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DAYS TO
Success

Karen Conrad



Introduction

Principles for success whether personal or business related can ultimately be traced back to the Bible. You will find God is very invested in your success and He provides you with all the tools, talents and grace you need. For the Lord gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding. Proverbs 2:6 NKJV. In my more than 30 years of business/ministry experience I have collected a few practical pieces of wisdom from His Word. These are things you deal with on a daily basis. In business terms, they are best practices for fulfilling your purpose. When you add them up they will head you in the direction of peace and success. These principles can be learned, practiced and applied in every area of your life.

Practice what you preach is my mantra. Seek God for where to focus and trust Him to make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert 'Listen carefully, I am about to do a new thing, Now it will spring forth; Will you not be aware of it? I will even put a road in the wilderness, Rivers in the desert. 'Isaiah 43:19. You will not always know the target you are trying to hit. Each day is an exercise in trusting God and taking the steps necessary to thrive. I have lived many years now applying these general biblical principles for success. I can tell you, the results are way better than I could have imagined! Blessings to you and here we go!

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Be a Finisher

So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.' John 19:30.

Be a Finisher--ideas without actions will not yield results. If you don't quit, you win. You are created to bring things all the way to the finish line.

The life of Jesus shows He is the best example of a finisher. Without Jesus' finished work we would all be lost. Without the suffering He carried, the prayers He prayed, the wisdom He poured out and the death He died, God's plan could not have been fulfilled. He showed the ultimate value of a completed work--glorifying God. I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. John 17:4-5.

When I was a kid, I loved craft projects. I would sit on Sunday afternoon at my grandma's and do all sorts of crafts, cross-stitching, needle point, even learning to crochet and make quilts. I was a great starter but finishing was a struggle for me. None of my crafts were hung on the walls and no quilts decorated my bed because I didn't finish any of them. Looking back it's kind of discouraging but honestly, it taught me a lesson. I realized no matter how much work I put into something, if I didn't finish I couldn't reap the rewards of the work I put into a project. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it—Luke 14:28. Jesus says count the cost. When you begin a project, a business or even time with your family--God says count the cost. Ask probing questions: do you have enough money to complete the project? Have you set aside enough time? Do you have enough bandwidth personally? What will the finished project look like?

At the end of the day you want to be able to say with Paul: I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 2 Timothy 4:7.

Activation:

Do you have projects sitting unfinished on a shelf? Ask the Lord which ones to pick up and complete and which ones to put aside.

In your journal list the questions most suited to help you count the cost when making decisions.

Thank the Lord for His completed work. Ask Him to show you what He is working in you today.



Enthusiasm

Blessed [fortunate, prosperous, and favored by God] is the man who fears the Lord [with awe-inspired reverence and worships Him with obedience], Who delights greatly in His commandments. Psalms 112:1 (read the whole chapter).

Enthusiasm--is contagious. You can influence and attract others becoming a changemaker in your sphere.

Think about a time in your home or office when you felt the atmosphere needed to change. In stepped an enthusiastic teacher or colleague who changed the atmosphere in the room as their passion for the subject or confidence in the team became contagious. Scripture indicates enthusiasm starts with delighting in the Lord and His Word. His enthusiasm is contagious for your life.

As leader of an organization, team or family, if you approach the office, a zoom call or a meeting with a lack of enthusiasm, you cannot expect the people around you to be encouraged or upbeat. 'And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.' Galatians 6:9-10. The people looking to you for leadership and hope will either fight against the negative atmosphere you create or they will step into a project with hope and energy because you brought enthusiasm with your leadership.

With enthusiasm you can overcome obstacles which otherwise feel impossible. Let me encourage you in the leadership of your family or colleagues under your influence, come with enthusiasm. You will find people enjoy being around you more. Management will want you as a leader in their organization. Administration can trust you to bring the energy level needed and the hope to accomplish goals at the highest level.

Activation:

Think of a specific time enthusiasm changed the atmosphere and turned a situation around toward success.

Journal about opportunities you have to bring enthusiasm to the table and how you are able to do that in varied circumstances.

Show enthusiasm for an idea from a family member and mark the difference in their demeanor and determination.



