

Feelings or Faith.

Saturday-Sunday, August 10-11, 2024

The book "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People" by Stephen R. Covey was first published on August 15, 1989. It has since become a highly influential book in the field of personal development and leadership.

As my study took me back through 200 years of writing about success, I noticed a startling pattern emerging in the content of the literature. I began to feel more and more that much of the success literature of the past 50 years was superficial. It was filled with **social image consciousness**, techniques and quick fixes -- with **social band-aids** and aspirin that addressed acute problems and sometimes even appeared to solve them temporarily -- but left the underlying chronic problems untouched to fester and resurface time and again. In stark contrast, almost all the literature in the first 150 years or so focused on what could be called the character ethic as the foundation of success -- things like integrity, humility, fidelity, temperance, courage, justice, patience, industry, simplicity, modesty, and the Golden Rule. Benjamin Franklin's autobiography is representative of that literature. It is, basically, the story of one man's effort to integrate certain principles and habits deep within his nature.

The character ethic taught that there are basic principles of effective living, and that people can only experience true success and enduring happiness as they learn and integrate these principles into their basic character.

(Stephen R. Covey-The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People 1989)

The world is always working on trending something new.

Satan works through the world's system. 1 John 4:4 God of this world.

It demands your time-attention-thoughts. Distraction and busyness are some of Satan's traps.

Satan or his demons will attack our minds with:

- 1. Doubt in God's Love and Goodness**
- 2. Self-Condensation and Guilt**
- 3. Fear and Anxiety**
- 4. Temptations to Sin**
- 5. Discouragement and Despair**
- 6. Isolation and Loneliness**
- 7. Pride and Self-Reliance**

8. Comparison and Envy
9. Resentment and Unforgiveness
10. Doubting God's Word
11. Apathy and Indifference
12. Temptation to Compromise
13. Feelings of Inadequacy
14. Disbelief in Forgiveness
15. Encouraging Disobedience

All of these things listed evoke emotions, feelings. Satan is fishing for a reaction.

Romans 12:2 (NLT)

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but **let God transform you** into a new person by **changing the way you think**. Then you will **learn to know God's will** for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

Philippians 3:8 (AMP)

Yes, furthermore, I count everything as loss compared to the possession of the priceless privilege (the overwhelming preciousness, the surpassing worth, and supreme advantage) of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord and of progressively becoming more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him [of perceiving and recognizing and understanding Him more fully and clearly]. For His sake I have lost everything and consider it all to be mere rubbish (refuse, dregs), in order that I may win (gain) Christ (the Anointed One),

Philippians 3:10 (AMP)

[For my determined purpose is] that I may know Him [that I may progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him, perceiving and recognizing and understanding the wonders of His Person more strongly and more clearly], and that I may in that same way come to know the power outflowing from His resurrection [which it exerts over believers], and that I may so share His sufferings as to be continually transformed [in spirit into His likeness even] to His death, [in the hope]

NOS Philippians 3:14 (AMP)

I press on toward the goal to win the [supreme and heavenly] prize to which God in Christ Jesus is calling us upward.

NOS Philippians 3:15 (AMP)

So let those [of us] who are spiritually mature and full-grown have this mind and hold these convictions; and if in any respect you have a different attitude of mind, God will make that clear to you also.

Romans 15:4 (NLT)

"Such things were written in the Scriptures long ago **to teach us**. And the Scriptures give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God's promises to be fulfilled."

1 Corinthians 10:11 (NLT)

"These **things** happened to them as examples for us. They were written down to warn us who live at the end of the age."

1. Adam: Lost man's dominion and placed all humanity under sin. Everyone born after Adam was born into sin.

2. Noah found grace in a world where no one else had any interest in God but were sold out to wickedness.

3. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob:

Genesis 12-50: Foundational leaders of the Israelite people, leading their families and clans under God's covenant.

4. Moses:

Leader and Lawgiver:

Exodus 3-34: Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt and through the wilderness, receiving the Law from God at Mount Sinai.

5. Joshua:

Conqueror of Canaan:

Joshua 1-24: Joshua led the Israelites into the Promised Land, overseeing the conquest and division of Canaan.

6. Judges:

Temporary Leaders during the Period of Tribal Confederacy:

Judges 1-21: Leaders such as Othniel, Ehud, Deborah, Gideon, and Samson were raised by God to deliver Israel from oppression during this period.

In the book of Judges, the phrase or something similar to "each man did what was right in his own eyes" appears **four times**.

7. Samuel:

Prophet and Last Judge:

1 Samuel 1-12: Samuel was the last judge and a key figure in transitioning Israel from a tribal confederation to a monarchy.

Israel wanted a king, so the Lord gave them one.

In 1 and 2 Kings and 1 and 2 Chronicles is recorded **33 times** where "he did evil in the side of the Lord."

8. Kings:

Monarchs of Israel:

Saul:

1 Samuel 9-31: The first king of Israel, ultimately rejected by God due to disobedience.

David:

1 Samuel 16 - 1 Kings 2: The second king of Israel, known for uniting the tribes and establishing Jerusalem as the capital.

