

MEASURE OF LIFE – What is Success?

Solomon completed building the Temple of God – the project he had set his heart on doing.

Everything was done—success! Satisfaction!

2 Chronicles 7:11

DATELINE: Sunday, June 19, 2016: 90 degrees, full sun, billowy clouds and a brisk breeze. It's a perfect day in Traverse City, Michigan! We're visiting Randy, our oldest son, celebrating both Father's Day and Spencer's (grandson) 14th birthday. The celebration has ended so I head for the pool. Lying on an air mattress, totally relaxed, my mind wanders aimlessly. Suddenly, a question that had meandered through my brain for several days' surfaces again. **WHAT'S SUCCESS?**

At age 74 the common cultural answers have been rejected: status, degrees, wealth, power, etc. ... In the lives of "**the well-known**" I've seen them all demonstrated to be less than adequate to sustain and satisfy the human spirit. EG: Elvis hit the scene when I was in Jr High. I vividly remember his first national gig on the Ed Sullivan Show. Yes, it's really true: the camera only shot his upper torso. No *hip action* on TV in those days! Before hard rock and heavy metal took over Elvis was the pop, cultural icon for over a decade. Without exaggeration, he had it all. And yet, well, you know "*the rest of the story*"! Most recently it was Prince!



Back to the pool. As the breeze effortlessly navigates me around the pool I focus on the surrounding environment. Forty foot pine trees capture my attention. They appear to be giant

dancers swaying with the rhythm of the wind. I muse: ***"What's success for a pine tree?"*** A female cone is pollinated by a male cone (I never knew there are female and male pine cones!). Driven by a precise hereditary design, the fertilized cone automatically develops into a mature pine tree over time. **SO**, success is the realization of the Creator's design. ***"It is ... what it is!"***

I hear some rumblings: *"That's too simplistic."* Listen to three persons of distinction.

1. Isaac Newton (referred to as the Father of Modern Science): *"Nature is pleased with **simplicity** and nature is no dummy!"*
2. Albert Einstein (Father of Atomic Energy): *"If you can't explain it **simply**, you don't understand it well enough."*
3. Henry David Thoreau (famous transcendental author): *"**Simplicity** is the law of nature for men as well as for flowers."*



Half hour of full sun – I'm baking! Time to exit. I paddle to the ladder and flop out of the floating mattress. I look at the mattress. Invented by Frank Masterson in 1961, it was designed to support a person on top of water ... even a 185 pounder! It was a success – the realization of Masterson's design. ***"It is ... what it is!"***

"God looked at everything he had made. And he saw that everything was very good."[1] The Creation was the realization of the Creator's design! Consequently, it was a **GREAT SUCCESS ... VERY GOOD!**

[1] Genesis 1:31