Habit Force

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked [He will not allow Himself to be ridiculed, nor treated with contempt nor allow His precepts to be scornfully set aside]; for whatever a man sows, this and this only is what he will reap. Galatians 6:7.

Habit Force--your life is a result of what you do daily. Everything begins one day at a time.

Sometimes, you don't want to hear this because frankly there are days we all would really like to sit around and not accomplish a thing. Honestly, one day once in a while is not a danger. It is regular daily habits which set the tone I am talking about here. There are some unproductive things you do every day you need to stop doing. And there are some things you don't do every day you need to start doing.

There are productive habits you can incorporate on a daily basis to bring life. He who is faithful in a very little thing is also faithful in much; and he who is dishonest in a very little thing is also dishonest in much. Luke 16:10. John Maxwell is one of the greatest authors on leadership in the world having written nearly 100 books on the subject. So what's the secret to someone being able to write that many books? John once told my husband Dave he disciplines himself to write at least fifteen minutes a day. John sets down his thoughts on a subject--with this daily process--then later compiles the material into order for future books. All the information is born out of a daily habit of writing a little bit every day. That was encouraging to me because writing a book or even writing several pages on a report can seem overwhelming. But anybody can take fifteen minutes a day to write or cultivate productivity. His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful and trustworthy over a little, I will put you in charge of many things; share in the joy of your master.' Matthew 25:21.

Activation:

List some daily habits you would like to stop doing in your life. Now list some daily habits you would like to start doing. Ask the Lord for strategies to deal with both.

In your journal list all the activities/assignments you accomplish in a day. Ask the Holy Spirit what to prune and what to water.

Discuss with your spouse or mentor what they see as strengths in you and what daily practices you could implement to begin to grow those strengths.



Positive Attitude

Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you. Phil 4:8-9.

Develop a Positive Mental Attitude--you cannot control what other people do, but you can control how you respond. Negativity steals hope.

Listen to things, read things, pay attention to positive things around you. That is what the Word says but how is it possible with so much negative attitude and information these days? You learn to look at things through the lens of God's Word. When looking at challenges you face on a daily basis, believe God is in control and has the best life planned for you. Looking at things with a positive mental attitude gives you an incredible edge and you are a much happier person.

During my life I have endured betrayal, backstabbing, lies to and about me, theft, slander, false accusation, disappointment and sorrow. This sounds overwhelming but I have experienced much more joy than sorrow. And a positive mental attitude is what got me through these sorrows without offense, bitterness, or anger. Often people could not understand how I continued to stay positive during difficulties. I was living out this principle and believing the truth of His Word. And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. Romans 8:28. I had a boss tell me one time, "Karen, you are stronger than 10 acres of garlic!" I took it as a compliment but it wasn't in my own strength. I trusted in His ability to fulfill His Word and daily do what He says He will do.

Activation:

Think about a day when a positive mental attitude could have turned a rough situation in a different direction.

Journal ways you can present a positive mental attitude. Remember you are not looking for a Pollyanna--everything is always good--attitude but a believing in the Word attitude.

How can you respond in a positive mental attitude when confronted with accusations or disappointments?



Commit to Excellence

And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.' Colossians 3:23-24

Make a Commitment to Excellence--be prepared to pay the full price for excellence--count the cost.

I like to get things done and done quickly. Excellence usually requires extra time and extra effort but the result is always worth it. For example, proofing what you write before you send it, pausing and not rushing an emotional response, double checking information or re-checking grammar. All these things help assure you are going to develop the best opportunity for excellence. Not everyone is gifted in the area of details. I can look at details if I need to but it is difficult for me--I don't like to do it and I am not very good at it--so I surround myself with people who love details. In areas you are not strong, look for a team member who is strong in that area.

My husband Dave helps remind me to do things with excellence. We have been doing some projects around the house like whitewashing some orange brick and painting a concrete floor on our porch. I wanted it done quickly but Dave reminded me we needed to do it right. We have a push-pull in this area of our relationship that I love (mostly). Things may take just a little longer to get done but the result is always better when done with excellence. That has been exceedingly helpful for me.

Long-term you will always be happier doing things with excellence. I want to encourage you this is an area you can bring people around you. Pull the gifts and talents out of those in your family, your spouse and colleagues at work. Hire people who fill gaps for you. The spirit of excellence is pleasing to God because it reflects His Spirit. By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks. Hebrews 11:4.

