



Tips and Techniques Success in School

Scripture Verse: *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needed not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.* (2 Tim. 2:15, KJV)

Grades: 1-12

How often have we heard the saying "success breeds success"? How then can we as Christian educators move our students towards success?

Help students visualize success

Jesus helped his disciples visualize success when He said, "*Verily; verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do*" (John 14:12) In educational terms Jesus's works became a self-fulfilling prophecy. However, His words were much more; He was speaking the uncompromised Word of God that does not return void; and it accomplishes the purpose to which it was sent.

Research has established the fact that "teachers who set and communicate high expectations to all their students obtain greater academic performance from those students than teachers who set low expectations" (What Works: Research About Teaching and Learning. U.S. Department of Education, 1986). Students perceived as lower achievers are treated differently. Such students typically are seated farther away from the teachers and receive less direct instruction, have few opportunities to learn new materials and are expected to do less work. These students should be called on more often, and be given adequate time to respond.

Redirect Negative Comments to an "I Can Do Attitude"

When a person believes they can accomplish whatever they try, they're much more likely to reach their goals than if they have a negative attitude. A positive outlook can energize a person. A can-do spirit can supply them with the momentum they need to get through the difficult parts of learning.

Jesus inspired His disciples to expect to do greater things than he himself had accomplished. We need to instill this same attitude. Guard against telling students how hard and difficult the course content is, giving "trick" questions on tests and pointing to how few students do well.

When a student says:	You respond:
I can't.	Do you mean you can't or won't? God says you can
I've done everything that I could.	Everything? What about
I've tried that but it won't work.	Did you really try? How many times? How consistently?
I did my best.	Are you sure?
I could never understand (or do) that.	Never is a very long time. Really how long

	do you suppose it might take to learn? If you think hard enough you will discover that you have learned to so a number of things that are just as hard.
That's too difficult.	What you mean is that you need more time.
That's impossible.	What you mean, of course is that it is only difficult.
It'll never work.	It always works if you work it.
Everyone's against me.	No you are wrong; if God be for you who can be against you? Romans 8:31

Compliment Students Often

We already know the positive effects of praise. When we combine our praise with what the Word of God says our effectiveness will be that much more enhanced. Consider the following examples:

1. "Johnny, you are God's workmanship, created unto good works." (Eph. 2:10)
2. "Susan, you are applying God's wisdom." (James 1:5)
3. "You are having good success in Math." (Joshua 1:8)
4. "You are conquering your homework." (Romans 8:37)
5. "Peter, your mind is being renewed." (Eph. 4:23)
6. "You triumph in all your tasks including tests and quizzes." (II Cor. 2:14)
7. "Mary, God is on your side in this matter." (Romans 8:31)
8. "You can do this thing because of God's strength." (Phil. 4:13)
9. "You are a blessing. You're behaving like the new creation that you are." (II Cor. 5:17)
10. "That is abundant thinking." (Eph. 3:20)
11. "Mark, you are reigning over _____" (Rom. 5:17)
12. "God's love is perfected in your Carol." (I John 2:5)
13. "You are walking in freedom and victory." (John 8:36)
14. "Good understanding." (Luke 24:25, II Tim. 2:7)
15. "God's Word says you can know all things." (I John 2:20)
16. "The Holy Spirit is bringing things back to your remembrance." (John 14:26)
17. "These (language, math, science) blessings are overtaking you." (Deu. 28:1, 2)