

ENDORSEMENTS

“In his book, *Successful Life Principles*, David Ellis reminds us that successful living takes focus. I highly recommend this “workbook” for living the abundant life Jesus spoke of in the scriptures. May the good Lord bless you in mind, body, and spirit as you pursue your personal journey on the road of life.”

Rodney Sessions
Educator, Writer,
Motivational speaker,
Pastor

“*Successful Life Principles* is not written in Morse code. It is an easy-to-read manual for the wavering heart seeking balance in a topsy-turvy world. God-driven purpose is the stabilizer. For those who have trapped themselves in webs of frustration, disillusionment, and worthlessness, *Successful Life Principles* is a road map to your inner self. It serves as a mirror of hope that can hang securely from the wall of despair. The reader will become mentally

stronger at each turn of the page as they grasp the meaning of life, its challenges and the pursuit of God's purpose for them. All that remains for the reader to do is commit to the idea that the author wrote the book with them in mind."

Alice Thomas-Tisdale
Jackson Advocate

"*Successful Life Principles* is written by this talented new author David Ellis, that comes to the world with a riveting excitement of wisdom and knowledge gained from life's experience. Since experience is the greatest teacher, the author verifies that by staying in the race and applying Biblical principals you will ultimately gain victory."

Beverly Stalling
Pastor Abundant Life Ministry

"I am usually not a reader of self help books. However, after reading David Ellis, *Successful Life Principles*, I am a believer of self help! This book is mind provoking and challenges the reader to be the best that he or she can be. How inspirational to have a writer challenge us to be the best we can inside and out. David has given the reader the secret to life success. I believe that all who read this book will be inspired to be a better person."

Sharran Jones
Medical Nurse

SUCCESSFUL
LIFE
PRINCIPLES

SUCCESSFUL
LIFE
PRINCIPLES

God's Eternal and Unchangeable Laws

DAVID
ELLIS

REDEMPTION  PRESS

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DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to my mother, Mrs Lena Ellis. Love you
always, miss you always.

All my family and friends, you are very special
and loved.

Get rich, stay rich.

The bank to a fuller life is now open for withdrawal.

A positive inspirational book that will unlock your every potential for a life full of joy and happiness!!

CONTENTS

Acknowledgments.....	xiii
Introduction	xv
God Is Not Finished With Me.....	xvii
1. Word Power.....	19
2. Avoid Dream Stealers	27
3. Beliefs	31
4. Maturity.....	37
5. Unstoppable Belief	41
6. A New Life.....	47
7. Focus	51
8. The Power to Choose.....	57
9. From Pain to Purpose to Love.....	61
10. Eliminate “Excusitis,” the Failure Disease	63
11. Winners Visualize.....	69
12. Overcomers	73
13. Confidence	79
14. Bounce Back.....	83
15. Principle of Vacuum.....	87

16. Remove Self-imposed Limitations.....	91
17. Cure Yourself of the Want-ees Disease.....	97
18. Life Leader.....	101
19. Dream Builder	107
20. Walk by Faith.....	111
21. Stop Procrastinating.....	115
22. Take Responsibility	123
23. My Best Friend	127
24. Dream Bigger Dreams.....	129
25. Growth	133
26. Expectations.....	137
27. American African Blacks Mental and Financial Success.....	141
28. Teamwork.....	147
29. The Mind.....	151
30. Knowledge.....	155
31. Live Your Life Without Limits.....	159
32. Peak to Peak Success.....	163
33. Don't Leave Your Future Behind You	167
Biblical Perspectives and Understandings.....	173
Note from Author.....	185

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My deepest gratitude goes to every person who came into my life and inspired me through their presence.

INTRODUCTION

Often people are more comfortable with their old problems than a new solution. This book is written out of life experiences and necessities, to overcome life's challenges and setbacks. My deepest desire is that you discover the liberating principles contained within these pages.

Successful Life Principles provides you with principles that will empower you to tap into your vital energies and your vast potentials while challenging you to become all that creation designed you to be. The knowledge enclosed in this book will move you from a feeling of being just adequate to feeling excellent.

GOD IS NOT FINISHED WITH ME

Sometimes God allows situations to develop in order to change us. We may be satisfied with our life and desire little or no change. We like what we like and we love what we love, but God sees us as an unfinished work. God created us for his purpose for our life. Some feel they have no need to change and only see changes needed in others. God wants us to change first by removing the imperfections in our life. There are opportunities to grow with struggles.

My prayer is that God will change me. I am a lump on the potter's wheel. Change is unpreventable. Everything and everyone must change. Nothing can remain the same. Mark Twain once said, "The only person who likes change is a wet baby." God planned for us to change, he purposed us for change. Only God is perfected, complete and finished.

