

Surviving Success

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Keys for this Series:

1. Success can be dangerous because of what it can do to you and to those around you.
2. Very few people handle success and failure equally well.

David's Success

- "Whatever Saul sent him to do, David did it so successfully that Saul gave him a high rank in the army. This pleased all the people, and Saul's officers as well."* - 1 Sam. 18:5
- "In everything he did he had great success, because the LORD was with him. When Saul saw how successful he was, he was afraid of him."* - 1 Samuel 18:14
- "...David met with more success than the rest of Saul's officers, and his name became well known."* - 1 Samuel 18:30

Good Things About Success

1. Success often brings friendships. — (Some are good and some not so good!)

"After David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself." - 1 Samuel 18:1
2. Success often brings more "opportunities". — (Sometimes these can lead you away from your original success!)

"Whatever Saul sent him to do, David did it so successfully that Saul gave him a high rank in the army. This pleased all the people, and Saul's officers as well." - 1 Samuel 18:5
3. Success often brings praise. — (This is something that you cannot control and will often cause great jealousy.)

"When the men were returning home after David had killed the Philistine, the women came out from all the towns of Israel to meet King Saul with singing and dancing, with joyful songs and with tambourines and lutes." - 1 Samuel 18:6
4. Success often brings more success. — (Momentum sometimes can bring you success; as can the Lord's favour!)

*"So he sent David away from him and gave him command over a thousand men, and David led the troops in their campaigns. **In everything he did he had great success**, because the LORD was with him. When Saul saw how successful he was, he was afraid of him."* - 1 Samuel 18:13-15
5. Success often brings fame. —

*"The Philistine commanders continued to go out to battle, and as often as they did, David met with more success than the rest of Saul's officers, and **his name became well known**."* - 1 Samuel 18:30

Bad Things About Success

1. Your success can cause jealousy in others. (That's not your fault.)

That jealousy can lead to hatred. (29)

"Saul became still more afraid of him, and he remained his enemy the rest of his days." - 1 Samuel 18:29

What about that "evil spirit" from the Lord?

"God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the citizens of Shechem, who acted treacherously against Abimelech." - Judges 9:23

"Saul's attendants said to him, "See, an evil spirit from God is tormenting you." - 1 Samuel 16:15
2. Your success can create fear in others.

This fear can cause violence. (11)

"Saul had a spear in his hand and he hurled it, saying to himself, "I'll pin David to the wall." But David eluded him twice!" - 1 Samuel 18:10,11

This fear can change people's motives. (17)

"Saul said to David, "Here is my older daughter Merab. I will give her to you in marriage; only serve me bravely and fight the battles of the LORD." For Saul said to himself, "I will not raise a hand against him. Let the Philistines do that!" - 1 Samuel 18:17

This fear can become all-consuming. (29)

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The Secret to Handling Success Well!

"But David said to Saul, "Who am I, and what is my family or my father's clan in Israel, that I should become the king's son-in-law?" . . .²² Then Saul ordered his attendants: "Speak to David privately and say, 'Look, the king is pleased with you, and his attendants all like you; now become his son-in-law.'" ²³ They repeated these words to David. But David said, "Do you think it is a small matter to become the king's son-in-law? I'm only a poor man and little known." - 1 Samuel 18:18, 22-23

1. Do not allow someone else's jealousy to change you.
 2. Always remember who you are.
 3. Always keep in balance "what you have done" (*Evaluate your success and consider why you have been successful.*)
 4. Be patient and wait for God's timing for your life. (*David had already been anointed the next king!*)
- No matter who you are, success always has a downside. If you aren't cautious, it can lead you away from where God wants you.

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