

WHAT IS SUCCESS

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Bible Study

This word success and the seeking of it by the world's definition, has caused many a heartache and disappointment.

The seeking of it without understanding and direction, has caused many a home to break up. Many a friendship to dissolve. Has crushed many a misdirected dream. People will do almost anything to be looked upon. To be deemed special, important, and put on a pedestal.

So, they are always labeling someone as great. The greatest, the best, the highest. But here is the sad commentary, when they reach that height, they find nothing but emptiness. The joy they thought would accompany it was not there. They asked an athlete who had broken a world record how did it feel to finally reach that mark. He said, it was dejecting, empty, and hollow.

Anything attained outside of Christ has no lasting effect.
We are looking for validation, approval and applause from all the wrong places. We seek it from people and with the wrong motives.

Maturing is growing up:

1. Mentally
2. Physically
3. Spiritually

Not two out of three but all three. It's knowing how to conduct oneself at all times in all situations. It is time out for excusing our lack of growth and maturity and blaming it on someone else, or on our situation.

When Jesus returns, no excuses will be accepted. Either we did or we didn't. Maturity is learning how to walk away from people and situations that threaten our peace of mind. Time out for get even, for telling folk off, or giving them a piece of your mind. Instead, why not receive even more peace from His mind. This spirit keeps us small minded. Seeing and dealing with small things and small people. It robs us of our respect. How can anyone respect us when we are constantly acting out of character.

There is too much at stake for us to be down here on this low level dealing with carnal things. To seek success for the purpose of self-gain, and the lifting up of oneself will always lead to alienation from God. This is where the

enemy wants us ignoring the Will of God and be caught up in self.

The word success is recorded one time in the Bible.

Joshua 1:7-10

The book of Joshua is about

1. Entering the promised land.
2. Conquering the promised land
3. Occupying the promised land.

The key to his success was obedience to the Word of God, not personal gain. **So, the true meaning of success is: attaining a level of maturity, of poise and patience. It is dealing with and handling people with a level of maturity and not falling apart. Its having both compassion and patience without us coming a loose at the seams.**

There are two routes to success:

1. The slow tedious, grinding way. The way where there are more failures and losses than gains. This path is full of teachable moments if we are willing to learn. In this way, our weaknesses are exposed

2. Our need for more divine intervention, divine help. We should be learning patience and how to be steadfast. This path leads to character development and more stability.

3. This route is all about chasing dreams. Taking short cuts with self-attainment at the core. We want it quickly and by any means. This path feeds our ego and further draws us away from God.

Note: How Jesus dealt with souls.

- **Matthew 18:1-5**
- **Mark 9:33-35**
- **Luke 22:24-27**

This is the key verse to grasp. Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

- **Hosea 8:7**
- **Hosea 10:12**
- **Galatians 6:7-8**

Success then is simply maturity. Learning how to deal with and handle both people and situations without losing our cool and maintaining our dignity.