

Successful Christians?

Petri Voges / 16 Jun 2023



What is success?



Other words that point to success

Improvement

Growth

Better

More

Flourishing

Prosperity

Prosperity

synonyms: wealth, success, profitability, affluence, riches, opulence, the good life, (good)fortune, ease, plenty, welfare, comfort, security, well-being, luxury, the life of luxury, milk and honey, a bed of roses, prosperousness

antonyms: hardship, failure



John 16:33 I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth, *you will have many trials and sorrows.* But take heart, because I have overcome the world.

1 John 5:4 For **everyone** who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world - our faith.



Are Christians
meant
to be
successful?





Fear of the Lord



Aiming at success



Definition of success

Success is the state or condition of meeting a defined range of expectations. It may be viewed as the opposite of failure.

The criteria for success depend on context and may(will mostly) be **relative to a particular observer or belief system.**

Is 33:6 He will be the sure foundation for your times, a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge; the fear of the LORD is the key to this treasure.

Matt 7:24-25 Everyone then **who hears these words of mine and does them** will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock





tsalach - (tsaw-lakh)

This word carries the meaning of prospering, being successful, or achieving favorable outcomes.

It appears in various forms and contexts throughout the Old Testament



Josh 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.

Ps 1:3 He will be like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers.



ONE of the fruits
of obedience is
success



Faith Fruit

In the parable of the sower, the sower scatters seeds, which represent the Word of God, onto different types of soil.

The path, the rocky soil, among thorns and the good soil

The people whose hearts represent the path and the rocky ground falls away



Among the thorns

The seeds that fall among thorns grow, but the thorns choke them, preventing them from bearing fruit.

This represents individuals who hear the Word but allow worldly cares, riches, and desires to dominate their lives. Their pursuit of worldly success and material possessions hinders spiritual growth and fruitfulness.



Good soil

The seeds that fall on good soil grow and produce a plentiful harvest.

They bear the fruit of spiritual growth, transformation, and a life lived in accordance with God's principles. This is an example of godly success, where individuals align their lives with God's will and experience the fullness of His blessings.



But when the
Son of Man comes,
will He find
faith on the earth?

-Luk 18:8



Let's Pray

