



# the pathway to success

LETTING GOD LEAD YOU TO A LIFE OF  
MEANING AND PURPOSE



**J O Y C E   M E Y E R**



New York • Nashville

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# Introduction



Most people want to succeed. God also wants us to succeed. But it is important to understand that what God considers success is not always what the world considers success.

The world considers people successful when they have a lot of money, own their own business, hold executive positions, or achieve fame and recognition. People with well-respected careers, such as doctors and lawyers, are viewed as successful, as are actors, actresses, singers, and celebrity athletes. Highly educated people and those regarded as experts in their field are also thought of as successful. But as Christians, we don't base success on the same criteria the world uses. The Bible teaches that we are *in* the world but not *of* the world, and that we are not to be worldly (John 17:11, 14–15; Romans 12:2).

The backgrounds and behind-the-scenes lives of many people the world considers successful reveal that they are unhappy, unkind, unloving, or self-absorbed. We also hear that they sometimes struggle with substance abuse and relational problems. They may work hard to obtain the positions they have, only to discover that they are unfulfilled and really don't know who they are apart from what they do.

Recently someone told me he had been in a respected profession for twenty-five years. He is now retired and said he felt he had lost his identity. He said, "I used to be at the top of my profession, and now I am nothing." A child of God never has to feel this way because we know we are much more than what we do. We find our value in our relationship with God through Christ. God loves us, and having His love is more important than having anything else. Isn't it good to know that God doesn't love us for what we do, but He loves us because we are His children?

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*We find our value in our relationship with  
God through Christ.*

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In addition to what I have already mentioned, many so-called successful people are lonely. They have put all their time and energy into being at the top of their profession and as a result, they often do not have meaningful relationships.

For many people, their primary pursuit in life is making money. If this is your top priority, you will be sadly disappointed when you discover that money cannot keep you happy. Are you working two jobs to pay for a house you wanted, while ignoring your relationships with God and your family? Are you so busy working to pay for your house that you have no time to enjoy living in it? Many years from now, that house may not be fit for anyone to live in. Or maybe it's a car you are working for; someday it will just be a piece of metal in a junkyard.

The Bible also reveals that everything in this world is currently passing away. In the end, only God will remain, so He should be our top priority above all else.

First John 2:15–17 says:

Do not love the world or anything in the world.

If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is

not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

Jesus tells us in Matthew 6:19, “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.”

Revelation 18:10–11 says that Babylon (which I believe represents the world system) will fall in one hour and that the “merchants of the earth” (representing those who deal in commerce) will mourn. I was not alive during the Great Depression in 1929, but in one day, people who had a great deal of money in the morning had nothing by the end of the day. The stock market crashed, jobs were scarce, and money that people had worked years to save vanished in just a few hours. Having money is fine, but we should never put our hope in it, because it is not stable. However, God is faithful, and He never changes (Hebrews 13:8).

In this book, I hope to help you understand how

to walk the pathway to success in your life. The success we want is what God considers success, not success as the world views it. In God's kingdom, people may be world-famous or wealthy; they may own businesses, be CEOs of major corporations, be movie stars or sports celebrities, or appear successful for other reasons. But their motivation will be to do these things for God's glory, not merely to feel important and make money. They will also desire to share what they have with people in need.

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success, not success as the world views it.*

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God wants you to succeed in everything He calls and equips you to do, and my prayer is that this book will guide you down the pathway to true godly success.