Daily Devotion #207

**S. U. C. C. E. S. S. That’s the way to spell success.**

**Joshua 1:8 (NASB)** *"This book of the law 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 success.”*

I grew up in a small country church. I like to tell people that it was so small that on a good Sunday we would have twenty-five people. Considering the mega churches of today, it wouldn’t even be a blip on the radar of churches that were considered viable. But it was in that church that I learned about God. Oh, it wasn’t that I was particularly looking for God. I was mostly looking for the church service to be over as quickly as possible so I could get to the river bank and fish or swim or ride in my cousin’s boat. I can distinctively remember that because our church was so small, our pastor was pastoring two other churches at the same time. So we only had what I called preaching on the first and third Sundays of the month. The other two Sundays were only Sunday School. Those were the best days because we didn’t have to be dressed in our Sunday clothes as long.

As much as I was anxious to get on with my day, I didn’t know it then, but God was working in my heart. My mom often taught the younger children, and my dad taught the adults. Most kids would not like for their parents to be their Bible teachers, but for some reason, when mom or dad taught, I didn’t see them as my parents because they were so good at teaching I would get lost in the stories and forget I was related to them.

But as life progressed for me, I fell into the demonic trap most people fall into as young men and women. I thought success was defined by who you are to the world and what you have and what you accomplish. So I spent a lot of time trying to make my life fit those perameters. Over time I began to fail in life and fail hard. I failed in school. I failed in relationships. I failed in work. Failure became my identity until God showed me that true success is achieved through knowing Him. And knowing Him comes through knowing His Word.. It was then I knew I needed Jesus as my Lord and Savior. I will never forget the day I got down on my knees beside my bed and confessed my sin before God and surrendered my life to Him. It was then that everything changed. Life took on a whole new persective. And I grew. I grew spiritually, and to this day God continues to do what He did then, which was to conform me to His likeness.

What I want to be heard from this is that it was His Word that affected me. Because my mom and dad took me to church and participated in the church, I heard the Word of the Lord. And over the course of many years God drew me into a relationship with Him after I attempted to have a life I wanted. I found that life is not about what I wanted but what He wants and that life is found in His Word, the Bible.

That’s what God was telling Joshua just before he was to lead the people of Israel over the Jordan River into the land God had promised them. God didn’t say to Joshua, “If you become the best leader by reading all the best leadership books and you are a man of courage because that’s what a real man is, you will have success”. God didn’t turn Joshua to anything the world would define as success. He turned him to His Word. Notice what God said in our verse for today, I’ll paraphrase, if you meditate on it and do what it says, then you will have success and you will be prosperous. If you just follow God’s Word, in all ways and through everything, you will be successful in life.

That’s the message to all of us. Just follow God’s Word. Believe it. Trust it. Obey it. And God will bless you with success. Not necessarily monetary or fame or forturne, but success in His eyes. And that is better success than anything the world can offer. I assure you.