

to find out the truth and allowing the truth God reveals to be the ultimate authority in your life!

You must not sell the truth. It is not just that you must believe the truth so as to buy it at one point in your life. Rather, you must then refuse to sell it for anything or anybody (Proverbs 23:23)! So, even when buying the truth is difficult and results in great hardships for your life, you must not change the truth to fit whatever suits you better (Galatians 1:6-9). For example, the rich man in Matthew 19:16-22 did this very thing. He bought much of the truth. However, he did not like the truth about selling his possessions – and he sold that truth. As a result, he will miss out on Heaven (unless he changed at some point during his life). Sadly, there are many who will sell God’s inconvenient truths for things that fit their beliefs, opinions, desires, and lifestyles better and are like those Paul warned about in 2 Timothy 4:3-4.

You must follow the truth. The truth cannot be just a mental exercise of gaining the right knowledge. Instead, two passages give images of the person who gains the right knowledge of truth from God and then fails to act in obedience to it. The first is in Matthew 7:24-27. Jesus compares such a one to a person who builds a house on sand and then collapses (in contrast with one built on the rock and survives). The second is in James 1:22-25. James compares such a one to a person who looks at himself in a mirror and does nothing to fix the problems he/she sees in the mirror. So, you must buy the truth and not sell it so completely that you let the truth completely direct how you live in every respect!

Conclusion

To develop Godfidence and really see yourself as God sees you, you must know your goal. And, to know your goal, you must know your definition of success and your standard. The deeper you can appreciate each of these points, the deeper you will understand your goal. For, your goal is not based on the things of this world, but in the fact that God has given you something much greater that is waiting for you and has given you a standard to use to navigate you in the right direction!



The third step we will consider in developing Godfidence is to know your goal. For, where you are striving to go and what you are hoping to achieve in your life is crucial to how you live and how you see yourself. Sadly, many fail to have the proper grasp of a goal that actually is worth pursuing. Ultimately, there are two ways for you to know your true goal. These are to know your definition of success and to know your standard. Without these, you really cannot have a true grasp of your goal. But, with a proper understanding of these, you will unlock the deepest sense of pursuing your goal possible!

The purpose of this lesson is to learn your true goal by getting to know your definition of success and standard.

Know Your Definition Of Success

A wasted life is one that is focused on earthly things. We all probably have pictures of what a wasted life looks like, as well as what it does not look like. Unfortunately, we often limit our definitions to earthly measures of success (i.e. family, job, talents, philanthropy, etc.). However, God defines a wasted life as one that focuses on sin, self, and earthly things (1 Peter 1:18-19; 4:3). A good example of this can be found in Luke 12:16-21 in a parable Jesus told to some people who were greedy and put their focus on earthly things. Notice how many times the man in the parable speaks about himself, his wealth, and his big plans! While many people would view such a person as being extremely successful, everything that made him “successful” from an earthly perspective was taken away from him when he died and left to another. Therefore, if what makes you successful can be taken from you, you are wasting your life!

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Anything that leads to Hell cannot be a success. There a major problem with your definition of success if your way of life results in eternal punishment in Hell! For example, Galatians 5:19-21 gives a list of sinful things people do whenever they are focused on living to please their physical desires. But, the result of such things (and anything similar) is missing out on the kingdom of Heaven and experiencing eternal punishment in Hell (Matthew 25:41, 46; Romans 2:8-9). This place is described in Mark 9:43-48. In it, you should notice both the terrible place of punishment it really is plus the fact that nothing is worth doing or keeping if it will result in you going there! Certainly, any kind of life that results in an eternity of punishment by God for the choices you have made cannot possibly be viewed as anything other than a complete waste and utter failure!

If you miss Heaven, you miss it all. God, through Jesus Christ, has given you the opportunity to be saved from the consequences of your sins and have eternal life in Heaven rather than experience eternal punishment in Hell (Romans 6:23). Certainly, then, if you take this opportunity and throw it away by continuing to live for earthly things that result in eternal punishment, you cannot possibly view your life as being successful (Matthew 16:26-27). A good example of this can be found in Matthew 19:16-22 regarding a rich man (although he desired eternal life) chose His riches above Jesus and went away grieving. So, even though most people would have thought this man was very successful, he missed out on the only thing that really matters! In the same way, if you miss Heaven, you really will have missed it all!

Heaven is worth all the sacrifice of living for God. Living for Jesus so as to experience eternal life in Heaven means that you will need to sacrifice many things that appeal to you on this earth and that seem to be things that would make your life successful (Matthew 16:24-25). However, Jesus assures you that these sacrifices will truly be worth it and will result in the greatest success imaginable (Matthew 16:26-27)! For example, as the apostle Paul considered the sacrifices he made and the suffering he experienced for the sake of Jesus, he did not have any regrets. In fact, he saw his sacrifices and sufferings as being a small thing in view of the value gained through following Christ (Romans 8:18; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18; Philippians 3:7-11). In the same way, you must know that following Jesus and having Heaven as your eternal home is worth infinitely more than anything this life has to offer and is the true measure of success!

Leaving a legacy of faith is the only one that will last. Some people define success based on what they leave behind once they are gone (their

legacy). However, recognize that every earthly legacy is only temporary. Money gets spent, possessions wear out, property will not last, memories fade, etc. In fact, as Solomon thought about these types of legacies, it was a burden to him (Ecclesiastes 2:18-23). In contrast with such physically focused legacies that don't last, the legacy of faith in Jesus is one that continues to impact people well after you are gone and will even make an eternal difference for those you help follow the Lord (Hebrews 11:4; Hebrews 12:1-2; 2 Timothy 2:2)! By serving Jesus faithfully, you can help others do the same – who can then help others, who will help others, etc. Certainly, no other legacy is greater than this one!

Know Your Standard

If Heaven is your goal, there is only one Way. If Heaven is truly your goal, you must carefully evaluate the map for how to get there. For, the reality is that there are ultimately only two paths you can walk on during your earthly life (Matthew 7:13-14) – and only one of them leads to Heaven! Although the road that leads through the narrow gate into Heaven is difficult, Jesus shows us the way. In fact, Jesus is the Way (John 14:6; Acts 4:12). Not only has Jesus paved the road to Heaven with His blood, but He has also revealed the truth you must follow in order to get there!

You must know where to find the truth. People believe many different things as being “truth.” In fact, many people do not believe “Truth” even exists. Instead, they believe that “truth” is whatever a person chooses to believe. As a result, these live according to whatever they believe suits them best. Yet, this will not get anyone to Heaven! For, God plainly teaches that “Truth” does exist and has been made known through Jesus (John 6:63, 68; 8:31-32)! This truth is revealed through the words written in the Bible (2 Timothy 3:16-17). These are the only words that will lead us to salvation in Heaven (Romans 1:16; James 1:21; 1 Peter 1:22-23).

You must buy the truth. Once you recognize that absolute truth exists that can lead you to Heaven, you must respond properly to it. This starts with knowing and buying the truth (John 8:31-32; Proverbs 23:23). To do this, you must not just hear the message of truth God has spoken. Rather, you must believe that whatever He says really is the truth – no matter what you have been taught, no matter how you have lived, no matter what you hear other people say, no matter how counter-cultural it is, etc.! And, you must have such confidence that whatever God says is true that you will buy anything and everything He says no matter how much it costs you – even if it costs you relationships, persecutions, sacrifices, etc. (Matthew 13:44-46)! So, you must give yourself to searching the Scriptures