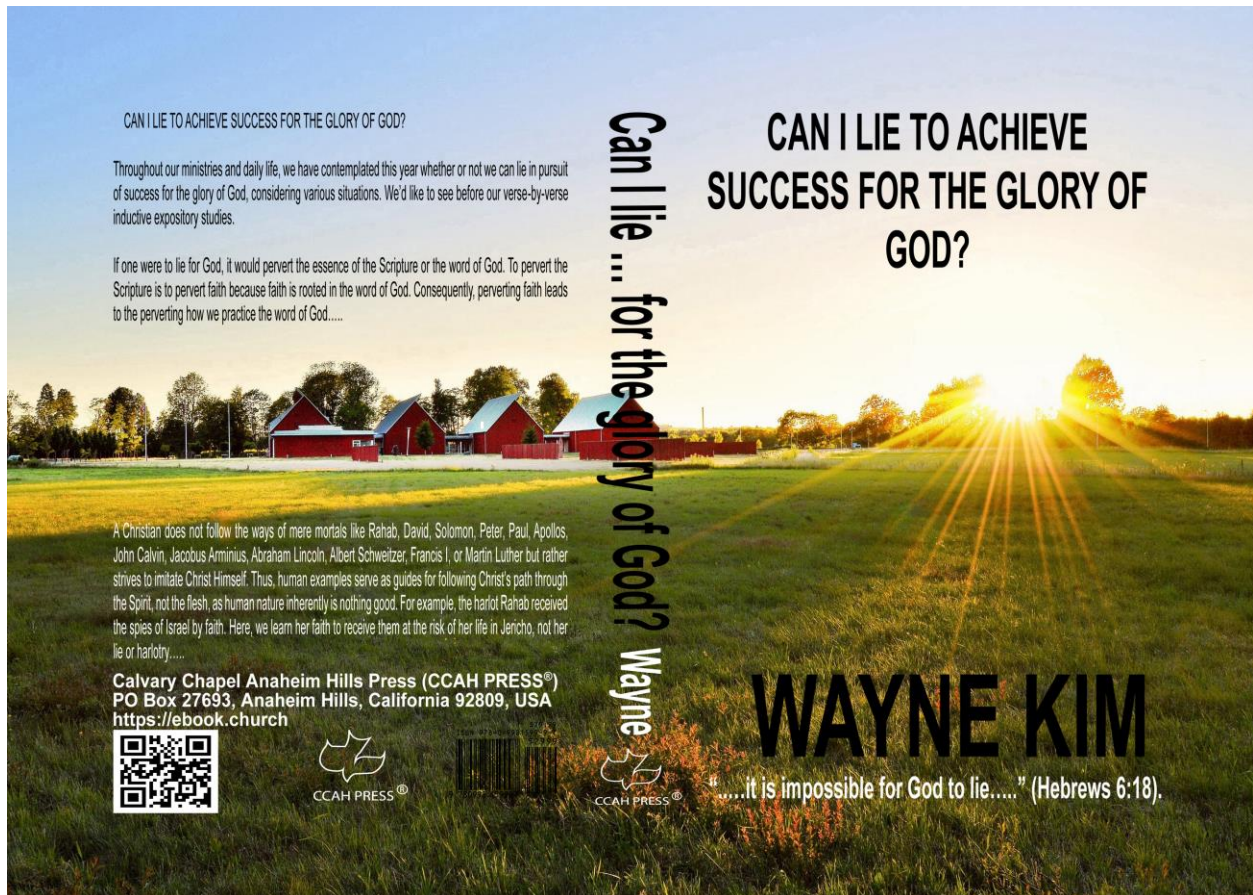


# Book Review 23

October 15, 2023

<https://calvarychapelanaheimhills.com/101523.BookReview23.pdf>

This book of “CAN I LIE TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS FOR THE GLORY OF GOD?” the title contemplated from our verse-by-verse inductive expository studies -- is published on October 5, 2023, flowed from the CCAH sheep’s inductive expository Bible Studies from September 18, 2022 to September 10, 2023, via the “Online Word for Global Crusade™” viewed by multitudes on Earth.



