

**THE SUCCESS TRAP**  
Firm Foundation Pt 7  
Pastor Craig Coulter

**WHAT GETS US INTO TROUBLE**

DANIEL 4:1-37

**1. We get comfortable and complacent with success.**

*"I, Nebuchadnezzar, was enjoying a time of peace and prosperity in my kingdom and palace. I was taking it easy, without a care in the world!" Daniel 4:4*

*"I said to myself 'Just look at this great city of Babylon that I have created! I, by my own mighty power, have built this beautiful city for my glory. I built it to show my power, my might, my majesty, and my glory!'" Daniel 4:30*

*"The Lord despises pride; You can be sure that the proud will be punished." Proverbs 16:5*

**2. We don't pay attention to warning signs.**

*"Here's what you should do: **Repent** of your sins and start doing what is right. **Then begin to show merciful kindness to the poor and oppressed.** Then perhaps God will allow you to keep prospering." Daniel 4:27*

**3. We put off doing what we know is right.**

*"Twelve months later, all of what King Nebuchadnezzar dreamed did actually happen to him. He was taking a walk on the flat roof of his royal palace in Babylon. As he looked out across the city, he boasted to himself . . . As the words were still on his lips, a voice came from heaven, 'This is what God decrees for you, King Nebuchadnezzar: Your power is being taken away and you are no longer the ruler of this kingdom! You'll be deposed from the palace, ostracized by everyone, and forced to live with the wild animals. Immediately it all happened.'" Daniel 4:28-33*

## STEPS TO RECOVERY

### 1. LOOK UP TO GOD.

*"After this time had passed, I, Nebuchadnezzar, looked up to heaven and my sanity returned." Daniel 4:34 (NLT)*

### 2. WAKE UP TO GOD'S GREATNESS AND START WORSHIPPING.

*"My sanity returned, and I praised and worshiped the Most High and honored The One who lives forever." Daniel 4:34 (NLT)*

We get better -- when we replace **pride** with **praise**.

*"Remember how God led you through the wilderness these past forty years . . . He humbled you by letting you go hungry . . . and he tested you with hardships many times . . . to test your character and to see if you will obey whatever he commands you to do . . . Now God is bringing you into a good land — a land with plenty of water . . . with bountiful crops . . . orchards full of fruit . . . abundant copper and iron in the ground. and you will lack nothing! So when you are full and satisfied and prospering PRAISE the Lord with gratitude for all he has given you!*

*BUT BE CAREFUL that you do not forget the Lord and that you continue to always obey every command of God! Otherwise when you have built your fine houses and your gold and silver have multiplied, your heart will become PROUD and you will forget that it was God who saved and delivered you out of your slavery and gave all this to you!*

*And when you become successful. do not think 'I did all this by my own strength and I became rich by my own power.' Instead remember that it is God, your Lord, who gives you the ability and strength to produce wealth!*

*I warn you: If you ever forget God and begin turning things into idols that you worship, God will destroy it all and your nation, just as he has destroyed other nations before you who forgot God." Deuteronomy 8:2-20*

### 3. TELL OTHERS HOW GOD HAS SAVED ME AND CHANGED ME.

*"King Nebuchadnezzar sent a letter to the people of every race and nation and language throughout the world: May you prosper! I want to tell you all about the wonderful miracles that God has done for me!" Daniel 4:1-2*