



YOU TOO CAN WIN

Practical tips to achieve
the **REAL** Success



GEORGE KOSHY



**Success infuses joy into
every cell of our body**

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Success

is an elusive magic potion. A fortunate few feed on it and they become addicted. For some, it is an occasional treat and they spend their lives longing for more. But for most people, it is a mirage that beckons them to toil and persevere till the very end of their lives. All of us fit in comfortably to either one of the above categories.



Success infuses joy into every cell of our body and we feel rejuvenated. Success also incites our minds to move towards greater goals and works as a catalyst that catapults us to higher realms.

On the other hand, failure is a lethal force. It disheartens us, weighs us down mentally and physically and dampens our spirits. It traps us in the dark ditch of disillusionment and blinds us to all hope and optimism.

The path of failure seems to be regressive and none of us would prefer to be on it. But the journey on the road to success seems to be unattainable. This booklet attempts to assign success its rightful perspective and suggests ways to grasp the elusive. By the end of the journey we hope to rewrite the first paragraph.

What does success mean?

Success assumes different shapes and shades. Sometimes it is silent and at other times it is bathed in hype. Success could be a person or a thing. It might be visible, tangible, or edible. Or it could just be an abstract phenomenon. A close analysis would tell us that success might be all of the above and more or none of the above and something totally different. We'll begin by decoding the enigma called 'Success'.

Is popularity success?

If being recognized by a whole nation, being photographed and featured on several publications, and having the police force after you, is a sign of success, then the south Indian sandalwood smuggler Veerappan was indeed a very successful man. His notoriety had earned him immense popularity. But he met the end that all those who live by the sword receive, when security forces mercilessly gunned him down.



The path of failure seems to be regressive

Popularity does not only come with notoriety. Popularity is part of the job for artists, entertainers, politicians, and other professionals. But popularity only lasts as long as the arc lights are blazing and the headlines are blaring. It is as fickle as the human memory. Nothing much remains after the arc lights fade and the media stops mentioning their names and pictures. All that remains of the products that they once endorsed are mere faded labels. Popularity wears out quickly but success outlives the person itself. Therefore, popularity cannot be synonymous to success.

Is money success?

Money is not just currency to buy and sell goods and services. It is power, prestige, position, and politics. Most people regard money as an essential parameter to measure success. Money can purchase and amass more wealth. And with great wealth, even the remotest dreams can come true. Such a privilege is ideal, but not close enough to success.



King Solomon, the third king of Israel, was blessed with everything – wisdom, wealth, and wives. And after he had enjoyed and experienced everything, he made one special discovery – ‘everything is vanity’, he said. Money can buy you a cot but not sleep; it can buy you a house but not a home; it can buy you laughter, not joy; it can even earn you a degree, but not knowledge or wisdom.

Wealth invites luxuries and dangers alike. Thefts, murders, corruption, deception, and other evils have the ‘love of money’ at its roots. Then there are the unfortunate millionaires who have never enjoyed their wealth due to various reasons like ill health, sorrow, or plain miserly attitudes. The above factors lead us to the conclusion that wealth does not buy success.

Is position success?

Authority over others, influence in society, respect and adulation of fans and followers are signs of importance. People who enjoy such recognition live on a higher pedestal and consider themselves champions and their deeds, heroic. But do these credits necessarily translate into success?

Even those who have lived in the highest pedestals of success have in no time relinquished their crowns for rags. Saddam Husain, the mighty ruler of Iraq lived on the pinnacle of ultimate authority. However, his status and position did not come to his rescue when he was hunted down like a stray dog. Such a transient phenomenon cannot be weighed equally with success.

Is pleasure success?

Pleasures come in many forms. Regardless of its form, the chief ingredients of pleasure are comfort, luxury, and satisfaction. Both the human mind and body succumb to its lure and often get addicted to it. People who are cushioned in luxury earn the envy of all. They appear to be undoubtedly happy and therefore it is assumed that they are successful.

Certain pleasures can result in unfulfilled dreams, broken relationships, and immense misery. Excessive indulgence could also prove to be fatal. The yesteryears heartthrob of Hollywood, Marilyn Monroe, who had the world at her feet, drowned in the toxic marsh of overindulgence and agony. If pleasures are dead ends in themselves, they cannot be termed as success.



