

Watch Out! Success Ahead

Word

Scripture Reference

1 Corinthians 10:12; Nehemiah 6:15-19

Discussion Questions

1. What would you consider to be your biggest success in life? What is your formula or recipe for success?
2. The book of Nehemiah mainly accounts for the rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. According to Nehemiah 6:15-16, how long did it take for them to rebuild their walls? What did their enemies realize as Nehemiah and the people completed their rebuilding project? How do you think did the people perceive Nehemiah's success with God as part of that?
3. Read Nehemiah 6:17-19. What were some of the challenges that Nehemiah encountered as they have finished rebuilding their walls? How do some people tend to act in response to our success?
4. Just when we think we are secured and successful, it is also a time when we need to be careful of the potential dangers that may come with our success. The first danger that we need to watch out is CARELESSNESS. What do people often like to do after an accomplishment? What are some factors that cause us to be careless whenever we have achieved some success? How can we prevent ourselves from the danger of carelessness in the midst of success?
5. The second danger that we need to watch out is the danger of PRIDE. Most of the time, people will recognize us for our achievements when we have succeeded in some form. What is often the temptation when people acknowledge or praise us for

our success? How does pride tend to creep into our thinking or attitudes when we achieve success? To whom or what do people often attribute success? What makes it challenging to fight against pride? How can we direct people to give God the credit in our successes?

6. The third danger that we need to watch out is the danger of COMPLACENCY. There is a difference between being careless and caring less. How can success cause us to become complacent? What assumptions do we tend to think or believe when we have achieved success? What are some warning signs that we are being complacent? What are some ways we can cultivate to avoid complacency?

Walk

Someone said that "Achieving success is hard; staying successful is even harder." Sometimes, the biggest obstacle to keeping our success is when we become too confident in and of ourselves. Success is a good thing, but it is not an end in itself and it does not stay as it is when we are not careful. More so, success do not bring lasting security and we cannot rely our confidence in it. Rather it is when we acknowledge and rely on God who is the ultimate source of all success, that is where we find true security and confidence. As 1 Corinthians 10:12 (MSG) reminds us, "*Do not be so naïve and self-confident. You're not exempt. You could fall flat on your face as easily as anyone else. Forget about self-confidence. Cultivate God-confidence.*"

Worship & Prayer

Our gracious and loving Heavenly Father, thank You for being the God in whom we can establish our confidence knowing that there is no success apart from You! Help us O God to cultivate a heart that continues to seek You in the midst of all the success that you allow and bestow upon our lives. Remind us to be careful in our ways, not to be prideful in the things you allow us to accomplish, and to guard ourselves from being complacent. May our successes give honor to You alone and the people around us realize that You are the ultimate source of our success. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.