

Skills for SUCCESS!

Ignoring the negative people in my life.

“If the ax is dull and its edge unsharpened, more strength is needed but SKILL will bring SUCCESS.” – Ecclesiastes 10:10 (NIV)

Four Kinds of Naysayers –

1. _____, his _____ held him back.

“Now David was the youngest of Jesse’s eight sons... His three older brothers enlisted in Saul’s army but David was held back to care for the sheep in Bethlehem.” – 1 Samuel 17:12-15

The first barrier in your success plan – _____.

2. _____ around him was _____. (society, culture, popular opinion)

The second barrier in your success plan – _____.

“Each day Goliath would stand and shout at the ranks of Israel’s army, ‘Why do you come out here and line up for battle? Choose one man to fight me. If he is able to kill me, we will become your subjects but if I kill him then you will become our subjects and serve us; Day after day Goliath taunted them saying, ‘This day I defy the ranks of Israel!’ When Saul and the Israelites heard this, everyone was deeply shaken and paralyzed with fear.” – 1 Samuel 17:8-11

“For forty days, twice a day, morning and evening the Philistine giant loudly berated the Israelite army.” – 1 Samuel 17:16

3. His _____ questioned his _____.

The third barrier in your success plan – _____.

“David asked, ‘What’s the reward for killing this Philistine and ending this disgraceful abuse?’ When David’s older brother heard this he burned with anger at David and said, ‘Why are YOU even here anyway? Why aren’t you taking care of your scrawny little flock of sheep? I know how conceited you are! ‘Now what have I done?’ said David. ‘Can’t I even ask a question?’” – 1 Samuel 17:28-31

4. The _____ his _____.

The fourth barrier in your success plan – experts.

“Don’t worry about a thing,’ David told the King, ‘I’ll fight this Philistine!’ ‘Don’t be ridiculous!’ Saul replied. ‘There’s no way YOU can go against this Philistine! You’re only a boy, and he’s been a professional warrior all his life.’” – 1 Samuel 17:32

“David’s father said, ‘Take this bread to your brothers on the front line and this cheese to their commander.’” – 1 Samuel 17:32

Four things to handle the naysayers in your life:

1. Don’t forget they are not God.

“The fear of human opinion disables; but trusting in God protects you from that.” – Proverbs 29:25 (Message)

“It’s dangerous to be concerned with what other people think of you.” – Proverbs 29:25 (TEV)

“Do not fear anything except the Lord Almighty. He alone is the Holy One. If you fear him, you need fear nothing else!” – Isaiah 8:13

2. Stop getting distracted.

“So I replied by sending this message to them: ‘I am doing a great work! I cannot stop to come and meet with you.’ Four times they sent the same message, and each time I gave the same reply.” – Nehemiah 6:3-4

“Don’t be intimidated. Eventually everything is going to be out in the open, and everyone will know how things really are.” – Matthew 10:26

3. Never – ever – never attack back!

“It is FOOLISH to speak scornfully of others.” – Proverbs 11:12

“When they hurled their insults at Jesus, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.” – 1 Peter 2:23

4. Focus on God and his promises.

“Bitter people spoke against David and talked of stoning him, but David found strength in the Lord.” – 1 Samuel 30:6

“David says, ‘The Lord is for me, so I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?’” – Psalm 118:6

“Show me how much you love me, Lord, and save me according to your promise. Then I can answer those who insult me because I trust in your word.” – Psalm 119:41-42

“I’ve banked your promises in the vault of my heart.” – Psalm 119:11