Is power success?

Power is an attractive magnet that lures anyone who shows the faintest interest in it. Power promises control, adulation, and respect. Power also has a dark manipulative, addictive, intoxicating, and corrupting face. People in power rely on security guards for their safety and their sustenance comes from the submissive spirit of the people they rule. Adolf Hitler ruled with an iron fist and considered himself supreme and invincible. The blood soaked pages of history recounts his horrific feats of brutality. His end was despicable.

In spite of all its many benefits and drawbacks, power is momentary. People remain in power till they are replaced by a more powerful person. Hence, we can surmise that power cannot ensure success.

Thus far, we have considered what success is not. Now, let us see what success really is. What we purpose to find is not success that fades with the sunset but success that is robust throughout our

life, resilient to rough times, and durable even after our death. Such success is not manufactured by human hands or grown on earthly soil. To obtain success, we first need to familiarize ourselves with its maker. Opinions regarding the maker and nature of success will vary. But we will lay bare a few facts that will lead us to the truth.

Fact-1

The whole world is God's creation. Some people may consider it foolishness to talk of God and creation when the hypothesis of evolution has been taught and studied for the last one and half centuries. Before we draw such a conclusion, let us examine a few realities.

The Universe which includes our earth, is huge. The distance between the earth and its satellite, the moon, is about 400,000 kilometres. The distance from earth to sun is 1,50,000,000 kilometres. Our nearest star after the sun, Alfa Century, is 4.5 light years away (a light year is the distance travelled by light at the rate of 186,000 miles per second continuously for a year)

The galaxy that includes the solar system is called the Milky Way. The nearest galaxy to the Milky Way is called Andromeda. Our next door neighbour is 650,000 light years away!

A few facts about the size of stars – Contrary to what the nursery rhyme, 'twinkle, twinkle little star' says, stars are anything but little. Scientists have calculated that, if the sun's inside was hollow, about 10,00,000 earths could be accommodated in it. Astronomical observers claim that they have found stars large enough to hold 500,000,000 suns! Our small Milky Way alone has more than 100,000 stars. There are millions of galaxies that can be seen through a telescope and lot more that are beyond our gaze. All these stars travel in their respective orbits without collision.



The Bible assigns a special title to all those who deny the existence of an intelligent creator and believe that this gigantic universe that functions harmoniously was the product of a great explosion – “the fool has said in his heart, there is no God” (Psalm 14.1) This booklet is the result of the combined effort of a writer, designer, printer, binder and publisher. If such a small product requires the intelligence and skill of so many people, then as the Bible says, only a “fool” could deny the presence of a supreme intelligent being behind the creation of the universe.

The hand of a creator can be noticed not only in big phenomena like the galactic motions, but also in the arrangements of leaves on a stalk. The leaves are the food manufacturers of a plant and this process of photosynthesis can happen only with the help of sunlight. Therefore the leaves are arranged in such a way that each leaf gets enough sunlight to produce nourishment for the plant. If the leaves were stacked on each other, photosynthesis would not take place.



Man is a part of this carefully designed universe and enjoys every aspect of creation. But he has chosen to ignore the master designer behind this creation. Man has consciously discarded the evidence in favour of a hypothesis – that of evolution. Though science has advanced to a great level, the idea of evolution has not yet been convincingly proved. That is why it remains a ‘theory’ and not a ‘law’. This is why the Bible questions the intellectual credibility of those who base their beliefs on such fallacies.

Man with his finite limitations of time and space, stares at the infinite and says, ‘I have searched for God throughout the universe but did not find him. So there is no God’. The one who looks for the potter in the pot surely is a fool. The Bible exclaims ‘the heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament shows his handiwork’ (Psalms 19.1). This universe and all its living and non living beings is the handiwork of God. Those who pursue the truth without any prejudice will readily accept this fact.

Fact-2

Man, the crown of God’s creation disobeyed God and did things that displeased Him. Thus man became impure and the relationship between a holy God and His unholy creation was severed. This condition of man is known as ‘sin’. And the Bible affirms in Romans 6.23 that the “Wages of sin is death”. This means

that the result of sin is eternal death, that is, eternal separation from God.

