

In order to succeed in the Dunya we are told we need to: Work Hard, Be Disciplined, Good Time Management, Excellent Grades, Sacrifice & Focus. **SATS, Distinction, Level 9, A\*, 1<sup>st</sup> Degree**. We end up measuring our self worth against these standards. Often though we become careless and negligent of the true success of our soul & relationship with Allah. **Allah's measure and standard of success is very different.**

Every single human being wants to achieve success in whatever they do; be it in school, work, family, sports, and life in general. So what exactly is success? How can it be defined? What does it mean to be successful in life? **DICTIONARY DEFINES SUCCESS AS ATTAINING WEALTH, PROSPERITY, AND FAME.** Money, Car, House, Clothes, Products, Women, Kids, Business, Career, Influence? Artists, Actors, Singers, Celebrities?

The reality is that none of these things, no material possession, object or progress, is a true means to success. **True success, real success, lies in faith in Allah and performing righteous deeds. Having firm unshakable belief in Allah, that expresses itself through our words and actions.**

The Qur'anic & Islamic worldview definition and understanding of success is very different. **What Does REAL Success Look Like?**

***“O you who believe, shall I tell you about a trade (a transaction/deal) that saves you from a painful punishment?” (61:10)***

Allah is addressing you, a command of love, care, concern, benefit. He uses our language and our terms to get us interested. He then tells us what this profitable trade or transaction is,

***“Have faith in God & His Messenger & struggle for His cause with your possessions & your persons - that is better for you, if only you knew”***

**1. Truly believe in Allah** - 100% conviction in His existence, oneness, might, power, glory, and magnificence. He alone is the One who gives life, the One who gives death, the One who provides, the One who sustains, the All-Hearing, the All-Seeing, the All-Knowing. It is this belief that leads us towards taqwa, good character, patience, humility, and generosity.

**2. Truly believe in His Messenger** - The last and final messenger sent for the guidance of mankind until the end of times. Obeying him in all that he ordered or forbade. It means having this deep, unshakeable love and attachment to the Messenger of Allah. To take him as one's role model in every single aspect of one's life, reading and learning about him, and trying to follow his example in everything a person does.

### **3. Struggling and striving in the path of Allah with our wealth & selves**

We need to be willing to sacrifice our wealth, resources, time, and health for righteous causes. The profit for this investment is:

*“And He will forgive your sins, admit you into Gardens graced with flowing streams, into pleasant dwellings in the Gardens of Eternity. That is the greatest success.” (61:12)*

Success has nothing to do with fame, popularity, and money. Success is directly related to our faith, and that is what Allah wants us to realize and internalize. This is a very deep and profound concept.

The Prophet reminded us, *“True wealth is not having a lot of material possessions, but true wealth is wealth of the soul.”* (Muslim) True wealth is contentment, being pleased and happy – which is rooted in faith.

The Prophet wanted to change the way we view the material world. Not through the lens and measure of society/man, but through your faith and relationship in Allah, His Prophet and Deen.

Work hard, succeed in life, but not at the loss and expense of true success with Allah, His Messenger and His Deen.