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GRACE NOTES PROGRAM

TITLE: HOW TO SUCCEED – please your boss – part 4

INTRO: Welcome to Grace Notes. Today we're continuing with the subject 'How to succeed at the most important job of your life' as we look more into 'How to please God – with faith being the key'. On our last program we examined the faith of the Israelites when they crossed the Red Sea and likened it to the decision we have to make to either step out for Christ - or live for the world. Having looked at an example of demonstrated faith, we'll now move on to review several situations where this wasn't the case. We pray that from these studies you'll be better able to see how well you are fairing out in the faith area.

Having experienced yet another miracle, you'd think the Israelites would now have enough faith to trust God in everything. He'd kept them from suffering the effects of the plagues, guided them safely out of Egypt, with riches to boot, and met their every need – which was great, to say the least.

According to Pastor Steve Wagner...

“There were anywhere from 3 to 3 1/2 million Jews that crossed that night. It has been calculated that for that many people to cross in one night they would had to cross 5000 abreast, which would have required God to open a path in the Red Sea 3 miles wide.

For 40 years God sustained them in the wilderness. That number would have required a camping area of 750 square miles (two-thirds the size of Rhode Island). It would have required 1500 tons of food PER DAY to keep them from starving. It would have taken 2 freight trains, each one mile long to haul in the daily food supply. At today's prices it would cost around \$4 million each day to feed them.

It would have required 11 million gallons of water for the bare necessities (drinking, washing, etc) each day. This would take a freight train of tank cars 1,800 miles long to haul in that much water daily.”

Do you think they realized this or just took it for granted? Are there miracles in OUR lives we aren't seeing, either?

Once safely on the other side, God had something for them to do, other than care for themselves. He wanted them to rid the land He was going to give them of the pagan inhabitants. It may have seemed like they were

doing God a favor, but it was really for their benefit. God promised He'd lead them to victory in their battles, but they didn't believe Him. Hebrews 4:2 says that the message they heard, God's victory promise, was of no value to them, because of their unbelief. Even though He assured them they could overcome any obstacle with His help, they chose not to trust Him. It was a test – they failed it this time. God called that sin. Because of this they forsook their opportunity to enter the Promised land. What a loss. They went through all they went through for nothing, because of their lack of faith.

What about us? God promises to give Believers in Jesus Christ victory through faith in Him. 1 John 5:4-5 says...

...everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.

Mark 9:23 confirms... Everything is possible for him who believes.

That's EVERYTHING – not just an occasional happenstance. Are you an overcomer through faith in Christ? You can be if you trust Him and prove it by walking in obedience to His commands? When you choose to follow Jesus, the light of the world, you will noticeably feel the warmth of the SONSHINE upon your life.

***** DAYSTAR *****

Now let's look at another example of faithlessness, also from a group of people who'd been given reason to believe and act out their faith – the disciples. Jesus had been teaching, preaching and healing every disease and sickness among the people, right before their eyes. He then took them aside for some deeper teaching on how to pray and what brings blessings, recorded in Matthew 5 and 6. Then He chided them because they were WORRYING about what they would eat, drink and wear. He said they should seek His kingdom and His righteousness instead because the Father already knew what they needed and would provide it.

Where are we with that? Hasn't God always supplied our needs? Do WE worry? Worry is a lack of faith – in fact it's sin.

I love what it says about worry in Luke 12...

Verses 25-26 reads...Who of you by worrying can add a single hour

to his life? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?

Verse 23 says...Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds!

Verses 27-28 continue...

"Consider how the lilies grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith!

Want to please God? Trust Him IN and WITH everything. He made you and knows your inmost being. He watches over you continually. He paid the price to redeem your soul. He has prepared a life-path for you that will ultimately bring you great satisfaction and blessing.

If you can, why not watch a bird in flight, or gaze at the beauty of a flower as you listen to this song.

***** CONSIDER THE LILIES *****

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**Join us on our next program where we'll continue with the
topic – 'HOW TO PLEASE YOUR BOSS'.**

Until then, let your grace notes be a song of praise!