

Today's Message: **GUIDANCE!**
Psalm 119: 97-120
Pastor Gary Stump

We all want to be winners / successful don't we? BUT We need guidance to be successful...

Richard Branson: "true success should be measured by how happy you are."

Oprah Winfrey: "to be used in the greater service to life."

Barack Obama: "the difference you make in people's lives."

Arianna Huffington: "money and power...well-being, wisdom, wonder, and giving."

Bill Gates: "feel like you made a difference — inventing something or raising kids or helping people in need."

Warren Buffett: "I measure success by how many people love me."

Mark Cuban: "waking up in the morning with a smile on your face"

Maya Angelou: "Success is liking yourself"

(<https://www.globalexperiences.com/blog/successful-people-define-success>)

"The common denominator of success – the secret of success of everyone who has ever been successful – lies in the fact that the person formed the habit of doing things that others don't like to do." (Albert E. N. Gray)

Psalm 119:97–120 (NLT) Oh, how I love your instructions! I think about them all day long. ⁹⁸ Your commands make me wiser than my enemies, for they are my constant guide. ⁹⁹ Yes, I have more insight than my teachers, for I am always thinking of your laws. ¹⁰⁰ I am even wiser than my elders, for I have kept your commandments. ¹⁰¹ I have refused to walk on any evil path, so that I may remain obedient to your word. ¹⁰² I haven't turned away from your regulations, for you have taught me well. ¹⁰³ How sweet your words taste to me; they are sweeter than honey. ¹⁰⁴ Your commandments give me understanding; no wonder I hate every false way of life. ¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path. ¹⁰⁶ I've promised it once, and I'll promise it again: I will obey your righteous regulations. ¹⁰⁷ I have suffered much, O LORD; restore my life again as you promised. ¹⁰⁸ LORD, accept my offering of praise, and teach me your regulations. ¹⁰⁹

My life constantly hangs in the balance, but I will not stop obeying your instructions. ¹¹⁰ The wicked have set their traps for me, but I will not turn from your commandments. ¹¹¹ Your laws are my treasure; they are my heart's delight. ¹¹² I am determined to keep your decrees to the very end. ¹¹³ I hate those with divided loyalties, but I love your instructions. ¹¹⁴ You are my refuge and my shield; your word is my source of hope. ¹¹⁵ Get out of my life, you evil-minded people, for I intend to obey the commands of my God. ¹¹⁶ LORD, sustain me as you promised, that I may live! Do not let my hope be crushed. ¹¹⁷ Sustain me, and I will be rescued; then I will meditate continually on your decrees. ¹¹⁸ But you have rejected all who stray from your decrees. They are only fooling themselves. ¹¹⁹ You skim off the wicked of the earth like scum; no wonder I love to obey your laws! ¹²⁰ I tremble in fear of you; I stand in awe of your regulations.

We must answer 3 questions:

1. Why do you want God's guidance?

- a. Because I want to remain in the middle of God's will for my life.
- b. Because I'm curious to see what God wants me to do.
- c. So I can determine whether I want to do what God says.

2. What is success?

“the fact of getting or achieving wealth, respect, or fame” (Merriam-Webster Dictionary)

“the accomplishment of an aim or purpose” (Oxford Dictionary)

God’s definition of success

Deuteronomy 10:12 (NLT) “And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you? He requires only that you fear the LORD your God, and live in a way that pleases him, and love him and serve him with all your heart and soul.”

3. Who gets to judge whether you are a success?

Ecclesiastes 12:14 (NLT) God will judge us for everything we do, including every secret thing, whether good or bad.

2 Corinthians 5:10 (NLT) For we must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in this earthly body.

Jeremiah 17:10 (NLT) But I, the LORD, search all hearts and examine secret motives. I give all people their due rewards, according to what their actions deserve.”

Let’s hear David on success:

1 Kings 2:3 (NLT) Observe the requirements of the LORD your God, and follow all his ways. Keep the decrees, commands, regulations, and laws written in the Law of Moses so that you will be successful in all you do and wherever you go.

Let’s hear Solomon on success

Ecclesiastes 12:13b (NLT) Here now is my final conclusion: Fear God and obey his commands, for this is everyone’s duty.

Being peaceful, fulfilled, satisfied, joyful, content. What would you add?

v. 101 *I have refused to walk on any evil path, so that I may remain obedient to your word.*

“I see sin as a dangerous pit and a ruinous stumbling block”

1: I walk down the street. There is a deep hole in the sidewalk. I fall in. I am lost. I am helpless. It isn't my fault. It takes forever to find a way out. **2:** I walk down the same street. There is a deep hole in the sidewalk. I pretend I don't see it. I fall in again. I can't believe I am in this same place. But it isn't my fault. It still takes a long time to get out. **3:** I walk down the same street. There is a deep hole in the sidewalk. I see it is there. I fall in...it's a habit...but my eyes are open. I know where I am. It is my fault. I get out immediately. **4:** I walk down the same street. There is a deep hole in the sidewalk. I walk around it. **5:** I walk down a different street!