Activation:

Are you a get it done fast and furious person or are you a do it right the first time even if it takes longer person?

Journal through a project and identify areas you did or could have applied a spirit of excellence. How did it affect the project and those around you?

Think of a person in your sphere of influence who functions with a spirit of excellence. Give them a word of encouragement concerning what you have seen in their life.



Speak on Your Feet

And Paul entered the synagogue, as was his custom, and for three Sabbaths he engaged in discussion and friendly debate with them from the Scriptures, explaining and pointing out [scriptural evidence] that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and rise from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus, whom I am proclaiming to you, is the Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed)." Acts 17: 2-3.

Learn to Speak on your Feet--being ready any time to articulate and communicate effectively.

Jesus had ready answers for true seekers as well as hostile opponents. He set the precedent for His followers. You need to be ready to speak truth and wisdom at any given moment. In Matthew 22:15-21 there is a scene where the Pharisees intended to trap Jesus, but He turned it around with a ready answer full of wisdom. He left the crowd standing with their mouths open but also with their hearts open. Paul, one of the great champions of the faith, mastered the art of persuasion; he was ready to debate, articulate, defend and communicate effectively to lead people to truth. Jesus and Paul both sought the Father and were diligent students of their trade.

Early in my career I realized I would be required to think fast and speak clearly. I learned, even in boardrooms, to be unconcerned about peoples' opinions and to be open to feedback. I developed a speaking method I was comfortable with and limited my speaking to subjects within my expertise. If you are prepared to be an effective communicator on the spot, you will have an edge wherever you are. Fill your heart with God's Word so it effortlessly overflows from your speech and become masterful in your trade. 'A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.' Luke 6:45.

Activation:

Do you have a time and/or place to be able to practice speaking? Leading a small group or hosting a book club are great places to start.

Research several different methods for speaking and try them out in front of a mirror. Decide what is your preferred method.

Journal about speakers you admire and study their methods, mannerisms and techniques. Ask a trusted friend to do the same for you.



Handle Emotions

Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor [perpetual animosity, resentment, strife, fault-finding] and slander be put away from you, along with every kind of malice [all spitefulness, verbal abuse, malevolence]. Ephesians 4:31.

Handle Emotions--your emotions are not good or bad, they just are. Don't let them rule your life, decision making or relationships.

Emotions are God-given so you know there is a positive side to them. Happy is an emotion. Anger or hurt can be emotional clues to an underlying root of pain. When you learn to handle negative emotions, your life becomes smoother. You can create an atmosphere in your home or workplace that is joyful or fearful, but how? Sometimes emotions are tough to grab hold of so what is the key? Here it is again. Learn to see things through the lens of God's Word and the way God sees them. A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger. The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly, But the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness. The eyes of the Lord are in every place, Keeping watch on the evil and the good. A wholesome tongue is a tree of life, But perverseness in it breaks the spirit. Proverbs 15:1-4. Emotions can cause you to see things bigger or worse than they really are. When you learn to handle your emotions, it helps you understand why you are feeling the way you do, as well as putting things into perspective.

You have a responsibility to care for and protect those under your leadership. To become eligible for more responsibility, a larger organization, or higher leadership you will be required to keep your emotions intact. Unhealthy emotions can cause issues in your place of work, or your home. Healthy emotional responses bring life and courage and hope to your team and family. Therefore see that you walk carefully [living life with honor, purpose, and courage; shunning those who tolerate and enable evil], not as the unwise, but as wise [sensible, intelligent, discerning people]. Ephesians 5:15.

Activation:

Thinking about your reactions during tense situations, would you consider yourself overly emotional? Would you consider yourself lacking in healthy emotional responses?

Journal about your emotions for a week remembering emotions are not good or bad. Ask the Lord what He says about them.

Google a list of emotions. Read through the list making note of emotions you were not aware could be affecting you.



Handle Criticism

If you listen to constructive criticism, you will be at home among the wise. If you reject discipline, you only harm yourself; but if you listen to correction, you grow in understanding. Fear of the Lord teaches wisdom; humility precedes honor. Proverbs 15:31-33.

Learn to handle criticism--it has no authority except what you give.

