

2 Kings 18:6-7 (NLT2)

He remained faithful to the LORD in everything, and he carefully obeyed all the commands the LORD had given Moses. So the LORD was with him, and Hezekiah was successful in everything he did. He revolted against the king of Assyria and refused to pay him tribute.

Yesterday we looked at 2 Kings chapter 17, verse 15, and how Israel had turned its back on God and followed after pagan idols. And we saw how we can become useless just like those false idols when we bring them into our life.

But after chapter 17, comes chapter 18, which starts out on a high note of a new king that followed the Lord and got rid of pagan worship.

† **2 Kings 18:1-4 (NLT2)** *Hezekiah son of Ahaz began to rule over Judah in the third year of King Hoshea's reign in Israel. He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem twenty-nine years. His mother was Abijah, the daughter of Zechariah. He did what was pleasing in the LORD's sight, just as his ancestor David had done. He removed the pagan shrines, smashed the sacred pillars, and cut down the Asherah poles. He broke up the bronze serpent that Moses had made, because the people of Israel had been offering sacrifices to it. The bronze serpent was called Nehushtan.*

So, in the midst of Israel falling away from the Lord, one man, the new king, chose not to follow those ways, but chose to follow after King David ***“He did what was pleasing in the LORD's sight, just as his ancestor David had done.”*** Which shows us once again that we don't have to follow the masses, but rather we should follow the Lord.

And if you recall yesterday's devotional we read in **2 Kings 17:15b (NLT2)** ***“They worshiped worthless idols, so they became worthless themselves.”*** But in chapter 18, we read the opposite, as we see in today's verses, and I want to focus on two parts of these verses, which are.

† ***“He remained faithful to the LORD in everything”***

† ***“and Hezekiah was successful in everything he did.”***

“Worthless” in chapter 17 verses ***“Successful”*** in chapter 18.

So if we worship or bring false gods and sinful lifestyle into our own life, then we will ***“become worthless”*** ourselves. But, if we get rid of the false gods and sinful lifestyle, and ***“remained faithful to the LORD in everything”*** then would our useless life change and become a successful life for the Lord, to the point that others would say about us that we are ***“successful in everything he (or she) did.”***

People want a formula for success, but the problem is that they see success as what the world calls success. But what the world calls success is not what the Lord calls success.

Just as we read that king Hezekiah ***“remained faithful to the LORD in everything”*** we must remember that by doing so, he was not chasing after the things of this world, but rather the things of God. And as we chase after what the world calls success, the results will be that we ***“became worthless.”*** But if we truly ***“remained faithful to the LORD in everything”*** then we too will be ***“successful”*** in what God calls successful, because everything we do is to please the Lord, not man or our flesh.

† **John 8:29** *And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him.*

† **Jeremiah 42:6** *Whether it is pleasing or displeasing, we will obey the voice of the LORD our God to whom we send you, that it may be well with us when we obey the voice of the LORD our God.*

† **Romans 12:2 (NLT2)** *Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.*

† **Galatians 1:10 (NLT2)** *Obviously, I'm not trying to win the approval of people, but of God. If pleasing people were my goal, I would not be Christ's servant.*