

The Golden Rule of Success

by Charles Stanley

The Golden Rule of Success, based on Matthew 7:7-12, teaches us to treat others the way we want to be treated, and to live by the principles of generosity and forgiveness in order to reap God's blessings.

Scripture: Matthew 6:12, Matthew 7:7, Matthew 7:9, Matthew 7:12, Matthew 18:21, Galatians 2:20, Galatians 6:7, Hebrews 11:6

Topics: "Effective Prayer", "Christian Living"

Description

Charles Stanley emphasizes the importance of seeking, asking, and knocking in prayer, assuring that God, our heavenly Father, will provide good gifts to those who ask Him. He delves into the principle of treating others as we want to be treated, highlighting the divine strength required to live out this standard in a world that often operates differently. Stanley challenges believers to imitate Christ's generosity and forgiveness, even when faced with challenges or repeated wrongs, emphasizing the need to respond in faith and submit to the Holy Spirit's control for godly behavior. He underscores the biblical truth that our actions and attitudes towards others will ultimately determine our success in God's eyes.

Transcript

Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. "Or what man is there among you who, when his son asks for a loaf, will give him a stone? "Or if he asks for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he? "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him! "In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets. (Matthew 7:7-12 NASB)

Since God wants us to succeed, He has given us a principle to govern our relationships: "Treat people the way you want them to treat you" (Matthew 7:12). Though simple, this standard requires divine strength to carry out because, as is usual with kingdom principles, it is contrary to the way we think.

Consider the values of generosity and forgiveness. God calls us to imitate Christ and be generous towards others; but when people take advantage of our generosity, we want to stop. Jesus told Peter that if someone repeatedly sins, we are to forgive every time. (Matthew 18:21-22) The Lord Himself forgave those who crucified Him. However, forgiveness does not humanly make sense when we are confronted with betrayal, unethical behavior, or someone who repeatedly wrongs us.

In light of the above principle, how are we to act? We are to set our attitude toward pleasing God. This involves putting aside our feelings about how the other person's behavior affects us and resolving to respond God's way--the way of faith. (Hebrews 11:6, Galatians 2:20) Submit to the control of the Holy Spirit. Refuse to allow "human thinking" to take charge. If the Spirit dominates our thinking, godly behavior will follow.

Scripture says we will reap what we sow. (Galatians 6:7) If we are generous, God will show us generosity; if we forgive, the Lord will grant us forgiveness. (Matthew 6:12) The way we live--in both attitude and action--will determine if we are a success in God's eyes.

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