



REALITY CHECKMATE

WHAT HOLLYWOOD WON'T TELL YOU ABOUT SUCCESS

DEFINITIONS

Success: Degree or measure of succeeding, or attaining one's desired end.

Successful: Resulting or terminating favorably or as desired; also, achieving success, wealth, position, or the like.

–Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary

HOW DO YOU SPELL SUCCESS?

"Success is relative. One CEO expressed great admiration for his gardener, a man who, he says, is a good husband and father, a respected member of the community, and happy as well as successful. Most survey respondents, however, defined success in terms of money, power, respect, and recognition.

–Samuel A. Cypert, *Believe and Achieve* (New York: Avon Books, 1991), pp.xvii, xvii



DISCUSS

How do you define success? What factors have influenced your ideas of what it means to be successful?

ANCIENT PROVERBS

"The purpose of Proverbs: "for attaining wisdom and discipline; for understanding words of insight; for acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair...: –Solomon, a King of Israel

Consider an ancient marble column. It took a skilled craftsman to chisel and shape over time. The finished product is one of both artistic beauty and enduring strength. It is something that won't crumble; something that is successful.

Hollywood Won't Tell You Success Involves HARD WORK.

THE WILL TO PREPARE

After Indiana University won the men's NCAA basketball championship in 1976 following an undefeated season, their colorful and controversial coach, Bobby Knight, was interviewed on 60 Minutes. He was asked, "Why is it that your basketball teams at Indiana are always so successful? Is it the will to succeed?" Knight replied, "The will to succeed is important. But I'll tell you what's more important: It's the will to prepare! It's the will to go out there every day training and building and sharpening those skills."



GROWING PAINS

"What makes life difficult is that the process of confronting and solving problems is a painful one...Indeed, it is because of the pain that events or conflicts engender in us that we call them problems. And since life poses an endless series of problems, life is always difficult and is full of pain as well as joy. Yet it is in this whole process of meeting and solving problems that life has its meaning..it is only because of problems that we grow mentally and spiritually.

–M. Scott Peck, *The Road Less Traveled* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1978), p.16

SCHOOL OF HARD KNOCKS

"Those things that hurt, instruct." –Benjamin Franklin

A BRIGHT IDEA

Thomas Edison tried over 10,000 elements as the filament in the light bulb before he found the right one. When asked about all his labor in the process he said, "Well, I found 10,000 things that don't work."

WINNERS & LOSERS

"People seldom profit by having money unless they earn it. How many times have you read about lottery winners who find themselves bankrupt only a few years after their windfalls? Or about heirs to great fortunes, reared in atmospheres of indulgence, who fall prey to addictions like alcohol or gambling? The value of the wealth that comes with success is that it carries with it the lessons you have learned in acquiring it. You will learn in achieving wealth that success comes about only because you are willing to assume great responsibility and to deliver unflinchingly goods and services which are truly valuable." –Napoleon Hill's *Keys To Success*, ed. Matthew Sartwell (New York: Penguin Books USA Inc., 1994), p. 11



DISCUSS

Describe a project you took on, or was assigned, that was very difficult, and what you learned from it.

Hollywood Won't Tell You That Success Takes TIME.

MIX AND MATCH

Match the person with the profession:

Bruce Lee in <i>Enter The Dragon</i>	astrophysicist
Whitney Houston in <i>The Bodyguard</i>	legendary dancer
Tom Cruise in <i>Mission Impossible</i>	nun
Denzel Washington in <i>Crimson Tide</i>	submarine executive officer
Mikhail Baryshnikov in <i>White Nights</i>	Kung-fu secret agent
Kelly McGillis in <i>Top Gun</i>	vocal performer/superstar
Nicolas Cage in <i>The Rock</i>	CIA specialist
Sandra Bullock in <i>The Net</i>	FBI agent
Susan Sarandon in <i>Dead Man Walking</i>	freelance software analyst



STITCH IN TIME SAVES NINE

It is not good to have zeal without knowledge, nor to be hasty and miss the way.

–Solomon

The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty. –Solomon

Do you see a man who speaks in haste? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

–Solomon

DEFINITION

Haste: *unthinking or rash quickness of action.*



DISCUSS

What are some things that happen when we don't take our time or allow ourselves to go through a process over time to acquire skills for success?

LONGEVITY TAKES A LIFETIME

" 'You can talk all day about her accomplishments, but two things impress me most about Bonnie,' says her coach, Nick Thometz.' One is her longevity. When she retires she will have been on top from 1988 to 1995, and that's because of her work habits and lifestyle. Secondly, ...she's the same person that she was before her success.' "

[Bonnie Blair has distinguished herself in the eyes of the world by winning five Olympic gold medals. Twenty-seven days after the Olympics in Lillehammer, she broke the 39-second barrier in skating 500 meters with her world record time of 38.99 seconds.]

" 'It's strange,' she says of the race. 'It's a split-second time, but I knew as soon as I crossed the finish line, it was a world record.' ... 'Huge,' says Thometz of the ... breakthrough. 'And she worked how many years to achieve it?' Fifty people witnessed what Blair had worked all her life to accomplish.' "

–Steve Rushin, "Child of Innocence," *Sports Illustrated*, Dec. 19, 1994, pp. 74-75, 80

Hollywood Won't Tell You That Success Involves **ACCEPTANCE WHEN YOU FAIL**

ONE IS THE LONELIEST NUMBER

A friend loves at all times... –Solomon

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! –Solomon



DISCUSS

In what ways can two people achieve greater success than one person operating alone?

