

## 7 Secrets to Spiritual Success – Woodrow Kroll

### 1. Check for Vital signs

- I. Look for evidence of faith
  - a. The Bible – a book you can trust (II Peter 1:21)
  - b. Confidence in God’s promises (Romans 8:38-39)
- II. Look for evidence of Hope (John 14:1-3, Titus 3:7)
- III. Look for evidence of Love (Matthew 22:37-38)
  - a. It is tough to love
  - b. Love is evidence of Life (I John 3:14)
- IV. Look for evidence of Joy
  - a. Unparalleled Joy
  - b. Unexplained Joy
  - c. Inexpressible Joy
- V. Look for evidence of Obedience – desire to obey (I John 2:3)
- VI. Look for evidence of fruit
- VII. The “I John 20”
  - a. Walk in the light (1:6)
  - b. Fellowship with God’s family (1:7)
  - c. A keen sense of your sinfulness (1:8, 10)
  - d. Live in willful obedience to God’s Word (2:3,5)
  - e. No longer enamored with what captivates the world (2:15)
  - f. Obey what is right in God’s eyes (2:29)
  - g. Anticipation of the Lord’s return (3:2)
  - h. A desire for a life of purity (3:3)
  - i. A growing freedom from sinful behavior (3:6-10)

- j. A genuine love for other believers (3:14, 4:7)
- k. A genuine love in word and deed (3:18-19)
- l. The witness of your conscience (3:21-22)
- m. Indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit (3:24, 4:13)
- n. The ability to distinguish truth from error (4:6)
- o. You confess that Jesus is God's son (4:15)
- p. A belief that Jesus is Christ (5:1)
- q. Overcoming faith (5:4-5)
- r. A belief in the promises of God (5:9-10, 12)
- s. A trust in the purpose of God's Word (5:13)
- t. An understanding from the Son of God (5:20)

## Secrets to Spiritual Success 2

1. Check for Vital Signs
2. Develop Intimacy with God

- I. Intimacy with God Defined – Psalm 27:4
- II. Defining a Hunger for God
  - a. As a deer pants – Ps 42:1
  - b. Thirsting after God – Ps 42:2
    - i. A thirst for God Himself – not a feeling or an experience
    - ii. For a personal relationship – “my” God
    - iii. Physical and Personal
  - c. Thirsting for the right reason – not for what He can do for you – but for Whom He is.
- III. The foundation of Intimacy with God
  - a. God seeks more closeness – Jn 10:10
  - b. God initiates intimacy – Luke 24:13-27
  - c. God is knowable through the person of Jesus
- IV. How to develop intimacy with God
  - a. Intimacy requires trust
  - b. Intimacy requires a right relationship with God
  - c. Intimacy requires time
  - d. Intimacy requires solitude
  - e. Intimacy requires stillness
  - f. Intimacy requires silence

## Secrets to Spiritual Success 3

1. Check for Vital Signs
2. Establish Intimacy with God
3. Establish good Growth habits
  - I. Importance of Diet and Exercise
    - a. Need to grow up healthy
  - II. Establish a spiritual diet
    - a. Substance – not just application
    - b. Not just facts
    - c. Taking responsibility
  - III. Importance of Spiritual Exercise
    - a. Exercise of prayer
    - b. Exercise of Church attendance
      - i. Purpose?
      - ii. Why do we go to church?
    - c. Exercise of Witnessing

## *Secrets to Spiritual Success 4 & 5*

1. Check for vital signs
2. Develop intimacy with God
3. Develop good grown habits
4. Enlist superior help

Enlist the help of the Holy Spirit – John 14:16-17

- a. Prays for us – Romans 8:26-27
  - b. Teaches us I John 2:27
  - c. Romans 8:14
  - d. Sanctifies us – II Cor. 3:18
  - e. Fills us – Eph 5:18
  - f. Renews us Romans 12:1-2
5. Learn to manage Temptation
    - a. To resist temptation – prepare for it
      - i. Identify your personal weakness
        1. Moses = anger
        2. Peter = volatility and pride
        3. Elijah = depression

- ii. Remember the Peter problem – self confidence (Matt 26:33)
  - iii. Prepare a defense
  - iv. Use God’s resources – The Word of God
- b. To Prevent Temptation – Avoid it
  - i. Avoid the situations – David and Bathsheba (II Samuel 11)
  - ii. Biblical wisdom – Prov 4:14-15
  - iii. Avoid people who tempt you or lead you astray
- c. When temptation threatens – admit it!
- d. To restrain temptation – Understand it
- e. To defeat temptation – Let the Spirit work through you

## Secrets to Spiritual Success 6

1. Check for vital signs
2. Develop intimacy with God
3. Develop good growth habits
4. Enlist superior help
5. Manage Temptation
6. Don't stay down

### Don't Stay Down

- I. A common problem – spiritual paralysis
  - a. Admit your sin
    - i. Aaron – Numbers 12:11
    - ii. Balaam – Numbers 22:34
    - iii. Achan – Joshua 7:20
    - iv. Shimei – II Sam. 19:20
    - v. King Saul – I Samuel 15:24, 30
    - vi. David – II Sam. 12:13, 24:10, Psalm 41:4
  - b. Show remorse for the sin – Psalm 51:3-4

- c. Confess your sin – I John 1:9 (Confess: say the same thing as your accuser)
  - d. Recognize WHO you sinned against
    - i. Genesis 39:9
    - ii. Psalm 51
    - iii. Luke 15:21
  - e. Climb out of the hole – make things right
  - f. Make restitution – Numbers 5:5-7, Zacchaeus
- II. Learn from your mistakes
- a. You cannot divert the blame
  - b. You cannot hide sin forever – Heb 4:13
  - c. You cannot prosper in sin – Prov. 28:13

## Secrets to Spiritual Success 7

1. Check for vital signs
2. Develop intimacy with God
3. Develop good growth habits
4. Enlist superior help
5. Manage Temptation
6. Don't stay down
7. Keep your eye on the goal

### Keep your eye on the Goal!

- I. This world is Not my home!
  - a. A pilgrim mindset (Hebrews 11:13-19)
    - i. We live here believing God's promises
    - ii. We sense we do not belong here
    - iii. We don't look back to the past
    - iv. We understand nothing here compares to there
    - v. God is not ashamed then to be called our God

- vi. Our relationship with God is most important
      - b. No earthly good – earth is a passageway to eternity
  - II. Begin everyday at the Judgement Seat
    - a. Start there and work backward
    - b. The guideline grid
      - i. Faithfulness is the requirement – I Cor. 4:2
      - ii. Proper motives – I Cor. 4:5
      - iii. We are given different abilities – Luke 12:48
      - iv. Use the opportunities given to us – Matt. 20:1-6
      - v. Make sure it is Him that is working through us – Gal. 2:20
- III. Keep first things first
  - a. People over progress
  - b. Purity over popularity
  - c. Eternal over temporal