



# Cecil and Lisa Paxton Ministries

## August 2020 Newsletter

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***Blessed are  
the pure in  
heart, For  
they shall  
see God.***

***Matthew 5:8***

**Dear Partners and Friends,**

This month, we are continuing to minister not only over the phone but also through Zoom, thanks to which we are reaching overseas. Also, we are still expanding the YouTube teaching avenue, growing our audience.

### **CLPMI Giving**

For those of you who are not aware, we want to share about how your giving goes into what Jesus is accomplishing not only through us as a ministry but also around the world.

#### **1. Russia**

The finances we give support Bible colleges in two locations in Russia as well as two churches. This ministry is also recording Bible teaching classes that are played yearly for the students. I have ministered many times in Russia and have personally experienced and seen the quality of the work.

#### **2. Ireland**

In Ireland we are financially giving to support the Belfast college located at the wall that used to separate warring factions. This college is bringing the message of God's love and grace to the Irish people from both sides.

#### **3. Mexico**

In Mexico your giving is supporting a church and an orphanage full of abandoned children, some of whom were sold from other countries. They now have a loving family atmosphere in which they are raised to succeed in life. I have ministered there and personally know the man and his wife and the quality of the work they are doing.

#### **4. Ambassadors To The Nations**

As a ministry, we support many children through Darey and Karen Jolley in Guatemala and Mexico. We love their hearts, as 100 percent of the money goes to the children and projects.

#### **5. USA**

Here within the United States, we support ten different works in churches, ministries,

and colleges. In a future letter, we will share more concerning here in the US.

## The Difference Between Success & Failure

Successful people can experience failure—really bad failure—but never **become** failures when Jesus is their source of life.

When your identity is already established in God with the value He has for you, your self-worth comes from Him instead of your performance.

What you identify with is what you become. To identify with something means you will take on the characteristics of the issue. This is why some Christians do not just have a problem in their lives; they end up **becoming** the problem because they take on the **identity** of the problem. When the issues of life dominate your heart, it effects your thoughts, feelings, and emotions. When you make decisions out of this place of confusion, they are usually bad decisions because you are not seeing clearly.

In Matthew 5:8, Jesus said, *“Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God.”*

This word “see” in the Greek has the meaning of an admixture. An admixture is when something from the outside comes into the inside, like pouring coffee into water. The water used to be visually clear, but now the coffee has darkened the water to where our perception is affected.

With pure hearts, we are able to obtain God’s perspective, bringing freedom found in Christ. But when our problems become about us, we are left with only a human perspective

like an unbeliever. We may want God’s help, but when receiving is about us instead of Jesus, we are limiting Jesus in our lives because of the condition of our hearts when they are full of unbelief.

**You see, what you identify with, you become!**

An example of a successful man was Joseph. He experienced terribly bad circumstances in life but always, no matter what the circumstance, never let go of the Lord as the true source of his life. Even though he experienced these bad circumstances, he never became a failure by taking on the identity of his circumstances. In Genesis 39:2, it was said of Joseph that he was a successful man because the Lord was with him.

Success is directly related to Jesus, and that is why we do not want to limit Jesus in our lives by choosing our self-life over the life of Christ that dwells within us.

### A Successful Man – Genesis 39:1-6 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. And Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him down there.

<sup>2</sup> The LORD was with Joseph, and he was a successful man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.

<sup>3</sup> And his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD made all he did to prosper in his hand.

<sup>4</sup> So Joseph found favor in his sight, and served him. Then he made him overseer of his house, and all that he had he put under his authority.

<sup>5</sup> So it was, from the time that he had made

*him overseer of his house and all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had in the house and in the field.*

*<sup>6</sup> Thus he left all that he had in Joseph's hand, and he did not know what he had except for the bread which he ate.*

Do you believe you are blessed in Christ? You will receive according to how you believe with all your heart. It is one thing to choose to believe and another when understanding of the truth of God's Word is revealed to you by the Holy Spirit, resulting in you **becoming** that truth.

When being blessed in Christ is a way of life that you live, that truth determines the way you relate to life. It is truth that becomes your automatic response to life's challenging problems before you even have time to think about the problem, as being blessed in Christ is who you are in your whole being. Under the pressure of life's issues, when you are squeezed, the truth actually in your heart will come out.

Joseph's relationship with the Lord was his source of life, which determined his self-worth. He may not have always liked his circumstances, but his circumstances never stopped him from success. In all circumstances, success was who he was, so succeeding was the result. When you identify with good as belonging to you, good is in your heart and, under all circumstances, you will be able to see good when others only are able to see bad.

#### **The Favor of God – Genesis 39:20-23 (NKJV)**

*<sup>20</sup> Then Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, a place where the*

*king's prisoners were confined. And he was there in the prison.*

*<sup>21</sup> But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.*

*<sup>22</sup> And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners who were in the prison; whatever they did there, it was his doing.*

*<sup>23</sup> The keeper of the prison did not look into anything that was under Joseph's authority, because the LORD was with him; and whatever he did, the LORD made it prosper.*

#### **Do you believe you have the favor of God?**

Do you find truth in who you are in Jesus in the circumstances of life? Joseph was unjustly put in prison, but instead of having bitterness of heart because of the unjust treatment, he experienced success under bad circumstances. Without the favor of the Lord, Joseph might have never been recognized by the jailer. The Spirit of the Lord within you brings you favor.

#### **Thank You!**

Lisa and I are very grateful to you, our friends and partners of this ministry, as together we are seeing lives changed. We believe that you, our partners, are greatly prospering—spirit, soul, and body—as you experience increase in the seed you have sown, multiplying in the fruits of your righteousness. God's richest blessings in Christ are already yours. Believe and establish this truth in your heart and have an open heart to receive all that God has given you in Christ Jesus.

Blessings in Christ,

*Cecil + Lisa*



## New Teaching Album



### *The Difference Between Success & Failure*

How do you identify yourself, as a success or failure? You never become something until you believe it. Your identity determines your self-worth, either in Christ or yourself. Join me as I explain how your self-view affects you.

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