Sir Isaac Newton's Law of Thermodynamics states that every action has an equal and opposite reaction. Therefore, eternal death or hell fire can be seen as the natural result of man's evil deeds. The Bible categorically asserts that no man is exempted from this death penalty "for all have sinned and fall short of glory of God" (Romans 3.23). King David discerned, "behold I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me" (Psalms 51.6).

We may wonder if it is right to term man as a 'sinner'. News channels and newspapers scream out an affirmative answer. We not only need laws but law enforcers as well. We not only need the law enforcers, but punishment and correctional facilities too. The police force, courts, prisons, homes for juvenile delinquents, etc are by-products of man's sin. Perhaps there may be varying degrees in wrong doings. But God does not categorise big or small sinners.

Thus man is born in sin, lives in sin, and is heading for the inevitable end that awaits all sinners – punishment and eternal death. Man is subconsciously aware of this impending doom and does all that is in his power to redeem his soul from destruction. People perform good deeds like giving alms, feeding and clothing the poor, going on pilgrimages, swearing oaths and vows, and many other religious activities. All these actions by themselves are beneficial but does it help save their souls?



This is the realistic perspective of the situation – Man, by birth and nature is a sinner. Therefore, he is already sinking in the mire. When man tries to absolve his sinful situation by his good deeds, he presumes that he will rescue himself from the mire and move to a cleaner, solid, and stable location. However, the nature of the mire is such that if you lift one leg to come out of it, the other one sinks deeper. So the victim cannot save himself. Deliverance can come only from an outside source that is strong and untouched by the mire. In our situation, this means someone who cares enough for the victim to save him, who is strong enough to lift him from it, and who is untouched by sin.

These requirements were fulfilled in Jesus Christ. He cares for his creation, as the Supreme One he is strong enough to save, and the Bible states that 'He knew no sin, did no sin, and there was no sin found in Him'. God is both a truthful judge and a loving father. As a Judge, He has to punish the sinner, but as a Father, He has to protect His children. Both these aspects were fulfilled at the Cross of Calvary. Jesus Christ took upon himself the punishment for the sins of man and died on behalf of his creation. Justice was accomplished. This death provided redemption for all mankind. Fatherly love triumphed. The judge took upon himself the punishment he meted out for the criminal.

WAS JESUS SINLESS?

Jesus Christ is the Son of God and we can affirm that He was indeed sinless. Moreover, this is what the people who interacted with Him had to say,

- ❖ The Roman governor, Pilate, who interrogated Jesus said "I am innocent of the blood of this just person"
- ❖ Pilate's wife urged him, "have nothing to do with that just man"
- ❖ Jesus' disciple, Peter testified, "He committed no sin"
- ❖ Judas who betrayed Jesus for money confessed, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood"
- ❖ The Roman centurion who supervised the crucifixion said, "truly He was the Son of God"
- ❖ One of the thieves who was crucified along with Jesus said, "this man has done nothing wrong"
- ❖ Paul the great scholar and once a great enemy of Christians evaluated, "He knew no sin"
- ❖ John, another disciple of Jesus, who was very close to him said, "in Him there is no sin"
- ❖ Both friends and foes of Jesus affirmed this truth. Besides, God the father proclaimed twice "this is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased"
- ❖ Jesus Himself publicly challenged people asking, "Which of you convicts me of sin?" (John 8:46) The truth is that nobody was able to find any fault in Him

Death Defying Roman Laws

Roman law insists that even if a thousand offenders are acquitted, not even one innocent person should be punished. Why