No one likes to be told you are doing things wrong. Personally I would like to think I do everything right but to be successful, I need to handle criticism. There are two kinds of criticism--positive and negative. It is important for us to realize which type is coming our way and how to handle it appropriately. First, are you open to someone suggesting a better process or recommending an adjustment? Second, do you trust and respect the person giving the criticism/feedback? You may not know the person well or at all but are they in a position of authority or have more fruit and knowledge on the topic than you do? As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another. Proverbs 27:17. Knowing the heart behind the person can help get you framed up to hear the criticism/suggestion not as negative but positive. The ultimate goal of positive criticism is for your growth and betterment. If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. Matthew 18:15.

There are times when people give feedback or criticism meant to harm or mislead. Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. Ephesians 4:29. You and I are not required to listen to or heed negative criticism. When a person is carelessly criticizing, I have no obligation to consider it. In this day of social media people are quick to criticize and slow to consider the consequences. If you are being criticized outside the boundaries of your well being, just let it go. Determine if feedback is positive--this person desires me to succeed--even if it points out somewhere you need to improve. Or is it negative from someone whose criticism is designed to hurt or discourage you? Recognizing and being able to handle criticism is crucial to living a successful life.

Activation:

Generally are you open to feedback or positive criticism? If not, ask the Lord why.

Journal about a time you received positive feedback and the results in your life. Then journal about a time you received negative feedback and your reactions.

Consider these two kinds of criticism:

Positive (constructive) criticism - designed for your benefit

Negative (destructive) criticism - designed for your discouragement.

Know the difference. Accept the positive and set aside the negative.



Law of Favor

A good man obtains favor from the Lord, But a man of wicked intentions He will condemn.
Proverbs 12:2.

Law of Attraction/Favor--you are an ambassador who gives people their first glimpse of Jesus. Take time to be favorable in appearance (dress and countenance) giving authenticity to what you carry.

Expect the best. God has provided for you. It says many times in the Word He has given you favor in the sight of God and man. When you walk into a room to speak or teach with the feeling, "Oh my gosh, what if they don't like me? What if they don't want to hear what I have to say? What if I finish and everybody is talking about how bad it was?" Your self talk can make you nervous and doubtful of your call. The understanding God has provided favor helps you approach a situation you feel nervous about. Instead you can walk into the situation with your mind set on the Lord: "God has already given me favor in this situation, I can relax." The contrast between doubting and an attitude of favor gives a much better result. God has granted you the law of favor but it is up to you to agree with that law and enter situations expecting His best.

This applies in every area of your life. An interesting thing about these principles is the spiritual context based on the Word of God. There is also a relational context, a work context and a financial context. When my expectation is favor in a situation, I can lean into God for the results. What a stress-free way to live. Here is a question for you. Do you look like you are carrying the love of Jesus? Do you look like you are prosperous in your business? Do you look like you are full of joy and full of peace? Let your appearance reflect the favor you carry. Bring the favor of God into conversations and situations to create an atmosphere that reflects His goodness and grace.

Activation:

Knowing you have the favor of God, how do you enter a room or start a new project/class?

Journal about a time you met a colleague for the first time and how you felt, responded and interacted.

Ask a trusted friend to tell you what they see when you interact with colleagues, friends and family. Pray over their response and ask the Lord to speak to you about His favor over you.



Perseverance

And not only this, but [with joy] let us exult in our sufferings and rejoice in our hardships, knowing that hardship (distress, pressure, trouble) produces patient endurance; and endurance, proven character (spiritual maturity); and proven character, hope and confident assurance [of eternal salvation]. Such hope [in God's promises] never disappoints us, because God's love has been abundantly poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. ' Romans 5:3-5.

Persistence and Perseverance--comes through enduring difficulties. Struggle develops character.

The path to obtaining hope includes tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance, and perseverance, character, and then character, hope. Going through difficult times actually helps you gain strength. As trials come against you, surprise you or disappoint you, hope based on past tribulations and difficulties actually catapults you into handling what is ahead of you and allows you to push through in a positive way.

