

Easter Impact – Part 4

*But thanks be to God, who keeps giving us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!
1 Corinthians 15:57*

The impact of **E**ASTER is **E**nergy.

The impact of **E**ASTER is **A**ttitude.

The impact of **E**ASTER is **S**uccess!

SUCCESS! Millions of books have been sold on this subject. For example, *Think and Grow Rich* by Napoleon Hill has sold over 70 million copies since 1928. Peter Kreeft once made a humorous comment about the plethora of books on sex. *“The fact that there are thousands of ‘how to do it’ books on the subject does not mean that we know how; in fact, it means the opposite. It’s when everybody’s pipes are leaking that people buy books on plumbing!”* This, I believe, is the reality about topic of success.

Everybody wants to know *‘how to do success’*. However, success is not primarily about **DOING!** According to Jesus it’s about **BEING!** *“Self-help is no help at all. Self-sacrifice is **the way to your true self**. What good would it **DO** to **get everything you want and lose YOU, the real you?**”* (Mark 8:34-37) In other words, in the process of **doing** the secrets of success one can lose one’s real self. Elvis Presley, Whitney Houstin, Prince, Robin Williams, Cobain, Eastman, Van Gogh, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Virginia Woolf, and my friend – the list is endless ... creatively successful people who **“cashed it in!”** I shall attempt no commentary except to say this: in all their **DOING** they didn’t find peace with their **BEING**. If that seems simplistic to you, take it from one who knows.

John Calvin described this world as a *theatrum gloriae*, a “dazzling theater” displaying God’s glorious works. Viewing the following exhibits in the Creator’s theater, ask yourself: how are these successful? If this is below your “pay grade”, you have my sympathy.

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Of course, I know they are JUST fish! That’s the point. Though they are subhuman, each in their extravagant BEING-NESS is a display of God’s handiwork. As such, each is victorious. Each is a SUCCESS! They **ARE** what the Creator intended them **TO BE** in his theater.

Research has shown exactly what Jesus said. You can gain the whole world and lose YOUR-SELF! Merely DOING is a DEAD-end! Success (victory) is only found in uncovering who you ARE according to the Creator's design. There is no greater expression of this than in Michelangelo's graphic representation of the creation of Adam.

Easter means that the Creator is severely intent on resurrecting a new you built upon His original design. Short of that everything is but "smoke and fire" or, as Solomon said, "Emptiness!"

Look at the fish again. I'm absolutely serious! Have you discovered that **YOU**, not what you **DO**, are a masterpiece in the Creator's theater? Easter success (victory) is to be discovered by uncovering the **YOU** that is available by virtue of Jesus' resurrection.

Have you experienced the touch of the Creator's finger on your life? It's nothing less than the power of the resurrection? *"The gospel is absurd and the life of Jesus is meaningless unless we believe that He lived, died, and rose again with but **one purpose in mind: to make a brand-new creation.**"* (Brennan Manning, *The Furious Longing of God*)

OK, a point of transparency! This is **THE** struggle of my 74 year old life!