

# The Myths of Success

**Text:** Proverbs 1:5 **Let the discerning get guidance!**

**Introduction:** We live in a success driven society. The top selling books in the world are on the subject of success... Everyone wants to be a success but the world has an off base idea of what success really means... a lot of money, power...influence...notoriety!!! But is this really what Jesus taught success was all about? As Christians it's not wrong to be successful or want to experience success in our lives. Our church has a mandate to be successful – that success is to reach the lost, and then raise and release them into the purpose of God for their lives. Our church has been positioned to be influence and make an impact in our families, our community and our city for Jesus Christ. But nevertheless, there has been an unbiblical idea of success which has crept into the church. I know one church that endorsed a new age 'success' book by inviting the author to appear personally to promote his book - and the author wasn't even a christian!

I believe God has called each and every one of us to be champions in this life. We have a slogan at ALC that states "**Discovering your Abundant Life**" - and that would lead us to believe that the Abundant Life would be a successful life. But successful according to who's definition? We're going to look at some 'Success Myths' in light of scripture and what Jesus taught about success...

1. **We believe success is impossible, so we criticize it!** Because we want to believe that life should be easy, we assume that anything that's difficult must be impossible. The when success eludes us we are tempted to throw in the towel.
2. **We believe success is mystical, so we search for it!** The problem is we want the rewards without paying the price! You don't win Olympic gold with a few week intensive training. There's no such thing as an overnight opera sensation! Great companies, great churches and great lives don't spring up overnight! Every great thing has been built in exactly the same way...line upon line...precept upon precept!
3. **We believe success comes by chance, so we hope for it!** We say "They just happened to be in the right place at the right time" NO!! The chances of that happening are about as good as winning the lottery 50 million to 1. Listen to what Paul told Timothy 1 Tim 4:15 "Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress".
4. **We believe success is the result of opportunity, so we wait for it!** All I need is a break!!! The motto is "If Only" If only my boss would cut me some slack...If only our church was in a better part of town...If only I had more money...If only I had married someone different...People who do nothing more than wait for opportunity, are neither able to see it or seize it when it comes.
5. **We believe success comes from having leverage, so we work for it!** This idea is reinforced by people like industrialist Andrew Carnegie: "Success is the power with which to acquire whatever one demands of life." So we take it a step further, assuming that all successful people have walked on others to get where they are.
6. **We believe success comes from connections, so we strive to make them!...**"It's all who ya know" ...If I can just meet the right person...But those beliefs are misplaced. Knowing good people has it's rewards. But connections alone won't improve your life if you're off track...

**Conclusion:** We've talked about some misconceptions about success and how to attain it. But what is the biblical formula for success?? **Simple: Seek God's will...and do that!!!** Your path to success according to the word of God: Love the Lord your God with ALL your heart, ALL your soul and ALL your mind and love your neighbour as you love yourself. And then ALL these things (success, favour, influence, promotion etc.) will be added to you.