

How to Achieve Success and Greatness

by *Linda Small - Sadler*

The first thing you must do to Achieve Success and Greatness is to read and study the Word of God. When I registered for classes in College (1st freshman year 1995), the first thing I promised myself and the Lord was that while I went to school and studied psychology, I would learn of God's Holy Word and build a strong relationship with Him. Going back to school after 30 years of age is difficult. I knew it would be difficult, but I had prayed and His answer was **GO FOR IT!!!**

I had to deny myself of all leisure activities that I had enjoyed. Things like going to the movies, plays, laser tag, computer games, family outings, everything I liked to do. The first year of college I tried to do all the things that I just mentioned and fell behind on my studies. My mother always taught me to do my best and in the beginning, I was not doing my best. I decided to ask God to help me study effectively and remember what I needed to remember to make A's on my examinations, presentations and all those papers. I humbled myself and prayed that I needed Him and would not be successful without Him. God gave me the power to become a good writer and an "A" student.

During my second year of college, the doctors told me that I may have uterine cancer and needed surgery right away. I waited until the end of the semester, which was only a week after the diagnosis, and I had the surgery. Thank God for Jesus and His power to save and a praying family. God answered all those prayers and after they removed the tumors, the doctors found that the tumors were not cancerous. One of the tumors weighed 25 lbs. I praise God everyday for that Good News.

Three months later, a speeding car that ran a red light hit me as I walked across the street. Witnesses stated that I looked like a paper doll as I flew through the air and landed several feet away. You hear stories on the news about people being hit by cars and killed or paralyzed and it looked like I was going to have a story to tell.

God must have spoken to me a week earlier because I remember thinking that I should stop wearing my heavy book bag on campus because of a news report about the back strain people suffer carrying too many books. I forgot to look through my book bag to see what I needed for that day, and just left everything in the bag. When the car struck me, the bag cushioned my impact and protected me from what could have been a serious head injury.

In some accidents there are no witnesses and this hit and run driver drove away and left me to die. Because of God's Grace and Mercy, there was a cab driver and a doctor sitting at the stop light and they were able to give the police the information that they needed. The cab driver chased the hit and run driver and made him come back to the scene of the crime and then the cab driver disappeared. The cab company said they had no driver by the name in the police report. I believe the cab driver was my *GUARDIAN ANGEL*.

When I read the report from the deposition on all the additional witnesses there and what they did for me, I praised The Lord with a loud shout!!! The reports stated that several people helped the two eyewitnesses that lifted me up off the pavement and carried me onto the sidewalk for safety. Glory be to God in highest for all those angels in one place at one time!!! His angels made sure that no one else ran over me as I had often read had happened to other hit and run victims. I did not go to the hospital I had requested, and had been routed to the public hospital. My skin was infected with sores from being left on the stretcher unattended for too long with screws sticking through my skin for hours as I lay bleeding out in the hallway. My left leg was broken in three places. They had to put a steel rod in my left leg because I did not have enough bone left in the leg. They did four separate surgeries on my left leg in one day. The right leg broke and then reconnected according to the doctors' reports. I had a cracked breastplate,

broken ribs, scars, burns and cuts over 90% of my body - every where but my face. In other words, I almost died. But God said "O, NO! I have a job for you to do my child!" God gave me courage and faith and helped me to remain strong. I was in a wheel chair for about a year and a half, but I never gave up because I knew God was with me. On that day God proved to me without question that He is my God, my Savior. I was injured so badly that I could not even bathe or feed myself. I was restricted to using a portable toilet seat and had to use a shower chair to take a shower. The doctor told me that if I put any weight on the severely injured leg before the bone started to form, I would be in a wheelchair for the rest of my life.

I missed school for one month and and even though I suffered in pain I went back to class. Many positive things came out of this tragedy. I found out whom I could depend on and whom I could not depend on. It was a surprising revelation because those that I thought would be there for me as I had been for them were not there. God sent perfect strangers to help me (some were Christians and some where non-Christian) through it all. I never knew people - especially strangers - could be so kind. God sent the most unlikely people to push me to class (someone new offered to push me every day). After that time in the wheel chair passed, I graduated to a walker, then to crutches. When I graduated from college in fall 1999, I was still on crutches, but I limped up there so proudly.

After I finished college, I had to have reconstructive surgery on the left leg because the first orthopedic surgeon advised me to put weight on my leg too soon and my leg grew crooked. I found a Christian doctor to do the reconstructive surgery. They had to remove the steel rod, re-break my leg and drill six new holes in my leg. That was so painful and difficult to look upon. There were attachments worn on the outside of my leg that were drilled through the flesh and the bone. Three times a day, I would have to turn the screw to gradually turn the bone until it was straight. I had to wash those incisions with bleach three times a day to prevent infection. I thought of Jesus when they pierced Him in His side and what he had endured.

I could not put bandages on them because my doctor could not allow the holes to close up until the bones had been turned straight again. I felt like a tool with all of those screws and gadgets inside my leg. I did not let that stop me. I enrolled in Graduate school at Regis University in August 2000. I was still on crutches. God gave me the strength and the will to make it through. He helped me to humble myself and accept help from others because God knew that I was unable to help myself. While I struggled to keep my grades up, God sent kind, loving people along the way to help. I never had to ask for help. Perfect strangers would just volunteer to help me.

I graduated May 4, 2002 from Regis University with Honors. Although I have pain in my legs, the bone is now 100% healed. If you allow yourself to let God lead you and use you, there is nothing that you cannot accomplish. He will give you strength, hope, wisdom, knowledge, understanding, and teach you everything that you need to know. All you have to do is ask God to help you and give you the tools that you need to be successful in school or anything that you do and God will come through. I am a living witness that God is a miracle worker. I did nothing great to get the blessings that I received.

I asked God to help me decide on what I would major in at college and Graduate school and which classes to take. God answered all my little prayers and all my big prayers. James 4 v2: ". . . that we have not because we ask not". Ask, and you will be pleasantly pleased, amazed and even shocked at what God will do and how He will bless you to succeed. I have many testimonies about God's Grace and Mercies towards me. I have experienced a multitude of pain, sorrow and loss and God has brought me through safely.

God has given me joy even in the midst of sorrow. Now I see the cup as half full.

This is only a portion of my many triumphs and testimonies.

To be continued . . .