

Successful Living

Reading: [1 Peter 3:10-12](#)

Text: [Genesis 5:21](#)

Prayer

A. Long Life!

1. [Genesis 5:27](#)--all the days of *Methuselah* were 969; and he died.
2. How did he do it? Were the calendars different? Did they go by shorter years? Probably not.
3. You'll notice that everyone in the Book of Genesis lived that long:
 - a. [Genesis 5:5](#)--Adam lived 930 years
 - b. [Genesis 5:8](#)--Seth lived 912 years
 - c. [Genesis 9:58](#)--Noah lived 950 years!

B. Until the Flood!

1. Notice in Chapter eleven the ages of people:
 - a. [Genesis 11:11](#)--Shem lived 500 years
 - b. [Genesis 11:12](#)--Arphaxad lived 403 years
 - c. [Genesis 11:18](#)--Peleg lived 209 years
 - d. [Genesis 11:32](#)--Terah (Abraham's Father) 205 years
 - e. [Genesis 25:7](#)--Abraham lived *only* 175 years "a good old age."
2. What happened at the flood? Things changed, *the world changed!*

C. "Long Life and Prosperity!"

1. Long life is what many people yearn
2. But there's more to a successful life than long life!

#1 What Successful Living is NOT!

A. The Art of Living is not necessarily obtained in years

1. Age does not always bring wisdom, happiness, or success!
2. [Ecclesiastes 4:13](#)—Better a poor but wise youth than an old but foolish king who no longer knows how to take warning.

B. Successful living is not based on knowledge!

[1 Corinthians 1:20-21](#)—Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?

C. Successful living is not achieved through wealth!

1. [1 Timothy 6:10](#)--For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.
2. From a human standpoint, health, wealth, prosperity, power, popularity, strength, and intelligence are LIFE!

#2 Successful Living

A. Requires a Center Point of Reference.

1. "Lost in the snow"*
2. [Philippians 1:21](#)—For to me, to live is Christ, to die is gain.
3. [John 14:6](#)—Jesus "is the way, the truth, and the life..."
4. We will always make mistakes, without Christ as our center; we will be lost to find our way back to the right.
5. I've heard people say it and I agree, "I don't know how people live without Jesus, in times of struggle, pain or sorrow."

B. Requires Optimism

1. Christians have NO reason to be pessimistic
2. [Philippians 4:13](#)—I can do all things through CHRIST, who gives me strength.
3. [Romans 8:31](#)—If God be FOR us, WHO can be AGAINST us?
4. [Psalm 23:4](#)—I will fear NO evil, for YOU are with me.
5. [John 14:1](#)—Let NOT your heart be troubled, you believe in God...

C. Requires Appreciation

1. This is opposite the fault-finder, the criticizer
2. [Romans 12:18](#)—If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.
3. Often, those who criticize others do it to make them look better, but it doesn't work—It makes them look bad.
4. [1 Corinthians 13:5](#)—does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; (NIV--it keeps no record of wrongs.)

D. Requires Confession

1. Right beside the last one, we have to admit we are not perfect.
2. [1 John 1:5-10](#)
3. "The Scarlet Letter" is about a woman who bears a child without a husband and is required to wear "The Scarlet Letter." It is ironic that, by the end of the story, she has a better, happier life than all the others, who would not admit their faults, even to the same infidelity.

E. Requires Forgiveness

1. [Colossians 3:13](#)—...forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.
2. The Lord's Prayer—If you do not forgive others, you will not be...

F. Requires Courage

1. Fear, paranoia, and worry are destructive agents
2. [Philippians 4:6](#)—be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer...
3. [1 John 4:18](#)—There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment.

***Richard Evelyn Byrd** (1888-1957) searched and found the South Pole. On his first expedition, he stepped out of his isolated hut one day for a brief trip of exploration, and immediately a blizzard struck and he became hopelessly lost, just feet from his hut. He knew if he stepped blindly to get to his hut, he might miss it, fall and freeze in the storm. He had a long pole, which he always carried, to feel for holes in the ice. He stuck it in the snow and tied a scarf to it. He said, "THAT was my center. If I failed to find my hut, I could return to the center and try again. Three times I tried and failed; but each time, I returned to my center, without which I would have been lost and would have died. In the fourth attempt, I stumbled upon my hut."