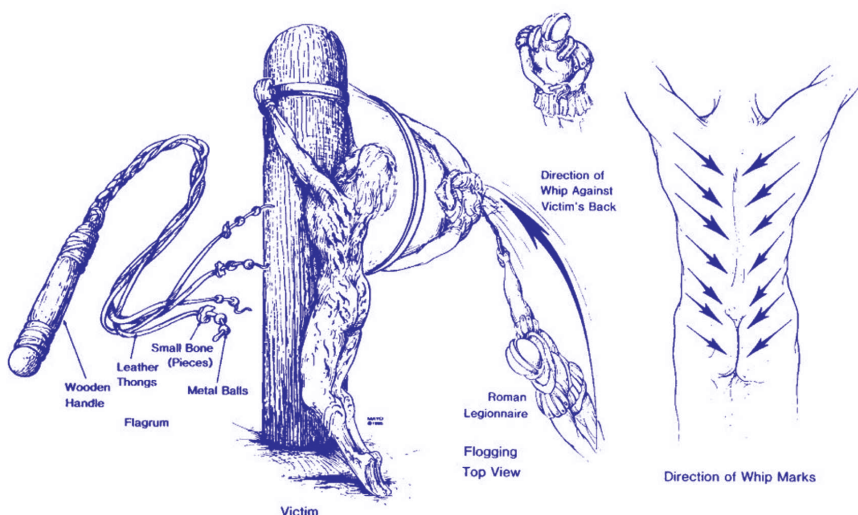
then was Jesus crucified though he was judged innocent and just? Because, that was God's plan. The very purpose of the incarnation of Jesus Christ, who came to bestow forgiveness and eternal life to the wicked, was to die on the cross.

Torture before crucifixion

The death of Jesus on the cross was physically, mentally and spiritually a very painful experience of persecution. So much that when he prayed in agony, his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. (Luke 22:44)

The Greek word used in Luke 22:44 for a 'great drop of blood' is "Thrombos", which means blood clot. The medical condition whereby a person has blood clots coming out of sweat pores is termed "Hematidrosis". This condition is caused by acute physical and mental trauma. Excessive anxiety causes the stress levels of the body to increase and this in turn forces the body to release certain chemicals into the blood stream. As stress continues to rise, the body becomes incapable of containing it and the pressure is released through the blood vessels. As a result, the capillaries break and blood seeps between the first and second layer of skin. These layers of skin then separate and when the person sweats, blood is released through the glands and pores. It is this fragile body that the Roman soldiers flogged and bruised.

Roman flogging and crucifixion was one of the deadliest forms of punishment. The victim's upper body garments are stripped and



his hands are bound to a pillar so as his head is bent. Once the person is tied to this position, the flogging begins. Firstly, he is flogged thirteen times vertically above the chest and on the face. He is then bent and beaten on the back twenty-seven times above the knee.

The Roman whip was a specially designed equipment of torture. It is about one and half feet long. Three leather ropes of varying lengths with hooks of bone pieces and metal are stitched together to form this whip. When the soldier strikes once, the impact and damage is increased three-fold because of the three ropes. So the wounds caused are also on three different areas of the body. When the victim is flogged, these hooks tear deep into the body. When the whip is pulled back, pieces of flesh come off on the ends of the hooks. These lacerations get deeper as flogging continues and damages most of the blood vessels. Thus there is severe bleeding and loss of body fluids. Jesus was beaten forty times, i.e., $40 \times 3 = 120$ stripes pierced his body. Blood gushed down the pierced back of Jesus as water flows through furrows.



Sometimes the flesh is torn off from the bones, thus exposing the skeletal structure of the victim. Raw flesh is torn off and the skin hangs like a lifeless flap. The human structure loses its form and all that is left is a bleeding mass of lacerated flesh.

Due to excessive bleeding from the severed blood vessels, most victims die before crucifixion. The heart tries to pump blood, but due to the lack of it, the heart rate drops. This low pressure in turn shuts down other vital organs like the kidneys etc. Those who have managed to survive this far usually collapse unconscious once the internal organs fail. The victim at this juncture goes into a hypovolemic shock due to severe pain. As expressed by Jesus on the cross, the person also feels extremely thirsty due to the absence of fluids in the body. When Jesus cried out on the cross, “I thirst”,

he was given sour wine to drink. After the scourging, Jesus had to carry the cross on which he was to be crucified. Since he was brutally wounded and tortured, he crumbled under the burden of the cross and a man called Simon, a Cyrenian was ordered to carry the cross through the streets of Jerusalem, to Calvary, the site of crucifixion.

Jesus was devastated by extreme flogging even before the nails were pierced into his hands and feet and hung on the cross. His mental and spiritual agonies were even more gruesome than the physical tortures. God the Father turned His face away as the Son suffered on the cross and paid the penalty for the sins of mankind.

