

TRUE SUCCESS

What is true success? Everyone dreams of having success in life, because when God made us, He placed within us the desire to be overcomers, to be successful.

Many measure success by wealth... happiness... power... fame. But what is true success?

* In 1923 at the Edgewater Beach Hotel in Chicago, Illinois, seven of the most powerful and successful businessmen in the world gathered for a meeting. Together these seven men controlled more money than the U.S. government. In that group there was Charles Schwab, the president of a huge steel company. Richard Whitney was the president of the New York Stock Exchange, and Arthur Cutton was a famous and rich merchandiser. Albert Fall was a very wealthy man who was also a member of the U.S. president's cabinet. Jesse Livermore was the greatest leader on Wall Street in his generation. Leon Fraser was the president of an International Bank. Ivan Krueger headed the world's largest monopoly.

Quite an impressive group of people! Let's look at the same group later in life. Charles Schwab, the president of a huge steel company, died penniless. The president of the New York Stock Exchange, spent the rest of his life in Sing-Sing Prison. The famous merchandiser became bankrupt. As an old man the presidential advisor, was released from a Federal Prison so he might die at home. Leon Fraser, the president of that big international bank? He committed suicide. Jesse Livermore? He committed suicide. Ivan Krueger, who headed the world's largest monopoly? He committed suicide.

Seven of the world's richest men- the most successful men in the world for a few years- had lives that became great disasters. What mistake did they make? In aiming for success in life, they were ignorant of what true success is, and they died as great failures- 3 of them committing suicide.

How do we measure success: Riches? Popularity? Authority? Happiness? True success is not to be measured by how we start, but how well we continue and complete something!

- * Riches: A gambler who wins P10 million for a few days but gambles it away and spends the rest of his life in poverty- he is a failure!
- * Power: An army that wins many battles but loses the war- is a failure!
- * Happiness: Drug addicts, alcoholics, immoral persons- they may be very happy with their sin for a while, but the joy does not last, and their life becomes worse! They become failures!
- * Popularity: Many people strive for worldly fame but do not seek God's praise. In a few years they are forgotten by the people, and they were never know by God: they become failures!

Temporary success is not true success – TRUE SUCCESS MUST LAST!	“What does it profit a man, if he gains the whole world but he loses his own soul?” – Mk.8:36
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There are 2 basic perspectives by which to measure success: a worldly perspective and a heavenly perspective. A worldly view of life & success only takes into account our present life on earth, but a heavenly view measures what we will gain for all eternity!

True success, which will last forever, must be based on a heavenly standard because it recognizes that we have an eternal destiny & reward. Our 60 or 70 years in this life is only our preparation, our preschool!

SUCCESS #1: TRUE RICHES -Riches that are eternal! Jesus said in Mt.6:19-20, “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroy, and where thieves do not break in or steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

-There is nothing wrong with riches- if you have the correct investments! God made riches, and seeks to bless His children...

We want to be wise stewards of what God gives us, to multiply the resources- not for our own greedy desires, but for the kingdom of God!

* Many Korean Christians work very hard, not to become rich for themselves, but their goal is to give 50% of their earnings to international missions!

- But if we gather wealth for our own selfish gain, God calls us a fool! (Luke 12:19-21).

* Cecil Rhodes was one of the world's richest men a century ago. He owned diamond & gold mines, and was so powerful that a nation was named after him (Rhodesia). Just before he died he said, "I've found much in Africa- diamonds, gold, and land are mine, but now I must leave them all behind. Not a thing I've gained can be taken with me. Eternal treasures that abide I have not sought; therefore, I actually now have nothing at all!"

The wise want eternal rewards: the works of our life will be judged when we die, 1 Cor.3:12-15
We want to have fruit- rewards- that will remain forever, Jn.15:16.

* Merrill Vorhies was a missionary to Japan 80 years ago. His Christian businesses helped save the nation from communism as all the workers in his businesses (including himself) received the same pay. A rich businessman then said to him, "Vorhies, you're a fool- you could be a millionaire." Merrill Vorhies showed him pictures of all his Christian converts, and said, "Who says I'm not rich?"

SUCCESS #2: TRUE HAPPINESS - Those with no faith in God live for temporary pleasures:

1) Partying and worldly pleasures:

The Apostle Paul said, "If the dead are not raised, let us eat & drink, for tomorrow we die!"