Jeremiah was given a word from God, "Arise and go down to the potter's house and I will cause you to hear my word." Jeremiah watched the potter making a vessel on the wheel and he observed that the vessel (pot) was marred. The potter had placed a lump of clay on the wheel. The clay was stiff, requiring strong hands to

wash out the bubbles and lumps. Something had gone wrong and the pot was defective. Clay can be stiff and unpredictable, just like some of us. However, the potter simply collapsed the marred pot into a lump of clay, placed it back on the wheel, and formed it into another pot. Jeremiah observed that the potter did not discard the marred, messed up vessel. Instead, it was placed back on the wheel to be reshaped.

We stay in the master's hands. We might be out of God's purpose, but God is not finished with us. God was saying to Jeremiah, "I can remake you, I can transform you." Even if it takes a disaster to change you, you remain in the master's hands. The pain we experience—life's difficulties and the adverse circumstances we encounter—ensures that we are being molded into the person God designed us to become. You might think that your condition will destroy you, but the truth is that we might never change unless bad things happen to us. These bad things force us to learn to depend on God. No, God is not going to throw you away. His purpose is to shape us for the destiny that he has created for us.

We have the power to resist God's reshaping. However, the more we resist, the harder the potter's hands must press on the lump of clay. Hence the more judgment and condemnation we feel within ourselves. Conversely the more we allow God to shape us, the more pleasant our lives become.

CHAPTER 1

WORD POWER

The words of the mouth are deep waters, but the fountain of wisdom is a rushing Stream.

—Proverb 18:4, NIV

Too many of us have not learned to listen. Poor listeners range all the way from the impatient type—“That’s nothing! Wait until you hear what I’ve done!”—to the person so absorbed in their own thoughts that they are unaware that someone has spoken. William C. Tracey said, “Learning to listen actively and constructively is as important as learning to speak, if communication is to be effective.” The words we speak are so very powerful and we create our world from our thought life and the words we speak. It is estimated that the average person uses 5,000 to 10,000 words in their daily communication.

Our communication is not based on two people thinking alike, but on two people thinking together with respect for the other person’s point of view, with clarity and no hidden agendas or expectations even though they may think differently, it’s important that they think together. Be careful of your words; a quick “off-the-cuff” remark could

be abrasive and leave the other person with an emotional scar. Maya Angelo said, “I’ve learn that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.” Research has shown that the average individual listens for seventeen seconds before interrupting. Winning arguments with people and those who are close to you is always a no win—you may have won the argument but damaged the relationship. A Kenyan proverb says, “A listening ear leads to life. But a deaf ear leads to death.” Our words determine the quality of our daily lives, who we are and where we are going. Mark Twain expressed it another way, “A powerful agent is the word... the resulting effect is physical as well as spiritual, and electrically prompt.” Our secret thoughts, thinking patterns and words are a powerful source of energy, ever-moving once spoken, so think and choose your words wisely before speaking.

Don’t allow your tongue to destroy your future by speaking words that cancel out your dreams and desires. Positive thoughts and self talk is vital in accomplishing your dreams. Those who control their tongue will acquire greater success than a person with a quick ill-spoken word that can destroy success. Think twice before you speak. A thoughtful, gentle response can prevent unwanted circumstances. Restrain your tongue when you experience disappointment in others. Build your self-esteem by overlooking the wrongs of others, train your mind to always look for a positive solution, and control your anger. Place a *d* in front of *anger* and you have *danger*.

Negative speech is the result of bad or negative learning, and if it can be learned it can be unlearned. Positive thoughts and self-talk is vital in accomplishing your dreams.

It is also very important that we avoid speaking words of destruction to our children. Words can be used to destroy and to build up. When spoken thoughtfully and positively, words build up our self esteem. Dominating, angry, explosive parents who critically

pounce upon every failure in a child's life often create hesitancy, insecurity, and fear in them. Children need correction, but they need it done in the proper spirit. Whenever we have to point out our children's mistakes, we should also make it a practice to note their strengths and good points, or at least criticize them in such a way as to let them know that they are still every bit as much the object of our love as they were before. Using our tongue to criticize them destroys the positive thought pattern that they will need in order to become successful adults.

Train your mind to think big, and speak big, even when you lose big or have a major setback in your life. The remedy for changing your conditions is obvious. You must allow no thoughts or feelings to enter into your mind unless you want those thoughts to be manifested in your life. Speak only the desires of your heart. "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Heb.11:1 KJV).

Monitor your tongue and be mature in your speech. From the mouth of an untrained, untamed tongue comes nothing but hurt and pain. Refuse to allow negative words to come from your mouth. Talk about things that you want to be manifested in your life. Stop quarreling between the past and the present. You'll only find that you are canceling out your future. Think positive thoughts, talk happiness, progress, and believe in abundant prosperity.