THE FEEL OF SUCCESS

"The feeling of being valuable—'I am a valuable person'—is essential to mental health and is a cornerstone of self-discipline. It is a direct product of parental love. Such a conviction must be gained in childhood; it is extremely difficult to acquire it during adulthood...it is possible to acquire it from other sources, but in that case the process... is invariably an uphill struggle, often of lifelong duration and often unsuccessful." –M. Scott Peck, *The Road Less Traveled*, pp. 24,26.



DISCUSS

Why is being loved and accepted by others so important to finding success in life?

"A survey by John Gartner of Loyola College of Maryland and David Larson of Duke University Medical Center found over 30 studies that show a correlation between religious participation and avoidance of crime and substance abuse. New research goes further, exploring how faith can turn around already troubled lives. Religion provides a set of values and moral beliefs. That's obvious. And churches provide a supportive community. That can be crucial. But belief seems to work at a more redeeming level. 'To overcome addictions, you have to have phenomenal motivation,' notes

Patrick Fagan, who has reviewed studies on the impact of religion for the Heritage Foundation. Most addicts have so often disappointed loved ones that no one trusts them. So there is powerful blessing, says Fagan, in 'a knowledge of God's acceptance, that he accepts the person and their sinfulness, that even as they fall they will not face rejection from God.'"

–Joseph P. Shapiro with Andrea R. Wright, "[Can Churches Save America?](#)" U.S. News and World Report, September 9, 1996, pp. 50,51.



DISCUSS

What do you think is the basis for our acceptance by God?

Hollywood Won't Tell You That Success Involves **GOD**

IS ANYONE THERE?

"For every possible human need there is a particular supernatural resource. For every definite problem there is a definite answer. For every hurt there is a cure. For every weakness there is a strength. For every confusion there is guidance."

–John C. Maxwell, *The Winning Attitude: Your Pathway To Personal Success*, p.169

"O Lord God! You have made the heavens and earth by your great power; nothing is too hard for you! You are the great and mighty God, the Lord Almighty. You have all wisdom and do great and mighty miracles!"

–The great Jewish prophet Jeremiah, circa 600 B.C.

JUST IN CASE

"I don't believe in the afterlife, although I am bringing a change in underwear." –Woody Allen

DOWN, BUT NOT OUT

When Scott O'Grady's F 16 was shot down by an SA-6 surface to air missile fired from a Bosnian-Serb stronghold on June 2, 1995, U.S. forces did not know whether or not he survived the attack. Miraculously, he had been able to eject from the cockpit and descend to the Bosnian-Serb controlled territory below. Within seconds of landing O'Grady discarded his parachute and hurried to a clump of bushes to hide. Within four minutes, Serbs had swarmed over the area in a furious effort to find him. The searchers came within 3 and 5 feet of him but could not detect the pilot. For six days O'Grady managed to play a life or death game of hide and seek with the Bosnian-Serb forces. "For the most part, my face was in the dirt, and I was just praying they wouldn't see me or hear me," recalled O'Grady. Finally, O'Grady made radio contact with an American pilot and said, "I'm alive, help." On June 8, at 6:55 a.m., two Super Stallions helicopters and 20 Marines sneaked into enemy territory flying just above tree level and set down in a clearing designated by O'Grady. As the helicopters landed O'Grady came running into the clearing and fell into the helicopter. The rescue party was on the ground less than 7 minutes. By 7:30 a.m. Scott O'Grady was safely aboard the U.S.S. Kearsarge. –Time magazine, June, 1995

"I prayed to God and asked him for a lot of things, and he delivered throughout the entire time. When I prayed for rain, he gave me rain. One time I prayed, 'Lord, let me at least have someone know I'm alive and maybe come rescue me.' And guess what? That night T.O. [fellow F-16 pilot Thomas O. Hanford] came up on the radio." –Scott O'Grady

WHAT SOME HAVE SAID

"God gave us liberty. Can the liberties of a nation be secure, when we have removed the conviction that these liberties are the gift of God?" –Thomas Jefferson

"It is the duty of nations, as well as of men, to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God and to recognize the sublime truth announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord." –Abraham Lincoln

"I was lying in bed at 9:00 a.m....strung out and hung over...from twenty years of drinking. The realization came crashing down on me in an instant, 'I've lost control of my life and I've become an alcoholic like my father.' I blurted out, 'God, help me. I can't handle it.' God heard me, because I stopped drinking that day."

–Norm Miller, President and CEO of Interstate Batteries

WHAT IS IT WORTH TO YOU?

"What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul." –A famous Jewish leader



DISCUSS

How would believing in God versus not believing in God make a difference to your definition of success?



APPLICATION

What is my next step?

1. How will I know I am achieving success in my life 10, 20 and 30 years from now?
2. Am I willing to work hard? What would that look like this year? This month? This week?
3. What goals am I pursuing that will take days to accomplish? Weeks? Years?
4. If God exists, what is my next step with God? How could I determine if he's real?

