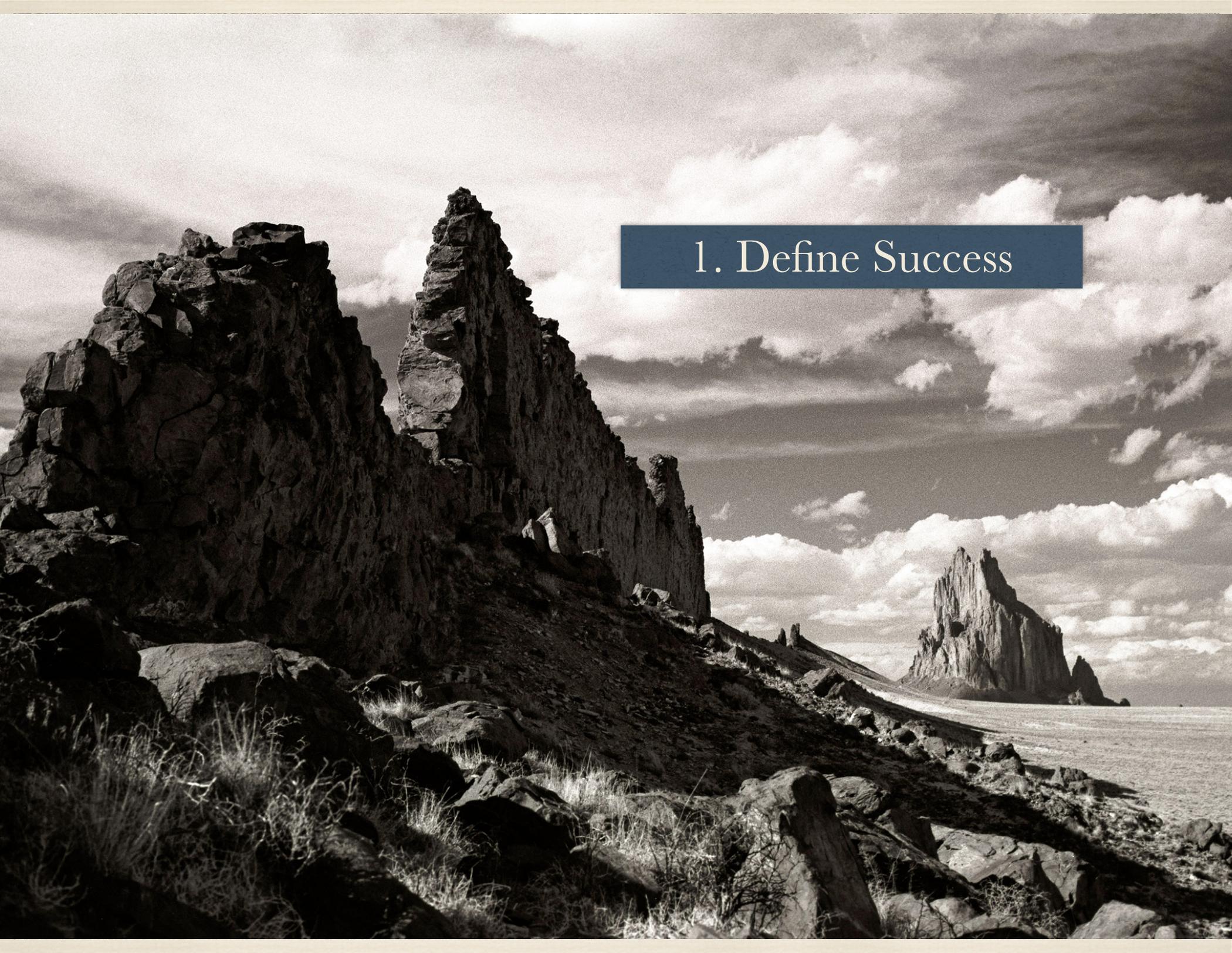


7 Secrets to Success



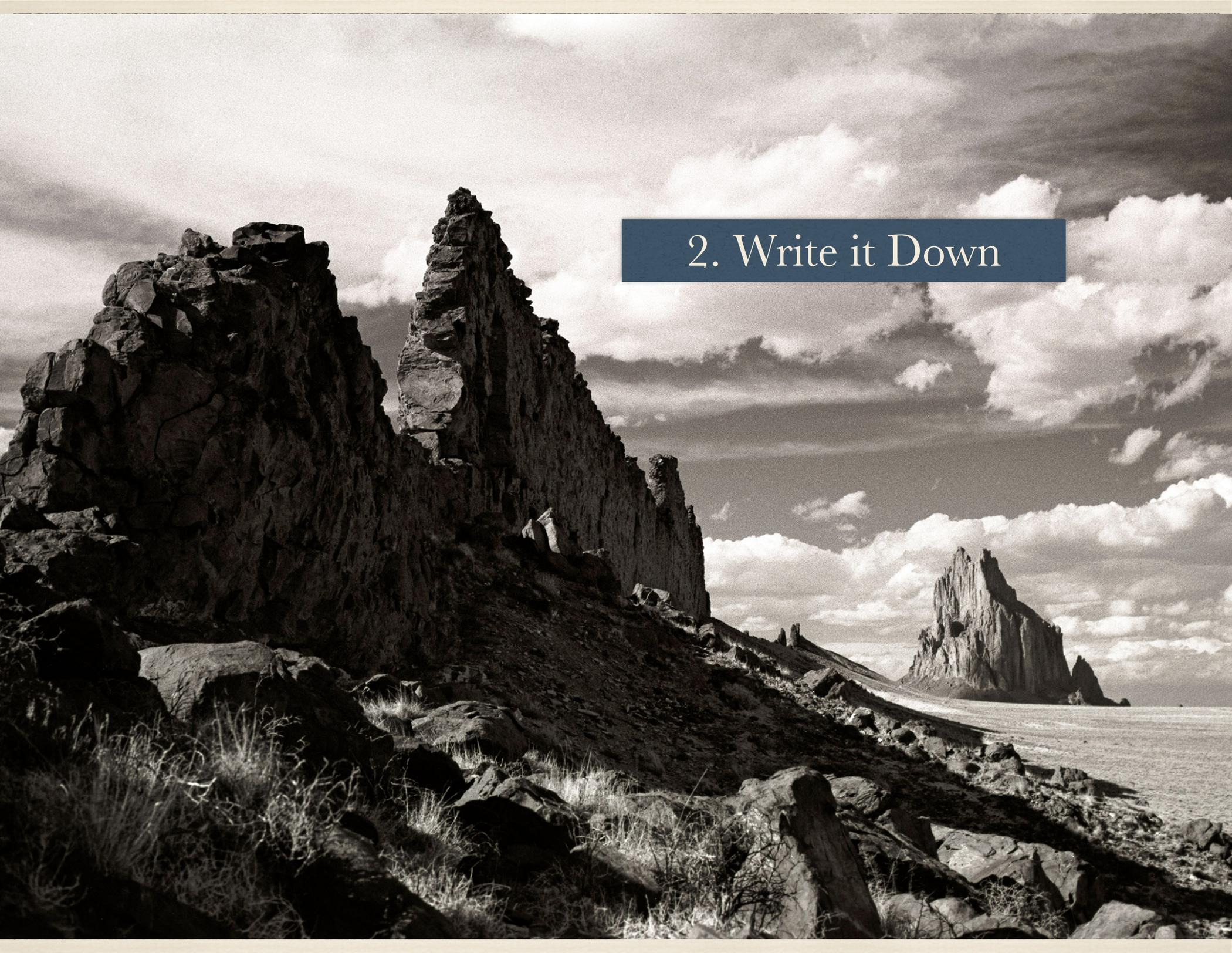
In Every Area of Life



1. Define Success

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The first secret to Success is simple and yet very profound. We must **define** what success is for us. What does success mean to you? Wealth, significance, legacy, health, great relationships? Too often this is something that is overlooked but in my opinion it is the most important factor! I don't want to have an idea of success simply as wealth and in pursuit of that success I lose connection with my wife or my kids. In this first secret to success I challenge you to think about success in a holistic manner, think about what it would look like if you were successful in every area of your life. As you are thinking about this it is a perfect time to move on to the second secret of success.