ENCOURAGE THE DISCOURAGED

There are those who have reached their limits of endurance, their adversities have become just too perplex for them, and they have found the enormity of their situations just overwhelming. The circumstances of their lives leave them unable to think clearly, pushing them to the end of human endurance. There is only so much one person can take, and they are now being crushed under the weight of their cross of life. They search and reach out for

help, finding others inhospitable, or intolerable of their condition. When you encounter unwanted or undesired conditions, God gave us a word of hope "... apart from me you can do nothing ... remain in me, and I will remain in you" (Romans 15:4-5 NIV).

Jesus, was exhausted from carrying His cross. He fell to the ground. His humanity was reaching its limit of endurance and He could not get up. Help is on the way! The Roman soldiers realized that He was not going to be able to carry His cross any further. They immediately grabbed Simon, forcing him to help carry Jesus' cross. "... Two are better than one ... if one falls down, his friend can help ..." (Eccl. 4:9-10 NIV). Simon took hold of the cross, so now Jesus had Simon to lean on. He gathered His strength and continued His journey. Be a today's Simon, and encourage the discouraged:

—When they were discouraged, I smiled at them. My look of approval was precious to them.

—Job 29:24 NIV

—A wise man's heart guides his mouth, and his lips promote instructions.

—Proverbs 16:23 NIV

—Let your conversation be gracious and effective so that you will have the right answer for everyone.

—Colossians 4:6 NLT

You may be placed in a position or compelled by life circumstances to be a Simon, and carry another's cross. The discouraged crosses of life may appear in many and various ways: They may be a gentle natural person having difficulty saying no, and people take advantage of their kindness and gentle ways. You may be a single parent on a limited budget, or you may have a multiplicity

of many different challenges overwhelming you, and no one seems to understand the demands placed on you, or the emotional drain. Your cross may be a lost or broken relationship, loneliness, or death of a love one; you sacrificed your dreams because everyone else's were more important; you are trapped in an abusive relationship, you have reached the limits of your endurance. Help is on the way! "... but a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And he saw him, he had compassion" (Luke 10:33, NKJV).

In my first book, *Life's Not A Rehearsal*, Lucy Willis PH.D., R.N. wrote these words in her endorsement. "Life is often filled with many challenges and difficulties. We cannot always control our circumstances but can control our thoughts and reactions to the situations we encounter. The realities of our life often result from outside factors, most of which we cannot control. Our realities then become a product of negative and defeated thinking, which often leads to a negative outcome." There are no repeat performances in life. We must all become a problem solver and an obstacle overcomer. The best way to solve your problem is to get your mind off the challenges you face in your life, and plant thoughts of God's possibilities for your life. Those who don't take control of their lives or have no purpose fall victim to conformity. They are bounded by the shackles of others' approval. Change your thought patterns, unshackling your mind. God has a plan for your life; you can go anywhere from where you are. Stop worrying about tomorrow, move ahead today with thoughtful, purposeful, prayerful plans, knowing that all things are possible. You were created for a divine purpose. Say yes to your God-given purpose by changing your focus. Remember that with God "No-Thing" is impossible. "Therefore let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and grace to help in a time of need" (Hebrews 4:16 NASB).

Resist the temptation to hide behind excuses. Don't major in minors; major in God's power, not your circumstances. Internalize your integrity; determine in advance what's important and what you want to compromise on, before you wind up deep in unwanted or undesired situations. Find someone with Godly standards, who will hold you accountable, and who will ask you the hard questions about what you are doing with your life. Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him (Jas. 1:13, NASB).

Encouragers, the discouraged are seeking for you to lift their crosses and they desire a gossip free zone. Too often there are those who present an outward appearance of being a good Samaritan, but they are motivated by their desire to gain self-respect, or impress the inner circle. They are cross lifters only when they can be noticed. But the discouraged can be found alongside the roads and in the ditches of life. Be a good Samaritan; don't pass them by. God sees your works and He will reward you. **What you share will multiply, what you hold back or withhold will diminish, the more you give of that which is good, the more you will get in return.**

**AFTER EACH SECTION IT IS SUGGESTED THAT THE
READER WRITE EACH AFFIRM ON AN INDEX CARD, AND
REPEAT IT ALOUD SEVERAL TIMES A DAY, AS A PROMISE
TO THEMSELVES.**

I affirm—it will be my endeavor to keep my feelings (tongue) under control at all times, however emotional the circumstances, because I know I cannot conduct myself properly unless I do.

WORD POWER

AT THE END OF EACH SECTION IT IS SUGGESTED THAT THE READER ANSWER THE QUESTIONS BELOW AND GIVE THOUGHT TO EACH ANSWER.

These questions can enrich your life individually or through group discussions:

Definition: *Control*—to exercise authoritative or dominating influence over; to hold in restraint; check: as defined by the American Heritage Dictionary.

1. Why is it important to control your tongue when angered?
2. How are the benefits of controlling your tongue related to success?
3. What are some of the techniques and benefits of developing a mature, positive tongue?