Solomon: "The mind of fools is in the house of pleasure." –Eccles. 7:4

Drinking & drugs are a very temporary joy- they leave you worse!

Solomon: "Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the difficult days come, when you can find no pleasure in them," Eccles.12:1-2

2) Immorality: In the USA in the 1960's, many young people started committing immorality, having sex before marriage:

THEORY: "It's true love" (it's not evil!)

FACT: It is often only lust or infatuation, not true love! Study 1 Corinthians 13:4-7.

THEORY: "We are free!"

FACT: The lady has no security or commitment from the man. Her "freedom" actually brings fear & bondage!

THEORY: "We are happy together"

FACT: A study by US psychologists found that unmarried live-in couples are depressed more than 3 times as much as married couples!

FACT: The most complete scientific study ever done, by the University of New York & the University of Chicago, found that of all intimate couples, "The people who report being the most physically pleased and emotionally satisfied are the married couples."

* Scientific studies have abundantly confirmed what the Bible has taught us for 1000s of years- having sex only in a marriage relationship is the most enjoyable, and brings other benefits such as security and health!

SUCCESS #3: TRUE AUTHORITY

Power & Authority are often considered a sign of success. But worldly power often comes from evil sources which corrupt and enslave those who are channels of that power, Lk.4:6. Jesus was offered all the kingdoms of the world if he would bow down to the devil!

Also, worldly or evil power is also very temporary: “They reigned as kings for one hour,” Rev.17:12 However, the power & authority that Christ can give us is eternal, Rev.20:6 & Rev.21:7.

Young people often have a desire for power, to make an impact upon the world- but many sell out their ambitions, and settle for worldly substitutes. They may spend their free time playing video games, destroying demons, instead of learning how to pray & cast real demons out!

Others watch TV programs or movies about superhuman heroes- Clark Kent, Gandalf, Spiderman... but they only fantasize about having power, instead of paying a price & becoming a strong Christian who will gain *true* supernatural power!

It is slower to gain the Power & Authority of Christ- but it can last forever! Christ offers us eternal crowns- but first, a cross. “No cross, no crown!”

SUCCESS #4: TRUE POPULARITY: Worldly popularity usually lasts only a few years- very few people are popular for more than 20 or 30 years.

Bonaparte Napoleon, the conqueror of Europe, said, “1000’s of books have been written about me in my generation- the next generation will only write one book about me- the 3rd generation will only write one paragraph, and the 4th generation will only mention me in 1 sentence.”

Popularity on earth does not last long- but popularity in heaven lasts forever!

Dan.12:2-3 At the resurrection, many will have disgrace & eternal damnation, but many be honored and will shine forever with the glory of God!

-In heaven, we will all be the same (filled to overflowing) and yet we will also all be different (different sized vessels which are filled with God’s glory) Our earthly preparations will make us shine with various amounts of God’s glory, just like there are 30 watt, 60 watt, & 100 watt light bulbs able to handle different levels of power! What level of glory will we live in for all eternity? (1 Cor.15:

Graduating from famous Wheaton College, Jim Eliot & his team –instead of becoming rich & famous- became missionaries to South America, where they were martyred trying to convert a fierce jungle tribe. Many felt that their lives were a failure- but because of the example of their lives, hundreds of young men and women volunteered to become missionaries to take the place of these fallen soldiers for Christ. Also, their widows were also able to convert the entire tribe to Christ! Their sacrifice gained great rewards!

Jim Eliot wrote before his death, “He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep, to gain what he cannot lose.”

HOW CAN WE GAIN ETERNAL HAPPINESS AND POWER? ETERNAL REWARDS AND PRAISE? BY BEING FAITHFUL TO GOD, MT.25:21! THEN YOUR LIFE CAN HAVE SUCCESS THAT WILL LAST FOREVER!

THIS IS THE VISION WE MUST IMPART TO THE YOUNGER GENERATION:
LIVE FOR GOD! IT IS THE BEST LIFE, THE MOST ENJOYABLE LIFE, AND THE MOST
REWARDING LIFE, BOTH NOW AND FOR ETERNITY! IT IS **TRUE SUCCESS!**