Sacrificial death

What took place on the cross of Calvary was a sacrificial death. God unilaterally prepared a propitiatory sacrifice for the forgiveness of the sins of man. This means, God provided a way of escape for mankind. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3.16)

Resurrection

Death is the final pause for the great men of this world. But the story of Jesus does not end with the tomb. The body of Jesus Christ who died on the cross was buried in the tomb of Joseph a rich minister in Israel. The entrance of the tomb was secured by a Roman seal. A large number of soldiers were entrusted with the duty of guarding it.



However, Jesus rose again on the third day, breaking the pangs of death and conquering Satan. Later Jesus appeared to many and after 40 days, ascended into heaven. Today the tomb of Jesus is empty in Jerusalem.

Second coming of Jesus

Every devoted Christian is longing for the second coming. Jesus is soon coming to reign as the sovereign of this earth. Then he will judge mankind and those who are sunk in sin will be punished

with eternal separation from God and sent to eternal hell fire. Those who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour will reign with him. Bible has clear prophecies regarding the future of this world including the above truth.

Everlasting exhibition of God's love

“It is finished” was Christ’s final words at the cross. It means that all that had to be done for the forgiveness of the sins of mankind has been completed. Thus an opportunity for man to return to God was created by the sacrifice that was made on the cross by Jesus Christ. God created a way. Now man has to choose to be on it. These are the steps that man needs to take to receive salvation:

- ❖ Confess your sins with repentance
- ❖ Acknowledge that Jesus Christ died for the forgiveness of your sin
- ❖ Accept Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Saviour



Any person who sincerely follows these simple steps can have freedom from eternal death. It does not matter if you are learned or ignorant, rich or poor, man or woman. This is the simplicity of the gospel of Jesus Christ and its glory which makes it unique. The

Bible says.... “that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead, you will be saved”

You might be slightly baffled by the simplicity of such a great decision. Again, this was God’s plan for man’s redemption. He designed it in such a way that every human being will be able to choose his destiny and be able to receive salvation, fully and freely. Forgiveness of sin cannot be bought for a price. It is absolutely free. Fact of the matter is, all precious provisions are given free of cost by God. The atmospheric airs, sun shine, rain, are all free gifts from God. But for man’s redemption, God had to pay a heavy price, even the last drop of blood of his only begotten son. Can anyone offer a higher price for anything else? You have an opportunity to make this gospel your personal experience here and now. A person

who makes this decision becomes a child of God immediately, being born again in a new covenant.

Thus the Lord Jesus Christ took upon himself at the cross of Calvary, the eternal death mankind was condemned to receive as the wages of sin.

Death is just a door

Death is not the final destination of man's story. It is just a door, an entrance to eternity. Life after death is everlasting. This is why the above mentioned matters should be considered seriously. We now have the power to decide about the state and status of our life on this earth and also of our life beyond death. The decision has to be made while we live in this world. That is why this decision is crucial.



The song of the sages

The sages of old sang: Lead me from untruth to truth

Jesus Christ declares: I am the truth

Sages: Lead me from darkness to light

Christ: I am the light

Sages: Lead me from death to immortality

Christ: I am the resurrection and life

Jesus Christ is the answer to the prayers and aspirations of mankind all over the world. Now is the time to make a living relationship with Jesus Christ.



When you are sick with fever, it is not enough to go to the hospital, consult a doctor, get a prescription, and purchase the medicine from chemist. Your illness will be cured only if you consume the medicine. Similarly, it is not enough to acknowledge Jesus Christ as a good teacher and model worthy of following. You need to accept him into your life as your personal saviour.

Fact-3

The manufacturer of any product is aware of the function and utility of his product. He even knows the intricate functioning of every element within the product. In the same way, God, our maker

knows us better than how we know ourselves. Once we hand over our lives to Him and accept Him as our Lord and Saviour, we become a new creation. And as our loving father, He has a wonderful plan for our lives. The greatest achievement is to discern this plan and to obey it in our personal life.

This is the true definition of success – Realizing God’s plan for our lives and living in accordance to His supreme will.

Many people recognize this as the path of success but are unable to continue the journey due to hindrances along the way. History is replete with journeys that have perished due to hindrances. The maiden voyage of the greatest luxury vessel Titanic which perished due to an iceberg that hindered their path is epic.

