

MAKE IT YOUR LIFE GOAL TO "EXCEL STILL MORE"

If becoming successfully rich by the age of 30 should not be your ambition, what then should be your goal? Is there a proper one, which will still assure you of financial success? I found mine in 1 Thessalonians 4:10–11 where Paul said, "But we urge you, brethren, to excel still more, and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life and attend to your own business and work with your hands..."

People should understand that success and riches cannot be set as goals or ambitions, because success is just a result of implementing your plans well while riches is a reward for the success you gain. Many people make the same mistake as most farmers do. Many of them think that the goal of farming is to produce a lot of fruits, not realizing that fruits are just natural by-products of exceptionally healthy plants. Therefore, our life goal should be to become excellent in everything we do because success will naturally follow and riches will come as a reward.

Next to pleasing God, my second ambition in life is to live a quiet life by "excelling still more!" I like this idea because it means that I do not have to be intelligent in order to succeed. When I was young my mother told me, "Anak, hindi ka matalino, diligent ka lang." Do you know how that hurts? Hindi man lang sya nagsinungaling, katulad ng ginagawa ng ibang nanay. What was worse was she did not even tell me what 'diligent' meant! So I grew up feeling bad about myself. This was until I saw Proverbs 12:24, which says, "The hand of the diligent will RULE, but the slack hand will be put to forced labor." And to excel still more is a trait of the diligent!

As Paul said, make it your ambition to lead a quiet life by minding your own business and working with your hands so that you can excel still more. Do not look for a business that will make you successfully rich because all businesses have the potential to make you one. In farming, it is not the plant that will make the farm rich, but the farmer who fills his garden with healthy plants. In the same way in life, success does not depend on the business you find, but on how you continually strive to excel in what you already have.

If you follow the advice of Paul, you will become successfully rich in the proper season. But can it come sooner? Yes, but it depends on how good you take care of the garden God entrusted to you.