

# Protips Weekly Volume 10

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One of the dangers of mishandling success is the tendency to become proud. The Bible rightfully warns us that pride always precedes destruction (Proverbs 16:18) because God is opposed to the proud (Proverbs 16:5).

This week on Protips we look at reminders to help us manage success effectively and humbly. As the Lord entrusts us with success in our lives and careers may He also cause our feet to be firmly planted on the ground.

Be a blessing in the workplace today and always!

Maloi

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## **Be BRAVE in Handling Criticisms**

Proverbs 15:31-32 - "If you listen to constructive criticism, you will be at home among the wise. If you reject criticism, you will only harm yourself; but if you listen to correction, you grow in understanding."

Be thankful to the person who criticized you.

Remember that you are a work in progress. Remind yourself that the biggest room in the world is the room for improvement.

Ask God for humility and a teachable heart.

Volunteer in areas that will help you grow in your area of need - instead of veering away from it.

Evaluate yourself.

Proverbs 16:20-21 - Those who listen to instruction will prosper; those who trust the Lord will be happy. The wise are known for their understanding, and instruction is appreciated if it's well presented.

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## **Success Tips from Joseph the Dreamer**

(Read Genesis 37-50)

I'm sure that you are familiar with the story of Joseph the Dreamer. We find his life chronicled in the Old Testament of the Bible. Joseph was a Hebrew who was sold into slavery by his brothers who were envious of him. But this slave experienced promotion after promotion. What was Joseph's key to success? Let me share with you my observations:

1. Joseph valued his master's trust. (Gen. 39:8-9)

- He never abused his master.
  - He recognized the limits of his responsibilities & privileges.
2. Joseph mastered the discipline of delayed gratification. (Gen. 39:10)
    - Joseph had a long term-view on life.
    - He didn't give in to daily pressures.
    - He didn't allow his defenses to deteriorate by fleeing from temptation.
  3. Joseph acknowledged his success as coming from God. (Gen. 40:8; 41:16)
  4. Joseph always took the opportunity to honor God & point others to God.
  5. Joseph had a high view of God. He understood that because God is sovereign, the worst of life's circumstance can be the best of life's circumstance. (Gen. 45:5)

Only a person who has full trust in God can say what Joseph told his brothers in the final chapter of Genesis, "Don't be afraid of me. Am I God to judge and punish you? As far as I am concerned, God turned into good what you meant for evil. He brought me to the high position I have today so I could save the lives of many people." (Gen. 50:19-20)

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### **The Power of a Promise**

Can people count on what you say? Remember that the measure of your leadership can be seen in the integrity of your words. When we make a promise, let's make sure that we fulfill it. Here are tips to help us avoid breaking our promises...

Practice what you preach. Walk your talk.

Remember your commitments.

Organize. Get organized. Remove the clutter in your life.

Make use of words that are clear & understandable.

Intend to say only what you can deliver.

Set parameter to your commitment so people can hold you accountable. Date manner.

Explain without making excuses, why a promise cannot be done and apologize fulfilled.

Make your words count. Impress in your hearts these reminders from the Bible:

- Proverbs 10:11 - The words of good people are a source of life, but evil hides behind the work of the wicked.
- Proverbs 10:19 - You will say the wrong thing if you talk too much - so be sensible and watch what you say.

- Proverbs 15:4 - Kind words are good medicine but deceitful words can really hurt.
- Proverbs 25:11 - The right word at the right time is like precious gold set in silver.”

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## **Planning That Works**

The website Mindtools.com defines planning this way, “It is the start of the process by which you turn empty dreams into achievements. It helps you to avoid the trap of working extremely hard but achieving little. Planning’s main goal is to help you to achieve the maximum effect from a given effort.”

The Bible gives us many tips about effective planning. Here are important insights that the book of Proverbs has about it:

- Proverbs 15:22 says that, “Plans go wrong for lack of advice, many countless bring success.”
- Proverbs 16:3 - “Commit your work to the Lord, and then your plans will succeed.”
- Proverbs 16:9 - “We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps.”

What are the steps involved in effective planning. Mindtools.com has the following:

1. Analysis of Current Position
2. Identify aim
3. Explore options
4. Detailed planning
5. Plan Evaluation
6. Plan Implementation
7. Closure of Plan
8. Feedback