Q1. We are born again Christians. Can we lie to achieve success for the glory of God? What can we learn from here in the sight of God?

Q2. What’s a difference between Christians’ donations and other organization members’ donations in the light of the Scripture? How can we apply it to our lives?

Q3. If the Lord permits and you review this book, what verse(s) in the Scripture are you impressed with? And how can you apply it to your life?

# Scan for Book review 23



(1) Please scan by your mobile phone; (2) choose this book title; (3) free coupon, “**This grace**” ; and then (4) download it and review the book 23 joyfully.

## **CAN I LIE TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS FOR THE GLORY OF GOD?**

Throughout our ministries and daily life, we have contemplated this year whether or not we can lie in pursuit of success for the glory of God, considering various situations. We’d like to see before our verse-by-verse inductive expository studies.

If one were to lie for God, it would pervert the essence of the Scripture or the word of God. To pervert the Scripture is to pervert faith because faith is rooted in the word of God. Consequently, perverting faith leads to the perverting how we practice the word of God.

A Christian is someone striving to emulate Christ. The Holy Spirit dwells within each person, making each body a temple of God. God the Father, the Son of God, and the Holy Spirit are a unity of three divine beings, each co-existent, co-equal, and co-eternal.

God is inherently truthful and incapable of deceit. Therefore, a Christian’s life on Earth involves becoming more Christ-like through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

A Christian does not follow the ways of mere mortals like Rahab, David, Solomon, Peter, Paul, Apollos, John Calvin, Jacobus Arminius, Abraham Lincoln, Albert Schweitzer, Francis I, or Martin Luther but rather strives to imitate Christ Himself. Thus, human examples serve as guides for following Christ’s path through the Spirit, not the flesh, as human nature inherently is nothing good. For example, the harlot Rahab received the spies of Israel by faith. Here, we learn her faith to receive them at the risk of her life in Jericho, not her lie or harlotry.

Numerous individuals, particularly retirees, often share their personal success stories even if nobody asks about the success. Similarly, Rome city is often referred to as the Eternal City, even though the ancient era parcel of the Rome has remained with debris, fading into history, and the Renaissance era parcel of the Rome constantly requires ongoing maintenance labors. This underscores our desire for success, whether in education, work, ministry, or church, is rooted in the pursuit of imperishability.

When we witness a fellow Christian achieving success in academics, employment, or business, we rejoice and together pray for thanks to God, acknowledging His giving it. So, its credit is not assigned to any humans. Further, we pray the success may spread the influence of salt and light in the world for the glory of God imperishably.

Similarly, when we hear of the growth in ministry or a church, we celebrate and pray for thanks to

God, acknowledging His giving it. This growth should not be confined to visible things as buildings, members, contributors, and finances to be perishable. Additionally, we ask the Lord in prayer for the success to encompass invisible things like faith, the word of God, its consequent practice, love, or joy, to be imperishable. It is a reminder that we live by faith, not by sight.

All Christians are God's laborers wherever they live or work, using both perishable and imperishable things, depending on whether they labor in the Spirit or the flesh. The perishable things naturally fade over time unless they are used in alignment with the Spirit's guidance (e.g., to lay up treasures in heaven), while the imperishable things remain enduring ever unless they are used for the fleshly purpose (e.g., ministries through the practice of lawlessness).

Any increase or success on the earth is ultimately a gift from God, as nothing can happen without His sovereign will. Nevertheless, earthly success or increase is not always accepted by heavenly God.

Your labor in the flesh can contribute to earthly success but will not be accepted by God because you dishonor Him. Such gains will eventually be consumed by fire and remain unrewarded in heaven. Fleshly labor involves doings contrary to God's will, such as misappropriation of church funds, the mingling of funds, false financial statements, false tax reports, compelling offerings that misrepresent God from a rich merciful deity to a merciless beggarly deity, idolatry, fornication, hatred, contentions, jealousy, envy, or any form of lawlessness which entails breaching either God's word or the government regulations that do not contradict God's word.

For example, Asa's fleshly success was rebuked by the prophet Hanani, and a prosperous church's crooked practices were exposed in public by inner-circle members at a trial court. These are examples of perishable success.

