

THE WORLD’S DEFINITION:

successful: achieving or having achieved success

success:

1. the **favorable** or **prosperous** termination of attempts or endeavors.
2. the attainment of **wealth, position, honors**, or the like.

G O D ’ S D E F I N I T I O N :

“Well done, my good & faithful servant...(come share your Master’s happiness.)” Mt. 25:21

J E S U S I S T H E P E R F E C T E X A M P L E

O B E D I E N C E...

“This is my beloved Son **in whom I am well-pleased**. Mt. 3:17

“He humbled himself and **became obedient** to death--even death on a cross!” Phil. 2:8

“What is **more pleasing to the LORD**: your burnt offerings and sacrifices or your obedience to his voice? Listen! **Obedience is better than sacrifice**, and submission is better than offerings...” 1 Sam. 15:22

JESUS: “Father... I brought glory to you here on earth **by**

completing the work you gave me to do.” John 17:4

--did He **look like a success** in the world’s eyes at the end of His life?

(did everyone believe in Jesus? was everyone saved? was everyone healed?)

(did even those closest to Him see Him as successful?)

(was He **wealthy**?)

(was He **appreciated** or **honored** by everyone (or anyone) for what He did?)

S E R V A N T H O O D...

“If you want to be great in God’s Kingdom...learn to **be the servant** of all.” Mt. 23:11

“Let Jesus’ attitude be yours as well: He humbled Himself...as a **servant**.” Phil. 2:5,7

F A I T H F U L N E S S.... “....it is required in servants that they be found faithful.” 1 Cor. 4:2

PAUL: “I have finished the race and I have **remained faithful**; now there waits for me the crown of life...”

2 Timothy 4:7

* NOTE: **Faithfulness** (perseverance) = “**a long obedience in the same direction.**”

T R U S T... “to him who overcomes I will give.....life.” Rev. 2:7

“...this is the victory that has overcome the world: **even our faith.**” 1 John 5:4

[pistis: “trust, reliance upon God”]

* NOTE: **Faith** (trust) = “**obedience despite the consequences.**”

GOOD QUESTIONS:

What is a successful man or woman (the world’s idea or God’s idea) ?

What is a successful parent? By that definition is God a successful parent ?

What is a successful ministry? By that definition was Jesus’ ministry successful ?

What is a successful marriage? (God’s idea or the world’s idea?)