Solomon:

1 Kings 1-11: David's son, renowned for his wisdom and the construction of the First Temple in Jerusalem.

Divided Kingdom:

After Solomon's death, the kingdom split into two: the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the Southern Kingdom of Judah. Here are the kings, categorized as good or bad:

Kings of the Northern Kingdom of Israel (All were considered bad):

1. Jeroboam I (1 Kings 12:25-33): Led Israel into idolatry.
2. Nadab (1 Kings 15:25-26): Continued in his father's idolatry.
3. Baasha (1 Kings 15:33-34): Wicked like Jeroboam.
4. Elah (1 Kings 16:8-13): Followed in the sins of Jeroboam.
5. Zimri (1 Kings 16:15-20): Ruled briefly and committed suicide.
6. Omri (1 Kings 16:21-28): More evil than all before him.
7. Ahab (1 Kings 16:29 - 22:40): Married Jezebel and promoted Baal worship.
8. Ahaziah (1 Kings 22:51 - 2 Kings 1:18): Walked in the ways of Ahab.
9. Joram (Jehoram) (2 Kings 3:1-27): Continued in Ahab's sins.
10. Jehu (2 Kings 9:1 - 10:36): Destroyed Ahab's family but followed Jeroboam's sins.
11. Jehoahaz (2 Kings 13:1-9): Continued in the sins of Jeroboam.
12. Joash (Jehoash) (2 Kings 13:10-25): Evil like Jeroboam.
13. Jeroboam II (2 Kings 14:23-29): Did evil like Jeroboam I.
14. Zechariah (2 Kings 15:8-12): Last of Jehu's dynasty, continued in evil.
15. Shallum (2 Kings 15:13-15): Assassinated after a month.
16. Menahem (2 Kings 15:16-22): Continued in the sins of Jeroboam.
17. Pekahiah (2 Kings 15:23-26): Continued in Jeroboam's sins.
18. Pekah (2 Kings 15:27-31): Did evil like Jeroboam.
19. Hoshea (2 Kings 17:1-6): The last king, led Israel to captivity under Assyria.

Kings of the Southern Kingdom of Judah:

Good Kings of the Southern Kingdom of Judah:

1. Asa (1 Kings 15:9-24): Did what was right in the eyes of the Lord.

2. Jehoshaphat (1 Kings 22:41-50): Sought the Lord and walked in His commandments.
3. Joash (Jehoash) (2 Kings 12:1-21): Did right under the guidance of Jehoiada the priest.
4. Amaziah (2 Kings 14:1-20): Followed the Lord but not wholeheartedly.
5. Uzziah (Azariah) (2 Kings 15:1-7): Did right but fell into pride later.
6. Jotham (2 Kings 15:32-38): Did what was right, following his father Uzziah.
7. Hezekiah (2 Kings 18-20): Trusted in the Lord and reformed Judah's worship.
8. Josiah (2 Kings 22-23): Initiated religious reforms and restored the temple.

Bad Kings of the Southern Kingdom of Judah:

1. Rehoboam (1 Kings 14:21-31): Allowed idolatry to flourish.
2. Abijah (1 Kings 15:1-8): Continued in the sins of his father Rehoboam.
3. Jehoram (2 Kings 8:16-24): Walked in the ways of the kings of Israel.
4. Ahaziah (2 Kings 8:25-29): Followed the ways of Ahab's family.
5. Athaliah (Queen) (2 Kings 11:1-20): Usurped the throne and led Judah into idolatry.
6. Ahaz (2 Kings 16:1-20): Sacrificed to idols and closed the temple.
7. Manasseh (2 Kings 21:1-18): Reigned the longest and was the most wicked, leading Judah into deep idolatry.
8. Amon (2 Kings 21:19-26): Followed in his father Manasseh's wickedness.
9. Jehoahaz (2 Kings 23:31-33): Did evil like his ancestors.
10. Jehoiakim (2 Kings 23:34 - 24:7): Did evil and led Judah into idolatry.
11. Jehoiachin (2 Kings 24:8-16): Continued in the sins of his fathers.
12. Zedekiah (2 Kings 24:17 - 25:7): The last king of Judah, who rebelled against Babylon, leading to the destruction of Jerusalem.

9. Prophets:

Messengers of God:

Prophets such as Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel played crucial roles in calling Israel and Judah back to righteousness, offering warnings of judgment, and providing hope for restoration.

10. Post-Exilic Leaders:

Zerubbabel and Ezra:

Ezra 1-10, Nehemiah 1-13: These leaders helped rebuild the temple and restore the law after the Babylonian exile.

Nehemiah:

Nehemiah 1-13: Nehemiah was instrumental in rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem and reforming the community.

James 1:2 (NLT)

Dear brothers and sisters, **when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy.**

James 1:3 (NLT)

For **you know** that when **your faith** is tested, **your endurance** has a chance to grow.

