

LESSON 5 • FEAR OF SUCCESS

OUTLINE

- I. Success has destroyed more people than hardship and failure ever has.
- A. People often say things like, “When you’re suffering and everything is wrong, it shows what’s inside of you.”

Two things have I required of thee; deny me them not before I die: [8] Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me: [9] Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the LORD? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain.

PROVERBS 30:7-9

- B. A greater indication of what’s on the inside of you is when everything is going well and you don’t have to rely on God—how much do you study and pray then?
- C. Moses told the Israelites to beware that when they came into all of their prosperity, they didn’t forget that it was the Lord who gave them the power to get wealth so He could establish His covenant (Deut. 8:1-20).
- D. Saul’s life is a good example of this (1 Sam 15:17 and 26).
- E. When Saul was little in his own eyes, God could use him, but when he became great in his own eyes, God couldn’t use him.
- F. Humility is necessary to walk with God, but Saul didn’t continue to walk with God because he became proud and did his own thing.
- G. God rejected him from being king because Saul limited what God wanted to do in his life.

Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

PROVERBS 16:18

- II. In 2 Samuel 11, we see that David had become so prosperous, he decided to send other people to do what God had called him to do (2 Sam. 11:1-4).
- A. David started out God dependent but became independent of God because of prosperity.
- B. These scriptures made me aware that if the Lord multiplied my ministry and gave me more influence, it could lead to my destruction—I was afraid of success and what it could potentially do to me.
- C. I had to overcome a fear of success and say, “Father, I’ll take it and whatever comes with it.”

- III. Before He formed me in the womb, before I came forth out of my mother's belly, God had a purpose for me (Jer. 1:4-8).
- A. Paul said the same thing in Galatians 1:15: *"But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace."*
 - B. God made you for a purpose, and it's up to you to find out what that purpose is.
 - C. You have to pursue the will of God in order to get it.
 - D. It takes a revelation from God, because He will call you to do something beyond yourself; this way, you become God dependent.
 - E. There are things on the inside of you that He wants to accomplish.
 - F. The only chance you have of reaching your full potential is to do what God created you to do.
- IV. God showed me that I was limiting what He could do in my life because of my false humility—a sense of unworthiness—along with my fear of success.
- A. I had to confront these issues and deal with them.
 - B. Within weeks of taking the limits off God, I started to see miraculous results.
 - C. This can also happen to you once you stop limiting what God wants to do in your life—whether it's because you have a fear of man or a fear of success or any other type of fear.
 - D. Take the limits off God and watch His will come to pass in your life!

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DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. *Discussion question:* Why would success destroy more people than failure ever would?

2. *Discussion question:* Read Proverbs 30:7-9. What are some lessons you can learn from these verses?

3. When Saul was little in his own eyes, God could do what with him?

4. True or false: Humility is helpful, but not necessary to walk with God.

5. David started out God dependent but became _____ because of _____.
 - A. Prosperous / God
 - B. Arrogant / pride
 - C. Independent / maturity
 - D. Humble / chastisement
 - E. Independent / prosperity

6. Andrew feared that if Lord multiplied him and gave him more influence it could lead to what?

7. *Discussion question:* What are some ways to overcome a fear of success?

8. Fulfilling your purpose takes a _____ from God.

9. Why does God call you to do something beyond yourself that you can't do on your own?

10. True or false: The only chance you have of reaching your full potential is to do what God created you to do.

11. Which of the following things were limiting God in Andrew's life?

- A. A sense of unworthiness
- B. Fear of success
- C. False humility
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

12. *Discussion question:* What types of fears do you allow to hold you back and limit God?

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 SCRIPTURES

PROVERBS 30:7-9

Two things have I required of thee; deny me them not before I die: [8] Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me: [9] Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the LORD? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain.

DEUTERONOMY 8:1-20

All the commandments which I command thee this day shall ye observe to do, that ye may live, and multiply, and go in and possess the land which the LORD sware unto your fathers. [2] And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no. [3] And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live. [4] Thy raiment waxed not old upon thee, neither did thy foot swell, these forty years. [5] Thou shalt also consider in thine heart, that, as a man chasteneth his son, so the LORD thy God chasteneth thee. [6] Therefore thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to fear him. [7] For the LORD thy God bringeth thee into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills; [8] A land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of oil olive, and honey; [9] A land wherein thou shalt eat bread without scarceness, thou shalt not lack any thing in it; a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills thou mayest dig brass. [10] When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the LORD thy God for the good land which he hath given thee. [11] Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day: [12] Lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein; [13] And when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied; [14] Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the LORD thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage; [15] Who led thee through that great and terrible wilderness, wherein were fiery serpents, and scorpions, and drought, where there was no water; who brought thee forth water out of the rock of flint; [16] Who fed thee in the wilderness with manna, which thy fathers knew not, that he might humble thee, and that he might prove thee, to do thee good at thy latter end; [17] And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth. [18] But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he

that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day. [19] And it shall be, if thou do at all forget the LORD thy God, and walk after other gods, and serve them, and worship them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish. [20] As the nations which the LORD destroyeth before your face, so shall ye perish; because ye would not be obedient unto the voice of the LORD your God.

1 SAMUEL 15:17

And Samuel said, When thou wast little in thine own sight, wast thou not made the head of the tribes of Israel, and the LORD anointed thee king over Israel?

1 SAMUEL 15:26

And Samuel said unto Saul, I will not return with thee: for thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD hath rejected thee from being king over Israel.

PROVERBS 16:18

Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

1 PETER 5:5

Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

2 CHRONICLES 26:14-20

And Uzziah prepared for them throughout all the host shields, and spears, and helmets, and habergeons, and bows, and slings to cast stones. [15] And he made in Jerusalem engines, invented by cunning men, to be on the towers and upon the bulwarks, to shoot arrows and great stones withal. And his name spread far abroad; for he was marvellously helped, till he was strong. [16] But when he was strong, his heart was lifted up to his destruction: for he transgressed against the LORD his God, and went into the temple of the LORD to burn incense upon the altar of incense. [17] And Azariah the priest went in after him, and with him fourscore priests of the LORD, that were valiant men: [18] And they withstood Uzziah the king, and said unto him, It appertaineth not unto thee, Uzziah, to burn incense unto the LORD, but to the priests the sons of Aaron, that are consecrated to burn incense: go out of the sanctuary; for thou hast trespassed; neither shall it be for thine honour from the LORD God. [19] Then Uzziah was wroth, and had a censer in his hand to burn incense: and while he was wroth with the priests, the leprosy even rose up in his forehead before the priests in the house of the LORD, from beside the incense altar. [20] And Azariah the chief priest, and all the priests, looked upon him, and, behold, he was leprous in his forehead, and they thrust him out from thence; yea, himself hasted also to go out, because the LORD had smitten him.

2 SAMUEL 11:1-4

And it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when kings go forth to battle, that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried still at Jerusalem. [2] And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon. [3] And David sent and enquired after the woman. And one said, Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite? [4] And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him, and he lay with her; for she was purified from her uncleanness: and she returned unto her house.

JEREMIAH 1:4-8

Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, [5] Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations. [6] Then said I, Ah, LORD GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child. [7] But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak. [8] Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD.

GALATIANS 1:15

But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace.

PSALM 139:16

Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.