

God's Words of Life on  
**SUCCESS**

Have faith in the LORD your God and you will be upheld; have faith in his prophets and you will be successful.

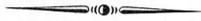
*2 Chronicles 20:20*

Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong.

*1 Corinthians 16:13*

And may these words of mine, which I have prayed before the LORD, be near to the LORD our God day and night, that he may uphold the cause of his servant and the cause of his people Israel according to each day's need, so that all the people of the earth may know that the LORD is God and that there is no other.

*1 Kings 8:59-60*



Devotional Thought on  
**SUCCESS**

With everything imaginable working in his favor, it seemed Solomon would gratefully follow God. His prayer of dedication for the temple in 1 Kings 8 is one of the most majestic ever prayed.

Yet by the end of his reign Solomon had squandered away nearly every advantage. Along the way he lost sight of the original vision to which God had called him. Success in the kingdom of this world had crowded out interest in the kingdom of God. The brief, shining vision of a covenant nation faded away, and God withdrew his sanction. Solomon got whatever he wanted, especially when it came to symbols of power and status. Gradually, he depended less on God and more on the props around him: the world's largest harem, a house twice the size of the temple, an army well-stocked with chariots, a strong economy.

Success may have eliminated any crisis of disappointment with God, but it also seemed to eliminate Solomon's desire for God at all. The more he enjoyed the world's good gifts, the less he thought about the Giver.

*Philip Yancey*