

GOD IS SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR SUCCESS

"But who are you, a mere man, to criticize and contradict and answer back to God? Will what is formed say to him that formed it, 'Why have you made me thus?' Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same mass (lump) one vessel for beauty and distinction and honorable use, and another for menial or ignoble and dishonorable use?"

– Romans 9:20-21

"I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd risks and lays down His [own] life for the sheep."

– John 10:11

"I am the True Vine, and My Father is the Vinedresser. Any branch in Me that does not bear fruit [that stops bearing] He cuts away (trims off, takes away); and He cleanses and repeatedly prunes every branch that continues to bear fruit, to make it bear more and richer and more excellent fruit."

– John 15:1-2

"He also is the Head of [His] body, the church; seeing He is the Beginning, the Firstborn from among the dead, so that He alone in everything and in every respect might occupy the chief place [stand first and be preeminent]."

– Colossians 1:18

Look at the glorious truths revealed in these verses! We are shown that God is the Potter and we are the clay. Jesus is our Shepherd, and we are His sheep. Jesus is the Vine, and we are His branches, while God is the Gardener, tending to us as His plants. And in Colossians 1:18, we are reminded that Jesus is the Head of the church, His body, and that He is preeminent in all things. Each of these examples illustrates a profound reality: **God is entirely responsible for our success.**

God's Role in Our Success

- **The Potter:** The Potter shapes the clay into a useful vessel. Success is not the clay's responsibility but the Potter's.
- **The Vine:** The Vine supplies life to the branches, enabling them to bear fruit. The branch does not decide what fruit it will produce or when—it is the Vine's responsibility to sustain and nourish it.
- **The Gardener:** The Gardener ensures that the garden thrives. He prunes, waters, and protects the plants, guaranteeing their productivity.
- **The Shepherd:** The Shepherd is responsible for the well-being and safety of the sheep, guiding and protecting them.
- **The Head of the Body:** As the Head of the church, Jesus governs, directs, and ensures the success of His body. He is preeminent, and through Him, all things are held together.

In all these examples, God repeatedly shows us through His Word that He takes full responsibility for our success. This is why we are more than conquerors and have surpassing victory. God ensures we live abundantly, achieving all He has destined for us.

"For we are God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew] that we may do those good works which God predestined (planned beforehand) for us [taking paths which He prepared ahead of time], that we should walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live]."

– Ephesians 2:10

"And He Himself existed before all things, and in Him all things consist (cohere, are held together)."

– Colossians 1:17

"But the Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengtheners, Standby), the Holy Spirit, Whom the Father will send in My name [in My place, to represent Me and act on My behalf], He will teach you all things. And He will cause you to recall (will remind you of, bring to your remembrance) everything I have told you."

– John 14:26

Our Assurance in Christ

In Christ, we are guaranteed success. As new creations, the old ways of failure no longer define us. We are now part of the Body of Christ, and Jesus never fails. His victory ensures our success in every area of life. Today is the day of our salvation, the time to walk in the complete victory and abundant life that God has prepared for us.

"For He says, 'In the time of favor (of an assured welcome) I have listened to and heeded your call, and I have helped you on the day of deliverance (the day of salvation).' Behold, now is truly the time for a gracious welcome and acceptance [of you from God]; behold, now is the day of salvation!"

– 2 Corinthians 6:2