of self-help books and seminars on “*How to Be Successful or How to Have Success.*”
- ◆ I have read several of those myself and still like to read things on *positive thinking* and *behavior*.
- ◆ God knows we have enough *negativity* all around us these days!

[**Illus**] One recurring theme that I hear is that you have been “*conditioned for failure*” so also must you “*condition yourself to succeed.*”

I want to use the same word “*condition*” but in a little different context:

**Condition** [former use]: *vb.* To adapt, modify, or mold to conform to an enviroing culture.

**Condition** [latter use]: *n.* a premise upon which the fulfillment of an agreement depends: stipulation; prerequisite.

The “key condition” is “understanding!”

### **Ephesians 5:17 (KJV)**

<sup>17</sup> Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord *is*.

Now let’s notice the “**Conditions for Success**” outlined for us in this first chapter; the first few verses:

#### **I. Understanding God’s Purpose—V.2**

- ◆ God has a “purpose” in everything:
  - A. Death of Moses
  - B. Delay of Entering the Land
  - C. Development of Joshua

### **Romans 8:28**

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

[**Illus**] Lord Radstock was staying in a hotel in Norway in the mid-nineteenth century. He heard a little child playing on the piano downstairs in the hallway. She was making a terrible noise: “*Plink...plonk...plink...*”

It was driving him mad! A man came and sat beside her and began playing alongside her, filling in the gaps. The result was the most beautiful music.

He later discovered that the man playing alongside was the girl’s father, Alexander Borodin, composer of the opera “*Prince Igor.*”

God calls you into a relationship that involves cooperation with Him! The Christian faith is primarily about what has been done for you by God in Christ.

However, we are not mere spectators. You are called to respond. God involves you in His plans.

God comes and sits alongside you and “in all things...works for the good” (Romans 8:28).

He takes our “*plink...plonk...plink*” and makes something beautiful out of our lives!

#### **II. Understanding God’s Promise—Vv. 3-4**

- ◆ (3 promises: **Vv. 3, 5, 9**)

### **Joshua 1:3**

Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses.

### Joshua 1:5

There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, *so* I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

### Joshua 1:9

Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God *is* with thee whithersoever thou goest.

CF:

### Psalm 84:11-12

For the LORD God *is* a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good *thing* will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.  
12O LORD of hosts, blessed *is* the man that trusteth in thee.

### Matthew 6:33

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

### Philip. 4:19

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

## III. Understanding God's Presence—V. 5

- ◆ Note: “as” / “so” CF: Matt. 8:13
- ◆ Notice the words “I will not fail thee...”

CF:

### Deut. 31:6

Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he *it is* that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

### Psalm 139:7-8

Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? 8If I ascend up into heaven, thou *art* there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou *art there*.

## IV. Understanding God's Power—V. 6

- ◆ Note: “be strong”

CF:

### Romans 8:31

What shall we then say to these things? If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us?

### Philip. 4:13

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

## V. Understanding God's Program—V. 7

- ◆ “That thou mayest observe to do...”
- ◆ “...Turn not from it.”

## VI. Understanding God's Precepts—V. 8

- ◆ “This book of the Law...”

## **Conclusion:**

- ◆ God wants to bless you and for you to show the world His Eternal goodness and faithfulness.
- ◆ You can only be successful when you meet the “conditions” set forth for Joshua here and I believe, good advice for all who will read.
- ◆ The Bible is the greatest self-help book you will ever read!

See **Verse 9:**

### **Joshua 1:9**

Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God *is* with thee whithersoever thou goest.

## **Invitation:**

- ◆ Is God with you? Is He blessing you and your life?
- ◆ If you are saved and obedient, He certainly is!
- ◆ If you are not saved...He's Not ~ Not Obedient...He's not as full and leading the way as He could be!

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\*Prayerfully written, prepared, and preached by B. Beach 19 April 1998 @ TBC-P.M.

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