James 1:4 (NLT)

So let it grow, for when **your endurance is fully developed**, you **will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.**

James 1:5 (NLT)

If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and **he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you** for asking.

James 1:6 (NLT)

But **when you ask** him, be sure that your **faith is in God alone. Do not waver**, for a person with **divided loyalty** is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind.

James 1:7 (NLT)

Such people **should not expect** to receive anything from the Lord.

James 1:8 (NLT)

Their **loyalty is divided between God and the world**, and they are **unstable** in everything they do.

1 Timothy 2:1 (ESV)

First of all, then, I urge that **supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings** be made for all people,

1 Timothy 2:2 (ESV)

for **kings and all who are in high positions**, that we may lead a **peaceful and quiet** life, **godly and dignified** in every way.

1 Timothy 2:3 (ESV)

This is **good**, and it is **pleasing** in the **sight of God our Savior**,

1 Timothy 2:4 (ESV)

who **desires all people to be saved** and to **come to the knowledge of the truth.**

Supplications are specific requests for oneself.

Prayers are a general term covering all forms of communication with God.

Intercessions are prayers made on behalf of others.

Thanksgivings are prayers focused on expressing gratitude to God for His blessings and actions in our lives.

BENEFITS OF BELIEVING PRAYER

FORGIVENESS FROM GOD...

1 John 1:9 (NKJV)

If we confess our sins, **He is faithful and just to forgive** us our sins and to **cleanse** us from all unrighteousness.

THE PEACE OF GOD...

Philippians 4:6 (NKJV)

Be **anxious for nothing**, but in **everything by prayer and supplication**, with **thanksgiving**, let your requests be made known to God;

Philippians 4:7 (NKJV)

and **the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding**, will **guard your hearts and minds** through Christ Jesus.

SUPERNATURAL STRENGTH FROM GOD...

Ephesians 3:14 (NKJV)

For this reason I **bow my knees** to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Ephesians 3:15 (NKJV)

from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,

Ephesians 3:16 (NKJV)

that **He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory**, to be **strengthened with might** through His Spirit in the inner man,

Ephesians 3:20 (NKJV)

Now to Him who is **able to do exceedingly abundantly above** all that we ask or think, **according to the power that works in us**,

DOORS OF OPPORTUNITY FROM GOD...

1 Corinthians 3:5 (NKJV)

Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one?

1 Corinthians 16:9 (NKJV)

For a **great and effective door has opened** to me, and there are many adversaries.

2 Corinthians 2:12 (NKJV)

Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, and **a door was opened** to me by the Lord,

Colossians 4:3 (NKJV)

meanwhile **praying also for us, that God would open to us a door** for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains,

THERE IS BOLDNESS FROM GOD...

Acts 4:29 (NKJV)

Now, Lord, look on their threats, and **grant to Your servants that with all boldness** they may speak Your word,

Acts 4:30 (NKJV)

by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.”

Acts 4:31 (NKJV)

And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and **they spoke the word of God with boldness.**

Ephesians 6:19 (NKJV)

and for me, that utterance may be given to me, **that I may open my mouth boldly** to make known the mystery of the gospel,

THERE IS WISDOM FROM GOD...

James 1:5 (NKJV)

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.

James 1:6 (NKJV)

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.

James 1:7 (NKJV)

For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;

James 1:8 (NKJV)

he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

THERE IS HEALING FROM GOD...

James 5:14 (NKJV)

Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.

James 5:15 (NKJV)

And **the prayer of faith will save the sick**, and **the Lord will raise him up**. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

James 5:16 (NKJV)

Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

THERE IS TRANQUILITY FROM GOD...

1 Timothy 2:1 (NKJV)

Therefore I exhort **first of all** that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for **all men**,

1 Timothy 2:2 (NKJV)

for **kings and all who are in authority**, that we may lead a **quiet and peaceable life** in all godliness and reverence.

1 Timothy 2:3 (NKJV)

For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,

1 Timothy 2:4 (NKJV)

who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Luke 18:1 (NLT)

One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should **always pray and never give up**.

Luke 18:2 (NLT)

"There was a judge in a certain city," he said, "who neither feared God nor cared about people.

Luke 18:3 (NLT)

A widow of that city came to him repeatedly, saying, 'Give me justice in this dispute with my enemy.'

Luke 18:4 (NLT)

The judge ignored her for a while, but finally he said to himself, 'I don't fear God or care about people,

Luke 18:5 (NLT)

but this woman is driving me crazy. I'm going to see that she gets justice, because she is wearing me out with her constant requests!'

Luke 18:6 (NLT)

Then the Lord said, "**Learn a lesson from this unjust judge**.

Luke 18:7 (NLT)

Even he rendered a just decision in the end. So don't you think God will surely give justice to his chosen people who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off?

Luke 18:8 (NLT)

I tell you, he will grant justice to them quickly! But when the Son of Man returns, **how many will he find on the earth who have faith?**"