2. Write it Down

2. Write it Down

It's great to think through what success is to you but you cannot stop there. If holistic success is really important to you than you have to put this next secret into practice immediately and **write it down!** This is a biblical principal and successful people in all fields embody it. If it's important it needs to be recorded! It can't just stay in your mind it needs to be written, recorded and seen. Write out what success would look like in every of your life. And as you do, what's in your heart and mind will crystalize, it will become even more clear. This will help you to clarify what holistic success looks like for you and in turn it will help you make it a reality. So write it down!



3. Set Goals

3. Set Goals

With writing and recording your idea of success in all areas of your life comes setting goals and desired deadlines for each of these areas. A goal is defined as being measurable. This secret to success takes writing it down to the next level by putting dates on specific things that you can do to see success in each area of your life. This secret takes an idea from just being an idea and requires action to be taken, which in turn helps us realize our dreams and find the success we are looking for in every area of our lives. Goal setting takes the big picture and breaks it down into realistic steps you can take to see the big picture become reality. So set goals!



4. Involve Community

4. Involve Community (Part 1)

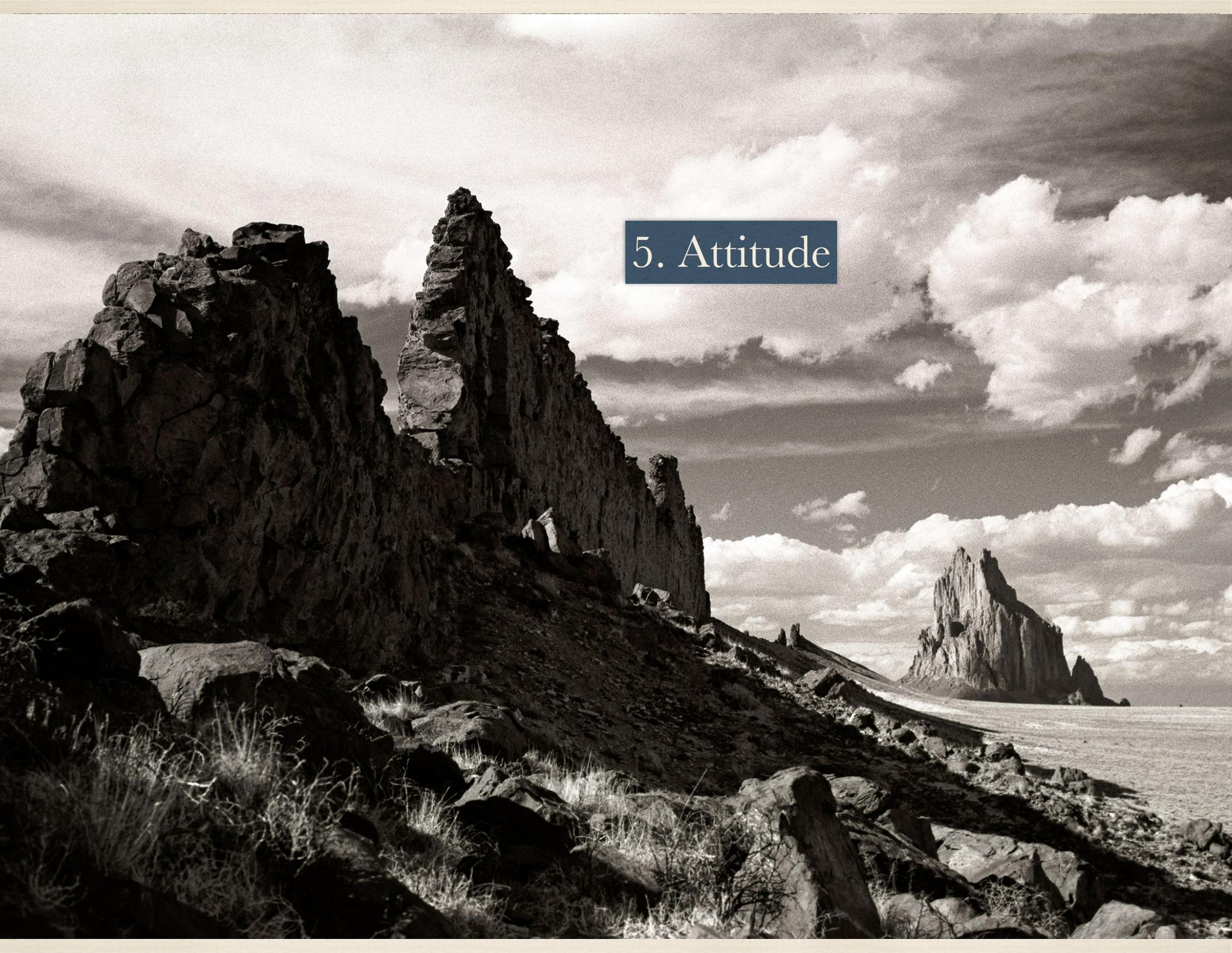
This is another important one! What is success without being able to share it with others? We should invite people to be part of our success AND our success should help others by serving the community around us as well.

