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Success

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Success

She is more precious than rubies, and none of the things you desire can compare with her. Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor. Her ways are very pleasant, and all her paths are peaceful.
(Proverbs 3:15-17)

Solomon's standards for success are not the world's standards. The world's criteria for success have always been the same: fortune and fame and power; however, Solomon states that success is the blessing of the Lord. Nothing else matters. The smile of the Lord on one's life brings wealth and happiness and the good life comes by knowing God's words and applying God's wisdom.

Success by popular standards, if it comes, is a gift. Recognized or not, it is the unmerited favor of the Lord and success is definitely not an entitlement. The Proverbs consistently presents God as one who loves us and one who delights in our well-being. He rewards us with joy. His blessing may not only bring wealth, but it also adds length to life; in fact, those who do not revere the Lord are cut short in their years.

Far from being a miserly Ebenezer Scrooge or some cosmic killjoy, Solomon's God delights in our lives and abundantly rewards those who trust in Him. Obedience to God's ways and loving service result in prosperity and contentment.

Are you attempting to achieve success by the usual means of tireless ambition, power, and influence? What are your criteria for success? What do you want to be said about you at your funeral?