

Have you ever read any of those self-help books about being a successful person in this world? Being a starving writer for such a long time, I would fish just about anywhere to catch a few ideas about becoming a success, so I read many of these books. There's a lot of information in these books that I really agree with 100%.

They say if you want to be a successful person, you must believe in yourself and have a healthy, positive attitude. I've got no problem with that. I've always said that attitude was everything. I'm a real Tug McGraw kind of guy. Ya gotta believe, Ya gotta believe! Hey, if I was a baseball coach, I'd much rather work with a bunch of guys with limited talent and unlimited desire and love for the game, than to work with a bunch of guys who had unlimited talent but limited desire and love for the game. I like people who see the glass as half full, not half empty.

I don't like the words can't or never. I get real excited when someone tells me that I can't do something. I think that people who lose but go down fighting are more successful in life than those who win without putting much heart into it. Believe in your dreams, and do whatever you can to make them happen.

They will also tell you that the successful person will set goals and follow through with them. I think that's a good idea, too. I have a lot of ideas for writing that I'd like to see turned into reality. I know that none of my great ideas will materialize unless I set specific goals for them, have a game plan ready with time limits and stick with my plan until my goals are achieved. Sure, goals are very important if you want to get things done in this world.

A person who has faith in himself, has a positive attitude, sets realistic goals for himself and follows through with them, is certainly going to be a successful person.

However, I do have a problem with one aspect of these books that seems to be consistent with this idea of being a success. They always seem to fill the book with case histories of people who had nothing and after following this sure-fire program, became rich with a six-figure income, fur coats, large mansions and fancy cars.

Why is it that we always measure success through our bank accounts? Of all the things we have to deal with in our travels through this wonderful world of ours, I would have to say that the

most fickle thing we deal with is money.

Relationships, family, religion, marriage, careers. These are the issues in our lives that are not only the most important, but are the most consistent that we have that can do more towards success than money.

Go ahead. Go to the library and check out any and all biographies about people who are financially successful. Unless their name is Kennedy or Rockefeller, you can bet that there will be a few chapters about bankruptcy, financial ruins, years of desperation, and financial headaches.

We spend way too much time associating wealth with success. Heck, I know a lot of people who have more money than they'll ever need but they also have lousy marriages, they treat their kids awful and they never have anything positive to say about life. They are not successful people, they are just rich people.

On the other hand, we all fell in love with George Bailey from *'IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE'*. He never had much money, but he had a great loving family, a good positive heart, goals that he worked hard at and as we all remember at the end, he was the one they proclaimed as the richest man in Bedford Falls.

I think these books about how to be a success ought to leave money out of it. People should believe in themselves, have a positive attitude, set goals for themselves and do what they can to reach those goals. And if the money should come, that's fine. But that's not the measuring stick for which we should measure ones success.

After all, we need a lot more George Baileys than we do Kennedys or Rockefellers.

Just A Thought