First you want to invite others with you in your journey for MANY reasons!

- There is wisdom in the multitude of counsel
- There is strength in numbers and you can accomplish more together with others
- You need the accountability and the encouragement
- You can focus on your strengths and hire or delegate your weaknesses
- The more people involved the more ownership and excitement
- When success is achieved together ever greater relationships are formed

4. Involve Community (Part 2)

Second you want to make sure that your success is not all about you! You not only want to invite others in on your success **you want to define your success by helping others.** The more people you serve the greater your success. True joy and happiness come not from getting everything we **want** but rather by helping others get what they **need!**



5. Attitude

5. Attitude (Part 1)

This is a game changer! In order to truly find success in every area of your life your attitude needs to be characterized by these two traits:

-A love for learning

-An ability to rejoice in the midst of difficulty

First, you have to be hungry to learn! If you want to improve your relationships, your finances, your skills and abilities you have to want to learn how. You should be a life long learner! If you are always learning you are consistently setting yourself up for success. So read, watch, listen, study, ask questions, reflect and grow!

5. Attitude (Part 2)

Second, you have to have the ability to rejoice in the midst of difficulty. This is foreign to many but essential for a happy and successful life. It's the ability to look at a huge pile of crap and get excited because you know that with all that crap there has to be a pony somewhere! Often this is a learned trait, which takes great grace, discipline and faith. But it is possible (even for the most negative person) to renew your mind and expect good in life. You can develop the faith to smile in the storm knowing that it's going to pass but while it's here it's producing something great in you: Perseverance!



6. Perseverance

6. Perseverance

Perseverance is that stubborn unwillingness to quit! You're going to need this if you want to be successful in life! Before you see success you're going to see a lot of things like struggle, brokenness, failure, frustration and betrayal. At times things will look the opposite of what you thought they would look like. Many times you will want to give up and turn back because your idea of the past (before you put all this effort in) looks better than the present. And it's at this point that you have to decide to dig deep and never give up! You have to go back to the 5th secret to success and remind yourself it's all about your "attitude." You can look at your giant and think, "Awe man, I only have a sling shot!" Or you can rise up in your heart and mind, filled with faith and hope, and go find some stones and persevere!

A black and white photograph of a rugged coastline. In the foreground, there are dark, jagged rock formations and some sparse, dry vegetation. A prominent, tall, narrow rock spire stands in the middle ground, extending towards the sea. In the distance, another large, craggy rock formation is visible. The sky is filled with dramatic, white clouds against a darker background. A dark blue rectangular box is overlaid on the image, containing the text "7. Character" in a white serif font.

