

True Success

By: David Burruss

When we consider success, society often points us toward achievements: career accolades, financial security, fame, and influence. Yet, in light of eternity, true success is not measured by what we accomplish or accumulate here on earth, but by a much simpler, truth: whether our names and those of our children, grandchildren, and generations to come are written in the Book of Life.

The Bible tells us that this Book of Life holds the names of those who are redeemed, those who have found salvation in Jesus Christ. Revelation 21:27 says, “Nothing impure will ever enter [heaven], nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.” So, when we speak of legacy, let’s think beyond earthly wealth and inheritance. Imagine the ultimate legacy: knowing that your children and grandchildren will one day stand before God as part of His family.

1. Understanding True Success - Jesus reminds us that earthly treasures are temporary and vulnerable. In Matthew 6:19-20, He said, “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven.” Success, in God’s eyes, involves leading a life that points others especially our families toward Him.

Being successful, then, isn’t about what we leave behind materially but about the spiritual heritage we pass down. Success is our children and their children encountering Jesus as their Savior, finding forgiveness and grace, and walking in His ways. When their names are inscribed in the Book of Life, they are heirs of the greatest inheritance: eternal life with Christ.

2. A Legacy of Faith: Leading by Example - We know that we can’t place our children’s names in the Book of Life ourselves. But we can influence their journey toward it by living a life rooted in faith, love, and godly wisdom. In Proverbs 22:6, we read, “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.”

Living out our faith authentically allows our children to see the reality of God at work. They’ll witness the importance of prayer, the impact of God’s Word, and the peace that comes from trusting in Christ. When we choose love, mercy, and humility, they see Jesus reflected in our lives. And as we share our own salvation story and moments when God has been faithful, they learn that their hope, too, can be anchored in Him.

3. The Power of Prayer: Committing Our Loved Ones to God - While we can’t make decisions of faith for our children, prayer is a powerful way to intercede on their behalf. In Philippians 4:6-7, Paul encourages believers to bring all their requests before God. When we pray for our children’s salvation, for their hearts to turn to God, and for them to be surrounded by influences that draw them closer to Christ, we are lifting them into the Lord’s care.

Prayer places our families in God’s hands, asking Him to do the work that only He can do. We can trust that He hears our petitions and desires to see our families redeemed even more than we do.

4. Walking with Jesus: Leading by Faithful Discipline - Paul’s letters are filled with exhortations to live disciplined, holy lives. For our children to understand the value of having their names written in the Book of Life, they need to see the joy and strength that a disciplined walk with Christ brings. This doesn’t mean a joyless, rule-based faith but one that is full of life and purpose because of a genuine relationship with Jesus.

By actively engaging in worship, fellowship, and service, we demonstrate that faith isn’t just for Sunday but a lifelong commitment. A disciplined walk shows our children that real joy, peace, and success come from living out our faith daily. And as they watch us choose Christ in all aspects of life, they learn that true success is rooted in Him.

5. Generations Yet to Come: Leaving a Spiritual Heritage - When we live with an eternal perspective, we realize that our influence goes beyond the present generation. The Bible often speaks of God’s blessing extending to “a thousand

generations” for those who love Him and keep His commands (Deuteronomy 7:9). This blessing is not merely financial or material but deeply spiritual.

As we nurture a faith-filled life, we leave behind a spiritual heritage that echoes beyond our lifetime. Our children and grandchildren will remember our prayers, our faith, our love for Christ. They will see the results of a life built on a foundation of faithfulness and, by God’s grace, will choose to follow that path as well.

6. Success Is the Ultimate Reunion - Imagine a day when you, your children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren stand together before the throne of God. Revelation 20:12 describes the moment when the dead will be judged, and books will be opened. But for those who are in Christ, it will be a day of victory, not fear. Knowing that your legacy has resulted in generations standing side by side with their names in the Book of Life is the ultimate success.

If we want to measure success, let it be by this one question: Are the names of our loved ones written in the Book of Life? This perspective changes everything. It reminds us that while careers, achievements, and earthly accolades have value, they pale in comparison to the eternal impact of knowing that our children and their descendants belong to God.

True success lies in faithfulness. Let our greatest ambition be that, through our lives, our families come to know and follow Christ, ensuring their place in His eternal family. And as we walk with Him, let us pray fervently that, in the end, the names of our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren are indeed written in the Book of Life.