Persistence and perseverance will always work to your benefit. Through perseverance you also develop emotional maturity. It is exhausting to throw emotional fits--especially when they become daily occurrences. When you are faced with constant pressure in an area, you have to grow up. You need to find peace in the situation. Even though pressure is intense, you learn to hang in there with Him. You could feel emotionally lost at times but He promises to keep you steady amidst the pressure.

Difficulties are not brought on by God but He is with you to help you walk through them. Perseverance brings about hope and it builds the character necessary for success in all areas of life.

Activation:

How do you feel about difficulties and trials? Do you look at them as opportunities to see the hand of God move?

Journal about a past trial and describe how God worked perseverance into your life. Make observations on how you can be more open to His instructions.

Jesus said we WILL have trials in this life. Talk about how grateful you are for the hand of God working in your life.



Conquer Worry

Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? Matthew 6:27.

Conquer Worry and Pressure--working out of your purpose brings confidence and freedom from fear.

Problems are an opportunity for success. That seems cliché but it is a way for you to exercise faith in God. When problems show up, instead of worrying or stressing, become disciplined to give the situation to the Lord. Find a Scripture that ministers to you in this area, and release the problem to Him. He is able to move in grace to solve issues and resolve problems. Can you imagine every time a problem shows up you say, "Yes! This is a great opportunity for me to work through faith and see success." Well, that is God's desire for you.

When I feel fear, stress or anxiety, I remember this verse and speak it out loud inserting my name. For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. 2 Timothy 1:7. The Word of God is a weapon for you to use. You can speak it out. Stand against worry with the Word of God, seeing life through the lens of His Word. 'Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.' Proverbs 3:5-6. Leaning on your own understanding could be analyzing a situation in the natural, reading the news, or focusing on something negative. This verse means do not base your decisions on those things, do not exalt those things over the promises of God. You can tell Him you are stressed or worried but then acknowledge He is God and listen for His voice. Put the burden on the Lord, who can handle the pressure and who will fulfill His promise. If God has promised something He will perform it on your behalf--everything good is from the Father--just release it to Him.

Activation:

Are you stressed out by something today? Are you able to ask the Lord for help?

Journal about anything you are worried about then ask the Lord for scriptures speaking to those things.

What is your first reaction to the arrival of problems or difficulties? Are you able to recognize an unhealthy response and make an adjustment?



Be Decisive

My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. James 1:2-8.

Be Decisive--sometimes any decision is better than no decision. Indecisive leadership is discouraging.

Sometimes any decision is better than no decision (I really believe this). In James, the Word says a wavering or double-minded man will receive nothing from the Lord. There are times you will have doubts, but when you are decisive you can trust the Lord to make things work for your good.

What if as a leader you have given a decision to your team or family. You said, let's go in this direction but then started wavering and waffling, being double-minded. Your team/family members don't know what to do. If you do not give them solid direction it undermines their confidence in you and themselves. They do not know what to do to be successful, and I believe God does not have a pathway to come in and help you move forward. God doesn't call you to live a mistake-free life. He did not say He will bless you as long as you act perfectly or give you favor and bring increase as long as you never make a mistake in judgment. If you are seeking God and doing your best, His grace is sufficient. He is able to steer a ship that is in motion, right? Decisiveness gives the people who look to you for leadership a direction to follow toward success. So be decisive. Indecisive leadership is discouraging all around. Decisive leadership instills confidence in you and in your team.

Activation:

Do you consider yourself a decisive person? Are you able to admit when you are wrong and make adjustments?

Journal all the decisions you make in a day. Discover your process for making decisions and ask the Lord for any correction you might need.

Have you walked through a situation with indecisive leadership that left you feeling unheard and directionless? Ask the Lord to heal you in that area.



Financial Reserves

The wise man saves for the future, but the foolish man spends whatever he gets. Proverbs 21:20.

Financial Reserves--having a cushion to help weather bumps in the road is good stewardship.

God has called you to be a good steward. He spends a lot of time in the Word talking about how to handle finances physically and spiritually. Good stewardship is important because it helps you manage money, time and resources which affects every area of life. "And you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day." Deuteronomy 8:18. God wants you and I to be well taken care of with our finances, as well as having enough to establish His Kingdom.

