

2. *Obey God's Word in all things.*

“Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. This Book of the Law [His Holy Word] shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success” (Jos.1:7-8, ESV).

“Therefore keep the words of this covenant and do them, that you may prosper in all that you do” (Dt.29:9, ESV).

God's promise is clear: the results of obeying His Word are prosperity and success. Therefore, the most important thing you can do to ensure your success is to make God's Word the basis or the manual for your life and your business or job. You will be successful, first, because the Lord will bless you for being obedient to Him. God's favor will be on you. He will lay His hand on you and your company, exercising His unlimited power in your behalf. In other words, you will have the full force of God's favor behind you, on your company's or job's journey to success.

You will also be successful for a second reason, one that is entirely practical: God's principles *work*. His principles for life and business are powerfully effective. When you follow God's commandments, you will see positive results. For example...

- when you treat your employees as God instructs, you will develop and retain individuals who are diligent, productive, loyal, and dedicated
- when you follow God's principles for managing your finances, such as limiting debt and building reserves, you will survive recessions and economic downturns
- when your customers, vendors, and suppliers experience your integrity in action, they will want to do even more business with you

God commanded Joshua to obey everything that Moses had written, all of God's Holy Word at that time. He has also commanded you to obey all the instructions of His Word, both in your life and in your work. Note exactly what God tells you to do with His Holy Word:

- Obey *all* of God's law—keep *all* of His commandments (v.7; also see Jn.4:21, Jas.1:25)
- Do not turn away from God's Word (v.7)
- Never stop sharing God's law or Word (v.8)
- Meditate on God's Word day and night (v.8)

Without question, obeying God is not always easy. We all know this. This is why the Lord calls you to be strong and courageous. He knows that adhering to His Word will force you to make difficult choices and take bold stands. In all probability, some people will despise and mock you and make false accusations against you *because* of your Christian stand. Some may even refuse to do business with you. Others may pressure you to compromise your convictions. Consultants and experts might give you advice that is contrary to God's principles. If you are in a retail business, you will have to decide whether or not you will sell certain products, products that are profitable but also detrimental to those who purchase them (for example, alcohol, tobacco products, or pornography). At times, you will have to act according to faith rather than according to details, data, and trends.

Knowing this, when the pressure is mounting not to follow God's Word in some area of life or business, you should cling to God's promise. You should believe that He will keep His Word. Indeed, if you will obey His commandments and operate by the principles of His Word, you will flourish and be successful. This is God's promise to you. He will bless and honor your commitment to Him. But note: this promise is given only to those who obey God faithfully and who truly trust in His Word in all areas of life and business.