On the other hand, labor by the Spirit can also lead to earthly success, but it is considered heavenly success because heavenly God accepts it for His glory. Those who labor in the Spirit may be rewarded as good and faithful servants. This is imperishable success.

Next, how can we glorify God? As God's children, we can do whatever for His glory by seeking first His kingdom and His righteousness on Earth. Our doing is guided by the Spirit, not the flesh, as the Spirit aligns with the Whole Counsel of God in the Scripture, not against the Scripture. The kingdom of God can manifest wherever God's rule is acknowledged on Earth.....

## **An Offering to God – not an exchange but a proof of one's sincere love for God**

God doesn't require human money; rather, He seeks human hearts filled with love for Him. In today's world, most countries, whether democratic or autocratic, operate within a capitalist economic system. As a result, human life revolves around the necessity of money for basic needs like food, clothing, and shelter. Even in the context fundraising, religious organizations such as churches and ministries often require financial support. However, it's important to remember that when Jesus spoke to Peter, He referred to building "My church," emphasizing that it belongs to God.

The Apostle Paul visited Athens and witnessed their culture of idolatry, which deeply troubled his spirit. In Acts 17:25, Paul preached “Nor is He worshipped with men’s hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.” This passage underscores that our God is self-sufficient and doesn’t rely on human-made money, as He generously provides all things to us. Therefore, God doesn’t require anything created by human hands, including money.

Nonetheless, Christians offer money and other possession to God in the form of offerings, tithes, or gifts. This practice is not an exchange within a commercial capitalist system but rather a proof of one’s sincere love for God. God has provided guidelines, such as the tithe, which represents 10% of one’s income as a gift from God, a tangible way to express love for Him. While it was mandatory in the Old Testament, in the New Testament, it is recommended as a heartfelt testament to our love for God. Measuring one’s love for God involves considering what portion of their expenses is dedicated to Him and how faithfully they study and live by His teachings.

It is also crucial to understand that the ability to minister to God is not contingent on the availability of human money within a capitalist economic system. Rather, it depends on God’s calling, as He is the ultimate provider of all things. Therefore, in response to His calling, we find contentment in whatever state God places us — be it as a member of a particular race, such as a Jew like Paul or a Gentile like Luke, whether we abound in material wealth, akin to Joseph the counsellor, or find ourselves in poverty, like Lazarus the beggar; whether we are married, like Peter, or choose a life of singleness, like Paul; whether we hold worldly occupations during ministry, like Paul, or we don’t hold worldly occupations during ministry, like Peter, and so on.

In all these circumstances, we draw our strength from Christ, enabling us to carry out all tasks for His glory. The truth embodied in Jesus transcends any distinctions, whether we are engaged in ministries online or offline, indoors or outdoors, within the confines of a building — whether owned, leased, or licensed — or in open spaces like a park, whenever we meet a weekday, Saturday, or Sunday. The matter in all the circumstances is Jesus the truth.

Furthermore, God examines the sincerity of the heart behind donations. Jesus rebuked the Pharisees who tithed without a genuine love for God, emphasizing that heartfelt love should accompany giving. God desires us to love Him above all else, as stated in Matthew 10:37, “He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.”

Lastly, God warns against loving money, as it can lead to various evils, as noted in Timothy 6:10, “For the love of money is a root of all *kinds of* evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”

In summary, God values a loving heart more than money. God doesn’t want our love for money to surpass our love for Him. He desires that our love for Him always remain supreme, not overshadowed by our attachment to money or any other worldly pursuits. Donations serve as evidence of where our heart truly lies, as expressed in Mat 6:21. Thus, Calvary Chapel Anaheim Hills (CCAH) does not engage in fundraising or frequent solicitation of donations as it aims to avoid misrepresenting God as a merciless beggary deity rather than a rich merciful deity. CCAH is guided by the Spirit, prioritizing a heart-led approach over a money-focused one, aligning with the Whole Counsel of God in its beliefs and their consequent practices.

Therefore, CCAH gratefully accepts donations in the form of offerings, tithes, or gifts to advance God’s kingdom, with prayers for continuous blessings and heavenly rewards for every donor.