7. Character

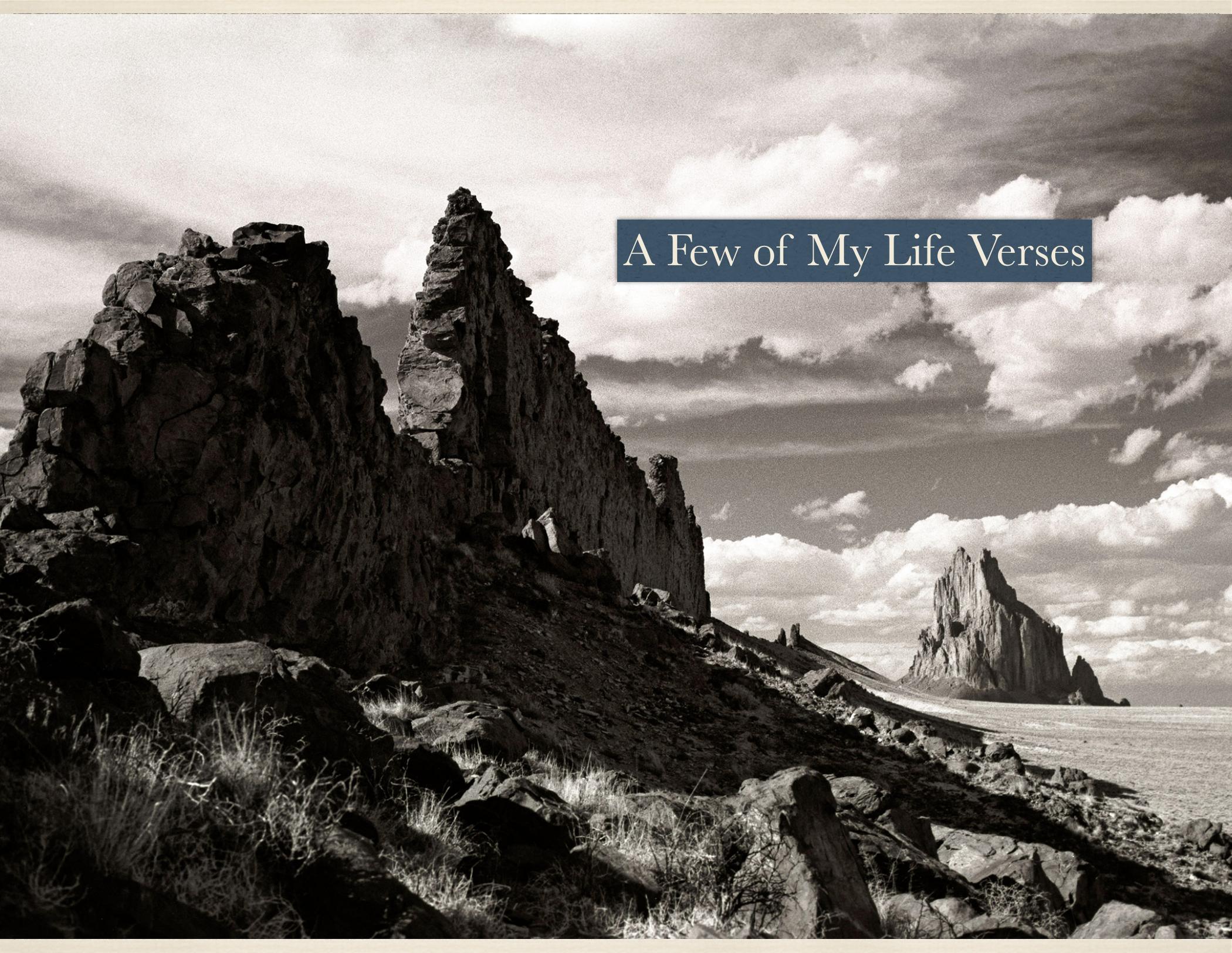
7. Character

Last but certainly not least, character is the most important secret to success. It's one of those secrets that is actually kept secret. Not many people talk about character as an important factor in success but I believe it is the most important.

Character is like the foundation to a building, if there are cracks in the foundation no matter how useful, resourceful, beautiful or extravagant the building is, it is not safe! Too many people focus on their gifts and all of the external things but this is one of those internal things that cannot be overlooked. I have seen churches fall apart, organizations deteriorate, marriages destroyed and lives ruined all because of a lack of character.

