

## Spiritual Rules for Good Success

*by John Isaac Edwards*

Most people are interested in success, and many books have been written on the subject. God’s charge to Joshua in Joshua 1:6-9 contains seven rules for spiritual success.

***Be Strong (verse 6).*** It’s important for God’s people to be strong. Among the outstanding admonitions for Christians is the command, “...be strong” (1 Corinthians 16:13). Paul wrote the Ephesians, “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might” (Ephesians 6:10). On a scale of 1-10, how strong do you consider yourself to be spiritually?

***Be Very Courageous (verse 7).*** Peter taught, “...add to your faith virtue...” (2 Peter 1:5). Virtue is courage. Acts 28:15 records concerning Paul, “...he thanked God, and took courage.” We must have the courage to “...endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ” (2 Timothy 2:3).

***Observe to Do According to All the Law (verse 7).*** Today, Christ has all authority (Matthew 28:19-20). James declared, “But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed” (James 1:25). It’s not enough to look into; must do!

***Turn Not from the Word of God to the Right or to the Left (verse 7).*** Moses exhorted Israel, “Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it...” (Deuteronomy 4:2). We must abide “...in the doctrine of Christ...” (2 John 9). Many today are turning away from God’s word. Don’t turn from!

***Meditate Therein Day and Night (verse 8).*** The blessed man is one who meditates in God’s law “...day and night” (Psalm 1:1-2). Paul urged Timothy, “Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all” (1 Timothy 4:15).

***Be Not Afraid (verse 9).*** Fear keeps many from doing as they ought. Remember the one talent man? (Matthew 25:25).

***Neither Be Dismayed (verse 9).*** To be dismayed is to become discouraged. Paul penned, “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not” (Galatians 6:9).

The results: God will be with you and you will have good success and prosper (verses 8-9).

# There Arose a Generation Which Knew Not the Lord

by John Isaac Edwards

Judges 1:10 records, “And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the Lord, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel.” Let’s study.

**All That Generation Were Gathered unto Their Fathers.** Judges 1:7 reports, “And the people served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the Lord, that he did for Israel.” The faithful generation passed from the scene. We will not always be here. “For as in Adam all die...” (1 Corinthians 15:22).

**There Arose Another Generation.** “One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh...” (Ecclesiastes 1:4). What will the next generation be like? “There is a generation that curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother. There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness. There is a generation, O how lofty are their eyes! and their eyelids are lifted up. There is a generation, whose teeth are as swords, and their jaw teeth as knives,

to devour the poor from off the earth, and the needy from among men” (Proverbs 30:11-14).

**Which Knew Not the Lord.** Another generation “...did evil in the sight of the Lord... forsook the Lord God of their fathers...and followed other gods, of the gods of the people that were round about them...” (Judges 2:11-13). How tragic! How sad!

**We Must Teach Our Children.** Israel was exhorted, “And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up” (Deuteronomy 6:7). We must be “...shewing to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done....That the generation to come might know them...That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments” (Psalm 78:4-8).

We are only one generation away from apostasy!

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