Hundreds of untold stories of the Titanic lay buried beneath the floor of the Atlantic Ocean because the Captain did not heed the warning. He chose to belittle the impending danger and thus hurled



many into death and despair. The iceberg that hinders man’s journey towards heaven is sin. Man could not remedy the situation, so God prepared a solution to remove this hindrance.

Dear friend, this is a warning for you. There is only one way for your life boat to reach the shore of true success without rocking and falling apart. Commit your life wholeheartedly into the hands of the Lord Jesus Christ who knows every current and tide of this ocean and He is able to command “Ocean be still”. If He is at the helm as the captain of your life boat, there is absolute safety.



The next major problem for those who have discovered the truth but are unwilling to make a commitment is procrastination. You might hear a whisper in your mind saying, “this is true but, I’ll think about it tomorrow or sometime later.” Do not let the devil delay your decision. The evil master does not like anyone to break free from his clutches. He will harden our heart and bring several hindrances. But do not succumb to his pressures. Make your decision right now.

Our lives are uncertain and a decision of such magnitude, with such everlasting consequences cannot be postponed. Jesus Christ is beckoning you with His outstretched arms. If you place your life in His hands, He will give you everlasting life and lead you in the path of truth and light. This is the first step towards success.

Another hindrance to this decision is plain laziness tinged with contempt. Only those who wish to gamble with their life will wriggle out of this choice with lame excuses. Some will even say, ‘success is not for me and hell is my destiny’. Our life is too precious to be wasted in uncertainty and hopelessness. Jesus Christ offers you life in abundance.

God is just a prayer away. If you have been convicted of your sins, with repentance and sincerity you can pray this prayer in your own words...

‘Oh God, I confess that I am a sinner. I understand that this sin nature will lead me to eternal hell fire. Grant me forgiveness of sin through the death of your son on the cross. Come into my heart as my personal saviour and Lord. Cleanse me from my sins and fill me with your love. Thank you for hearing my prayer ... Amen.

If you have sincerely prayed with faith, you are now a child of God and a part of God’s family. You have received forgiveness of sins and you are now eligible to inherit heaven. To grow in faith, you must pray and read God’s word, the Holy Bible. This is the only path of true success.



You have the freedom to choose or refuse the invitation of Jesus Christ. It is my prayer that you will select the path of success and be a part of God's family.

We have reached the end of our quest to finding the true path of success. As promised at the beginning of the book, in the light of what we have considered between these pages, let us endeavour to rewrite the first paragraph of the book, since our notions of success have changed drastically.

We can confidently conclude that Success is not an elusive magic potion. It is available to all those who seek after it. It is not restricted to a fortunate few and neither can they limit it for their own consumption. Since God is the giver of true success, it is free and abundant. Those who have tasted success like an occasional treat, can now have their fill of it because the more you walk in the path of God, the more interesting the journey gets. And for those who dismiss it as a deceptive mirage, this booklet has displayed success in tangible, achievable ways. Toil and perseverance are desirable qualities that help us to remain on the path of success but it is repentance and faith that is most essential to embark on the journey. The only category that God recognizes is of those who choose to either accept or reject Him. Choose Jesus Christ. Choose Success. Own success and call it your name.



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QUOTES 4 SUCCESS

The purpose of life is a life of purpose.

- Robert Byrne



Success is a journey, not a destination.

- Ralph Arbitelle



As one person I cannot change the world, but I can change the world of one person.

- Paul Shane Spear



Success will not lower its standard to us. We must raise our standard to success.

- Rev.Randall R. McBride, Jr.



If you have the will to win, you have achieved half your success; if you don't, you have achieved half your failure.

- David Ambrose



I cannot give you a formula for success, but I can give you the formula for failure - which is: try to please everybody.

- Herbert Bayard Swope

The secret of success is consistency of purpose.

- Benjamin Disraeli



A successful man is one who can lay a firm foundation with the bricks that others throw at him.

- Sidney Greenberg



Yesterday is a cancelled check; Tomorrow is a promissory note; Today is the only cash you have, so spend it wisely.

- Kim Lyons