Don't make the mistake of chasing success without making the sacrifice of becoming a person of character. Set standards of honesty, purity, integrity, loyalty, love and honor. Make it your prayer that these virtues become the bedrock of your DNA.

Your lasting success depends on it!



A Few of My Life Verses

Life Verses:

(Here are a few truths that I live by and encourage you to adopt as your own and find other scriptures as well to help you in your pursuit of success):

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, acknowledge him in all your ways and he will direct your path.” Proverbs 3:5-6

“As long as he sought the Lord, God gave him success.”
2 Chronicles 26:5

“Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.” Joshua 1:8

“Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.” Proverbs 16:3



Bonus Word

Bonus Word:

I said 7 secrets and I meant it but in reality there are more than 7. If you want to be successful you will have to be intentional, humble, able to set boundaries, disciplined, focused, optimistic, quick to forgive and forget past wrongs and failures. But more than anything, true and lasting success comes from the Lord. It is God who honors and God who promotes! Jesus said, "What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?" (Matthew 16:26)

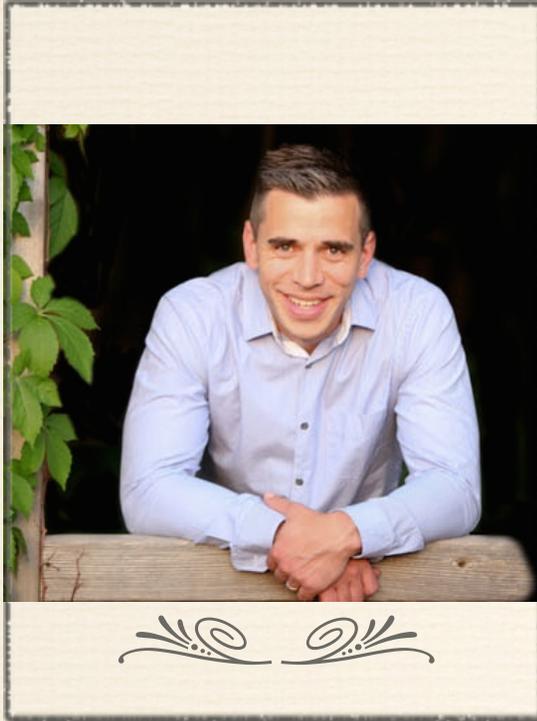
I would be remiss if I didn't tell you where true and lasting success comes from. It comes from God! I remember having everything the world says is important and yet still being empty inside. There is only one thing that can truly fill the void in your heart and satisfy your every longing and his name is Jesus! He is the son of the living God, he came to earth lived a sinless life and suffered and died on a cross for you and for me so that we could experience the forgiveness of our sins and experience eternal life with God in heaven forever.

If you don't know the joy of having your sins forgiven or the peace that comes from having a relationship with God please pray this prayer:

"Jesus, I ask that you come into my heart and be the Lord of my life. Forgive my sins and empower me to be free from the destructive power of sin. Thank you for your constant unfailing love, fill my heart with your love that I may love you, others and myself the way I was created to. Thank you for dying on the cross, and rising from the dead, come and be my guide and lead me to be a success not only in this lifetime but also in the life to come, amen."

(Right now thousands of angels are rejoicing in heaven)!!! God has made you new, you are forgiven because of what Jesus did on the cross for you! Be encouraged! And I encourage you to seek out a great and growing church where you can get connected with great people in small groups and grow in your relationship with the Lord. Always remember that God loves you! And as long as you seek the Lord, you will have success!

About the Author



John Silkauskas is the assistant pastor at Heritage United Methodist Church. Prior to working at Heritage he served as the youth pastor at Russell Road Church. He has served in ministry close to fifteen years in various churches and ministries across the nation and around the world.

He is the executive director for John Silkauskas Ministries, creator of “Seconds with Silk” an inspiring video blog dealing with Life, Love, Leadership & Relationships and author of “Create A Life You Love.”

He and his wife Emily have been married for six years and have two sons and one daughter.

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