Proverbs 4:25–27 (ESV) Let your eyes look directly forward, and your gaze be straight before you. ²⁶ Ponder the path of your feet; then all your ways will be sure. ²⁷ Do not swerve to the right or to the left; turn your foot away from evil.

v. 105 *Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.*

R. Malbim (1805-1879): “Everyone needs two types of Divine guidance:

1. General long-range guidance to establish goals and to determine the general direction your life should take...“*a light for my path*”

2. Constant guidance to solve your immediate problems and to deliver yourself from the pitfalls of daily existence... *"a lamp to guide my feet"*

How does God's word guide us?

Dead Reckoning = the process of calculating one's position, especially at sea, by estimating the direction and distance traveled rather than by using landmarks, astronomical observations, or electronic navigation methods. Note: Charles Lindbergh used dead reckoning to cross the Atlantic May 21, 1927.

God wants us to use dead reckoning

Proverbs 3:5–6 (NKJV) Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding;⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

The Lord guided Eliezer to success

Genesis 24:27b (KJV) "I being in the way, the LORD led me"

The Lord guided David to success

Psalms 32:8 (NKJV) I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye.

Dr. Henry Blackaby explains how God guides us: "God speaks by the Holy Spirit through the Bible, prayer, circumstances, and the church to reveal himself, his purposes, and his ways."

SO WHAT?

Are you allowing God to lead you or are you just doing whatever you want?

Which guidance are you looking for: lamp or light?

What have you been pursuing instead of whole-heartedly following God's word?

What would you surrender to the Lord today?

What if we were all committed to allowing God to guide us to success?

Download or listen to Sermon Audio at: <https://onwardchurch.org/resources/sermon-audio/>



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[ONWARD CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2022](#)

1. HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY—9TH-12TH GRADES--Thursday nights 6-8pm at Cynthia Brown's home (14079 Clifton Ct, Fishers IN 46040). See Jerry Ackerman for more info or text him at 317-919-7171.

2. LADIES BIBLE STUDY—WEDNESDAYS—9:30am at Kathy Stump's house (12928 Whitehaven Lane, Fishers; 131st & Cumberland). Studying the book of Hebrews. Hebrews study guide \$10. See Laurie Abell (317-432-6851) or Kathy Stump (317-292-7632) for more details.

3. LIVESTREAM ON FACEBOOK LIVE—We will continue to livestream our service on Pastor Gary's Facebook Live and it will be available on our website (www.onwardchurch.org) and our YouTube channel (see below for link)

Gary's FACEBOOK LIVE link: <https://www.facebook.com/gary.stump.3>

Onward Church YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSHetYKQbsv3tYGbNtwgnOg>

4. NO YOUTH GROUP TONIGHT

5. FEBRUARY 26-27 2022 ONWARD MARRIAGE RETREAT at Brown County Inn, 51 State Rd. 46, Nashville, IN. FIRST SESSION SATURDAY AT 2PM. Call **812-988-2291** to reserve your room under **ONWARD MARRIAGE RETREAT** PROMO CODE **0270**.

2022 Onward Marriage Retreat Schedule

Speaker: Matthew A. Vander Wiele, Ed. D.

Theme: Experiencing Sabbath Rest within your Marriage

Saturday February 26th

ROOM CHECK IN: 4:00 pm (you may be able to check in earlier)
SESSION 1: 2:00pm – 3:30ish
FREE TIME/DINNER 4:00pm – 7:30pm
SESSION 2: 7:30pm – 9:00ish
Free Time

Sunday February 27th

ROOM CHECKOUT: Before Session
SESSION 3: 9:30am – 11:00ish
AFTERNOON FREE TIME!

- Light refreshments and snacks will be served at all sessions!
- Booklets provided!
- Bring – Bible, Journal, Pen and SPOUSE!!
- Have Fun!

6. CULTURE, RACE AND THE CHURCH is an online, self-paced course by **Dr. Charles Ware** through Grace Relations and the College of Biblical Studies. Here is a link for more information or to register:

<https://gracerelations.cbshouston.edu/>

7. 2022 ONWARD TO JERUSALEM BIBLE STUDY TOUR—OCTOBER 18-29, 2022. Cost of the tour will be approximately \$3,800 per person (double occupancy). A deposit of \$500 will hold your spot. For more information, please write Pastor Gary at gary@garystump.org.

8. GIVE BIBLES IN HONOR OF OR IN MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE—The Gideons have provided a display in the back of the room for you to give God's word.

9. "BIBLE ANSWER MAN"—Each week we have a segment in the service where we answer your Bible questions. If you have a particular Bible question, write it on the back of your Prayer Card and we will try to answer your questions.