From a natural perspective what happens when you are not a good steward? Let me tell you, it is not a good place to be. The number one cause of failed marriages over the years is money issues. When you do not have the money to pay your bills, put food on the table or buy the things to take care of your family, it is very stressful. Whether you have overspent or made unwise investment decisions, it puts undue stress on you and your relationships. How many of your arguments in married life have been about money? How many times have you gone to the mailbox dreading the envelope from your credit card company? It sets an unhealthy tone in relationships. Be a good steward. Have financial reserves. When something comes up unexpectedly, you will have the provision for it. You can take care of a deficit because you have been wise like the ant and you can avoid the stress that comes with financial issues. Proverbs 6:6-11.

Activation:

Are you familiar with the scriptures discussing stewardship in the Word?

Journal your daily, weekly and monthly expenses and ask the Lord to give you wisdom on where to cut, where to save and where to increase.

If you don't have a financial reserve, look up a program to help you map out a plan and begin working toward it today.



Be a Life-Long Learner

Before disaster the heart of a man is haughty and filled with self-importance, But humility comes before honor. He who answers before he hears [the facts]— It is folly and shame to him. Proverbs 18:12-13.

Ask Questions and be a Life-Long Learner--Jesus is our best example of asking questions and leading the situation. Surround yourself with people who know more than you.

A leader kind of wants to be the smartest person in the room. But on the contrary, a leader needs to be surrounded with others who are experts in their fields. You may be leading the team, but you can't possibly know everything. It strengthens your team to learn from them so ask questions. What do you think? Thoughts? Do you think this is best? Are all excellent ways to end an email to your team.

Jesus was a master of asking questions. As a matter of fact when you spend time with Him--if your time is a little bit like mine--He asks lots of questions. What are you thinking here? How could you have responded differently? What does My Word say? He helps me know what I am thinking when I am not sure. If you seek to understand, you are able to move forward and be a positive, proactive influence in whatever it is you are called to do.

I catch myself speaking before pausing, mainly as a parent. Or if I feel I am an expert in an area it is hard for me to hear what someone else is saying. If I take a moment to listen--even if I go with my original idea--I am still able to honor that person, give them respect, and explain why we are making a decision to go a different way. When you allow people to come in with input and ask them questions, you are also opening up an opportunity to teach and expand their knowledge. When you exhibit the humility to re-examine some of the decisions you are making or the knowledge you have, even if you stay with the original decision your team will benefit. Humility comes before honor.

Activation:

Do you have a hard time asking questions because you feel threatened by a lack of knowledge?

Journal all the questions you asked in one day. Decide if there was room for more questions and how you can be ready with inquiries next time.

Are you ok when you are not the most knowledgeable person in the room? Do you spend time trying to make it look like you are? Ask the Lord to help.



Power of Choice

'For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.' II Corinthians 1:20.

Power of Choice--no one can stop you from being successful but you. Don't allow roadblocks or discouragement to have more power in your life than the Word of God. You are in charge of you.

God tells you He has given you power and authority on the earth. He also encourages you no matter who you are, the promises of God are yes and amen. The key is finding your identity in Jesus and who He says you are. This doesn't mean you won't have challenges or ever be treated unfairly. But it does mean if you see challenges through the lens of His Word--I am a victor, not a victim--you will be able to walk through any situation to the other side and see success.

Here is a question for you. Do roadblocks or challenges have more power in your life than the Word? A challenge for me is when people think women cannot do things men can do. I have a choice. Am I going to see myself through their lens: because I am a woman I cannot do this or cannot do that. Or am I going to look at myself through the lens God has given me: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"? 'For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,' II Corinthians 10:4-5. The weapons you fight against in your warfare are not people. Do not give another person power to make you a victim, to fail or to blame for a lack of success. Your weapons are mighty in God. When God says we are all equal in Him, He is not judging you based on gender or the color of your skin but as all the same in Him. It comes down to where is your identity? Are you identifying with Christ or are you identifying with something else? My identity is first in Christ, then as a woman. I am looking at myself first through Jesus and all the opportunities He brings. Those opportunities are yours and mine for the taking.

Activation:

Can you identify if you are looking at yourself with a victim mentality or a victor mentality?

Journal all the interactions you have during the week and determine how you see yourself in each one. Ask the Lord how He sees you.

When you think about where you want to go from here, are you seeing yourself through the Word of God or the words someone else has spoken over you.

