

# It Takes More Than Luck

Have you ever felt that your luck's run out or said "*just my luck!*"?

One of my relatives is often telling people to "*thank your lucky stars.*"

It is quite amazing how many common expressions are built around the word "*luck.*"

The luck of the Irish.

No such luck.

Down on your luck.

Lucky guess.

Lucky break.

Don't push your luck.

This is your lucky day.

The most common expression is "*good luck.*"

Then there are superstitious notions about what brings bad luck.

Having a black cat cross your path.

Opening an umbrella indoors.

Breaking a mirror.

Walking under a ladder.

Rabbit's feet are said to bring you good luck, although donor rabbits seldom agree.

## **What role, if any, does luck play in your life?**

What is luck?

Although the exact origin of the word "*luck*" is not clear, etymological dictionaries suggest it came into the English language as a gambling term.

Webster's Dictionary defines luck as:-

Something that is where more than mere chance is involved.

This may be because of the word's association with certain objects that are supposedly endowed with supernatural powers.

Objects such as charms, amulets, crosses, etc.

Luck is also defined as favouring chance.

**Ecclesiastes 9:11** [NIV] *“I have seen something else under the sun: **The race is not to the swift or the battle to the strong, nor does food come to the wise or wealth to the brilliant or favour to the learned; but time and chance happen to them all.**”*

The wise Solomon speaks of this kind of luck.

We have to face the fact that many things that occur in our lives are **not** the result of our skills and abilities.

**It is a big mistake to categorise everything that happens in our lives as either good or bad luck.**

To do this would be to minimise the importance of individual effort, not to mention the significance of God’s involvement.

It is very surprising what things that people attribute to bad luck.

Traffic speeding tickets.

Accidents and injuries.

Financial problems.

Illness.

Lack of friends.

God cuts right across such misunderstanding in His Word, the Christian Bible.

**Galatians 6:7** [NIV] *“Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. **A man reaps what he sows.**”*

## **Luck or success?**

The phrase “*good luck*” tends to be a negative comment.

Such a comment does **not** put much hope in God’s help or in the abilities and talents of the individual.

If we believe that God hears and answers our prayers, and is personally involved in our lives, then we know that a lot more than luck is behind our good fortune.

Instead of “*good luck!*” why not say “*I wish you success!*”

**After all, if our success and good fortune depended entirely on luck, the odds are certainly against us.**

All of us have a certain amount of control over our own destinies.

But we are warned **not** to be too confident that we alone can do everything that we plan to do.

**James 4:13-16** [NIV] *“Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.” Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. **What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.”** As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil.”*

God has given us our lives, He sustains our lives, every moment of the day, and our future life is in His hands.

**Jeremiah 17:7-10** [NIV] *“But blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.” The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? “I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve.”*

The sure way to a successful life involves trusting our Creator God.

**Proverbs 3:6** [NIV] *“in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.”*

Note it says “all your ways” the Christian Bible, is full of examples showing that obedience to God is what brings us lasting success.

## **Make good things happen**

God wants every one of us to live a successful life, but this depends on our actively making good things happen in our lives.

**God expects all of us to set right goals for ourselves, guided by the wisdom found in the Christian Bible.**

Then purposely pursue these right goals as if it totally depends only on us to accomplish them, knowing one promise that God has made.

**Romans 8:28** [NIV] *“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”*

If our lives are centred around our fulfilling God’s purpose for our lives, then we don’t need luck, for God will ensure that good things will come into our lives.

To know what is God’s Will for your life read our article on this website *“Life: Why Do Humans Exist?”* and all the other articles under the headings *“Life”* or *“Successful Living.”*

The Christian Bible is full of wise precepts that will ensure you have a successful and fulfilling life.

**John 10:7-14** [NIV] *“Therefore Jesus said again, “I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. All who ever came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me”*

A life your Creator God desires you to experience, and sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to make this possible.