

GOD-GIVEN SUCCESS

U zziah is Amaziah's son and he was 16 years old when God allowed him to take the throne over all the peoples of Judah. Uzziah sought God during the days of Zechariah. Zechariah is the son of Jehoiada the priest. He did nothing without first asking God for wisdom and direction.

Uzziah's well trained armies gained victories over the enemies. He built towers in Jerusalem and it means that the economy during his reign was strong. He invented new inventions that his army could use for defense. His successes and fame were not only acknowledged in Jerusalem but also as far as the border of Egypt. The life of Uzziah stands as a testimony to the truth that success comes from God alone.

The Bible says that as long as he sought God, God gave him success. This is the formula for success. Success comes from God. This awesome promise is true for you and me too. As long as you seek the Lord, God will give you success in everything you do.

Key verse:

2 Chronicles 26:5 As long as he sought the Lord, God gave him success.

Prayer

Dear God, give me a heart to always seek You about everything in my life. I want to seek Your wisdom before making decisions. Amen. Dear God, give me a heart to always seek You about everything in my life. I want to seek Your wisdom before making decisions. Amen.



STEADFAST LOVE

King Jotham is Uzziah's son. He did what was right in the eyes of God. What differentiates him from the other kings is his steadfastness in God. The Bible says that Jotham grew powerful because he walked steadfastly before the Lord his God.

A steadfast person is someone who is firm and determined in a belief and is convinced that what he is believing is right and he refuses to give up on it. False teachings will not influence a steadfast person as he knows the truth. To be steadfast in God, you have to read and understand God's word and put it inside your heart.

Do you know someone who has a steadfast love for you? GOD.

His love for you is steadfast and all His words are true. Whatever promise you are waiting on, God is faithful to fulfill it. Even when you feel alone, God is with you. Even when you can't see the full picture or when you can't feel His presence or when the waiting seems unending, rest in the steadfast love of your faithful God.

Key verse:

Psalm 26:3 For Your steadfast love is before my eyes, and l walk in Your faithfulness.

Prayer

Dear God, knowing that Your love for me is steadfast is more than enough for me because I know Your love will never waver. Thank You. Amen.



STRAY FURTHER OR STAY CLOSER

King Ahaz sought for help from the king of Assyria, Tiglath-Pileser. Instead of helping him, Tiglath-Pileser gave him more trouble. However, this did not make Ahab turn to find God. Instead of humbling himself before God, he went further by trying to appease Tiglath-Pileser even more by giving more things from the temple and royal palace. Again, it didn't help him.

When people have problems, they may either stray further from God or stay closer to God. Problems do not necessarily drive people closer to God. Sometimes people allow such distresses to drive them away from God and they become more unfaithful to God.

Ahaz chose to seek for solution from people or things, instead of from the Maker of people and things. When you have a problem, don't stray further from God or put your hope in people to give you a way out.

God has got the whole world in His hand. Seek God who is way bigger than the world and stay closer to Him as He surely will help you.

Key verse:

Matthew 11:28 Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest

Prayer

Dear God, I want to stay closer to You all the time so when problems come, I will know what to do. Amen.



TESTS OF FAITH

The king of Babylon sent some men from his kingdom, bringing letters and a present to Hezekiah after God healed him and extended his life for another 15 years. This is when God tested Hezekiah. God allowed this test to know exactly all that was in Hezekiah's heart. Would Hezekiah try to impress the messengers from Babylon more than his desire to please God?

Your test in school is one of the requirements for you to go to the next level. In this life, we also have to go through some tests. If you pass, you will go to the next level of faith in your journey with God.

God's primary purpose when He tests His children is to learn what is in their hearts. Through these tests, He is also revealing to us whether our faith and our love for Him are steadfast.

Key verse:

Proverbs 17:3 A hot furnace tests silver and gold. In the same way, the Lord tests a person's heart.

Prayer

Dear God, search my heart so that You will find me more and more pleasing to You from time to time. Thank You for Your love. Amen.



TRUE REPENTANCE

Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king. In contrast to his father, King Hezekiah, he did evil in the sight of the Lord. He built a temple for false gods, worshipped false gods, shed innocent blood and even made his son pass through fire.

God, through his prophet, warned Manasseh, yet he refused to listen. His stubborn rebellion led him to a dark prison cell in Babylon. When this happened, he realized he needed to seek for God's mercy and help. Manasseh prayed for forgiveness and humbled himself. The merciful God not only forgave Manasseh, but also allowed him to return home and resume his role as king.

Upon his return, King Manasseh proved his true repentance by removing the idols from the temple and restored proper worship to God and commanded the citizens of Judah to worship.

There is a way out from your sins. It is by confessing your sin and showing true repentance. True repentance is a change in your lifestyle from disobedience to your obedience to God. Do not dwell in your sin. Repent and show your true repentance!

Key verse:

Matthew 3:8 Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God.

Prayer

Dear God, I'm confessing my desperate need for You. You have promised that if I confess my sin, You will forgive me. I truly need Your forgiveness and I want to repent from my sins. Amen.



AGE IS JUST A NUMBER

King Josiah was the grandson of King Manasseh. He was a Godly king and known as one of the world's youngest kings. He began his reign when he was just 8 years old.

From a very young age, Josiah grew up and lived a life fully committed and obedient to God. Josiah properly responded to God's word. He restored the temple of God and reinstated the law of God. Josiah had the Scripture read to the people and made a commitment to live by it.

He reigned as a king at a very young age yet the Bible tells that there was no king like Josiah before or after him as He obeyed the Lord with all his heart, soul and strength (2 Kings 23:25). Such an inspirational life lesson to learn from Josiah! Josiah showed that although we are young, we can also set a good example for others.

Every child has an enormous potential to live for God and to have a great impact on people around him. No matter how young you are, it is never too early to start seeking after God and live a life that shows God's love.

Key verse:

1 Timothy 4:12 Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.

Prayer

Dear God, thank You for Your assurance that I am not too young to love You and to serve others. Use me to be the vessel of Your love. Amen.



GOD'S MESSENGERS

A fter many many years, the people in Jerusalem became more wicked and turned against God. God sent his prophets to them to remind them to repent. However, not only the people made fun of the prophets, they also despised their messages and refused to listen to God's word.

Prophets are God's anointed servants or messengers. They teach the truth and interpret the word of God. He calls the wicked people to repentance. He receives revelations and directions from God. So, when the people in Jerusalem ignored and rejected the messages God gave through His prophets, it meant they were rejecting God Himself, not the prophets.

God wants you and me to have full respect for His prophets and messengers. When He sends his messengers to you, it shows His love and compassion towards you.

Let's show respect to the people that God sends to us to remind and teach us about His word.

Key verse:

Psalm 105:15 Do not touch my anointed ones; do my prophets no harm

Prayer

Dear God, thank You for the reminder that I have to respect my pastors and Sunday school teachers as they are the anointed messengers of Yours. Bless them abundantly. Amen.