

**21**  
**DAYS TO**  
**BREAKTHROUGH**  
**CONNECT WITH GOD AND WIN**

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*AdventSource*

*21 Days to Breakthrough*

*Connect with God and Win*

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# FOREWORD

As someone who has undergone the journey of self-discovery and spiritual growth, I can attest to the incredible power of daily devotionals. It's easy for young men to become distracted by the challenges and changes of the world, but we must always remember to lean into our faith and seek guidance from a higher power.

This 21-day devotional is designed for young men who desire to deepen their connection with God and navigate the world with confidence and purpose. Throughout this journey, you'll be challenged to examine your beliefs, face difficult truths about yourself, and embrace the transformative power of God's love.

Each day's devotion begins with a scripture reading and reflection, followed by a prayer or meditation to help guide your thoughts and intentions for the day. As you undertake this 21-day journey, you'll gain deeper insights into your faith, strengthen your relationship with God, and emerge equipped to face any challenges the world may throw your way.

I encourage all young men to take this journey with an open heart and a willingness to grow. Through the power of daily devotion, you'll emerge a stronger, more resilient individual, equipped to thrive in a world that's constantly changing. May this 21-day devotional be a source of hope, inspiration, and transformation as you navigate your path toward a brighter future.

**- DR. VANDEON D. GRIFFIN**



## DAY 1

# THE SOURCE OF SUCCESS

*"When they returned to Joshua, they said, 'Not all the army will have to go up against Ai. Send two or three thousand men to take it and do not weary the whole army, for only a few people live there.' So about three thousand went up; but they were routed by the men of Ai..."* **Joshua 7:3-4**

There is nothing wrong with being successful. Scripture is replete with the idea that God wants us to be successful. It simply means to win or be victorious. You would be crazy not to want to experience that in every single area of your life.

Wanting to win is natural. The problem with success is our attitude toward it. Not everyone is prepared to handle success. We see examples all the time – the sports team with a good record that loses to an inferior team because they were over-confident; the celebrity or politician who starts out full of integrity, but crashes and burns once they have money, power and prestige.

The first thing we must remember is that every good thing that happens to us – every success, every blessing, every promotion, every advancement – is not of our own doing, but God's (James 1:17). God is the source of all success. When we forget that, we can easily believe that our accomplishments are by our own power. We arrogantly steal credit from God. And that is when we often fail. We are most vulnerable to weakness and defeat after seasons of success.

I learned this while I was fighting addiction to pornography. So often I would feel that I was overcoming my desires and avoiding the temptation of porn for weeks or months, only to relapse. My problem was that I'd started to believe that I was overcoming the battle. One day it dawned on me that

porn was beyond my power and that both the battle and the victory was God's alone.

We see the same vulnerability to false pride played out in Joshua's battle for Jericho. The city was fortified by two concentric 6-foot-thick walls rising on a steep embankment. God instructed their troops to march around the city once a day. The priests would lead out as the armed guard, sounding their ritual rams' horns. On the seventh day, the horns weren't to be blown. Instead, God told them to give a great victory shout. And with that cheer, the walls came a-tumblin' down. It wasn't a vast army that did it, nor Joshua's leadership or any sophisticated weaponry. It was all God.

This was the culmination of a series of God-given victories. But instead of crediting God for even this obvious miracle, they succumbed to an attitude of overconfidence in their own ability and wound up being defeated by a weaker city, Ai.

Here's what happened: While the warriors celebrated "their" victory over Jericho, Joshua sent a small group of spies to check out Ai. When they returned, Joshua decided that this would be an easy win. The spies' assessment dripped with arrogance from their previous successes: "Not all the army will have to go up against Ai. Send two or three thousand men to take it and do not weary the whole army, for only a few people live there" (Joshua 7:3).

The consequence of their pride was tragic.

"So about three thousand went up; but they were routed by the men of Ai, who killed about thirty-six of them. They chased the Israelites from the city gate as far as the stone quarries and struck them down on the slopes. At this the hearts of the people melted in fear and became like water" (Joshua 7:4-5).

As we ourselves often do, the Israelites sought God's help for the big battles through fasting and wholehearted dependence on the Lord. But they took it for granted that tiny Ai would be a quick campaign they could handle themselves.



How many times have we lost battles that we should have won, simply because we believed in “our” success instead of trusting and depending on God for every victory? God urges us to always trust in Him instead of relying on our own understanding (Proverbs 3:5).

May the Lord keep us from trusting in our own ability, instead of putting our whole confidence in Him.

## PRAYER

God, help me recognize that success starts with a call to prayer. When blessings come my way, help me be more vigilant and more dependent on You so that I may experience greater victories by Your mighty power. God, help me to never forget that You are the true source of all success, all victory. In Your mighty name, Amen.

