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SECRET

TO

LASTING SUCCESS

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INTRODUCTION

Do you ever feel frustrated with the level of success you've experienced in life? Do you ever find yourself dreaming and wishing for more? You've put the time in, you've done your best to help others, but you feel like you are still stuck? Maybe you are hoping 2017 will be different. Well it can be! The secret to lasting success is available for everyone, and it's free!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are you excited for in 2017?
2. If you could do one new thing this year, what would it be, and why?
3. Have you ever tried something new, and it didn't go the way you planned, or it just wasn't all you expected it to be? What did you learn from that experience?
4. When you view success in life, what drives the value you place on achieving those goals? In other words, what drives you to accomplish those goals? Is it to bring you happiness or to bring happiness to others?
5. In John 15, Jesus claims to be God in the flesh. By claiming to have such authority and power, how does that affect your relationship with Jesus? With God?
6. Are we able to live apart from God and Jesus, while living out the life God desires us to live on our own?
7. What would change in your life if you replaced the priority of YOUR goals with what God desires for you instead? How would that affect how you work? How would that affect your relationship between you and your family members? How would that affect how you use your time?
8. As you read through John 15:1-8, where do you think you need to start in order to enjoy a life of lasting success?

APPLICATION

We often want success, but we want it on our terms, in our way, and based on our own desires. We find ourselves picking goals that we feel we can achieve on our own, because we think we are in control. However, we were never fully in control; God has been all along.

When we realize that God is in control, and He has a bigger and better plan for us, two things change:

1). the direction and purpose of our lives, and 2). the ability to dream or imagine a life bigger than we are living now. Change happens, because we begin to realize that what was impossible for us is not impossible for God! Start with Jesus, let God help to provide your victory this year, and enjoy a lasting success!

CHALLENGE: Read chapter 12 of Romans each day for a month, and pray about how God wants to use His words in your life.

KEY VERSES

Colossians 3:23
Matthew 5:16
John 15:1-8
Hebrews 12:1
2 Corinthians 5:14-19
Romans 12:1-2
Colossians 3:2-3b