

BENTONVILLE BEATITUDES

1. Freedom
2. Success
3. Security
4. Image
5. Belonging
6. Family

Expose Cultural Idols

Redeem Cultural Values



THE BENTONVILLE

BEATTITUDES

**How do you define
true success?**



**How do you define
true success?**

¹⁰ The word of the Lord came to Samuel: ¹¹ “I regret that I have made Saul king, for he has turned back from following me and has not performed my commandments.” And Samuel was angry, and he cried to the Lord all night. ¹² And Samuel rose early to meet Saul in the morning. And it was told Samuel, “Saul came to Carmel, and behold, he set up a monument for himself and turned and passed on and went down to Gilgal.”

¹³ And Samuel came to Saul, and Saul said to him, “Blessed be you to the Lord. I have performed the commandment of the Lord.” ¹⁴ And Samuel said, “What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears and the lowing of the oxen that I hear?” ¹⁵ Saul said, “They have brought them from the Amalekites, for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen to sacrifice to the Lord your God, and the rest we have devoted to destruction.”

¹³ And Samuel came to Saul, and Saul said to him, “Blessed be you to the Lord. I have performed the commandment of the Lord.” ¹⁴ And Samuel said, “What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears and the lowing of the oxen that I hear?” ¹⁵ Saul said, “They have brought them from the Amalekites, for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen to sacrifice to the Lord your God, and the rest we have devoted to destruction.”

¹⁶ Then Samuel said to Saul, “Stop! I will tell you what the Lord said to me this night.” And he said to him, “Speak.”¹⁷ And Samuel said, “Though you are little in your own eyes, are you not the head of the tribes of Israel? The Lord anointed you king over Israel.¹⁸ And the Lord sent you on a mission and said, ‘Go, devote to destruction the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.’¹⁹ Why then did you not obey the voice of the Lord? Why did you pounce on the spoil and do what was evil in the sight of the Lord?”

²⁰ And Saul said to Samuel, “I have obeyed the voice of the Lord. I have gone on the mission on which the Lord sent me. I have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and I have devoted the Amalekites to destruction. ²¹ But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the best of the things devoted to destruction, to sacrifice to the Lord your God in Gilgal.”

²² And Samuel said,
“Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices,
as in obeying the voice of the Lord?
Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice,
and to listen than the fat of rams.
²³ For rebellion is as the sin of divination,
and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry.
Because you have rejected the word of the Lord,
he has also rejected you from being king.”



NEW HEIGHTS
BENTONVILLE
NO
NH

THE BENTONVILLE

BEATTITUDES

SUCCESS

I. The Folly of Worldly Success

I. The Folly of Worldly Success

a. Temporary

¹¹ Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a **striving after wind**, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun.

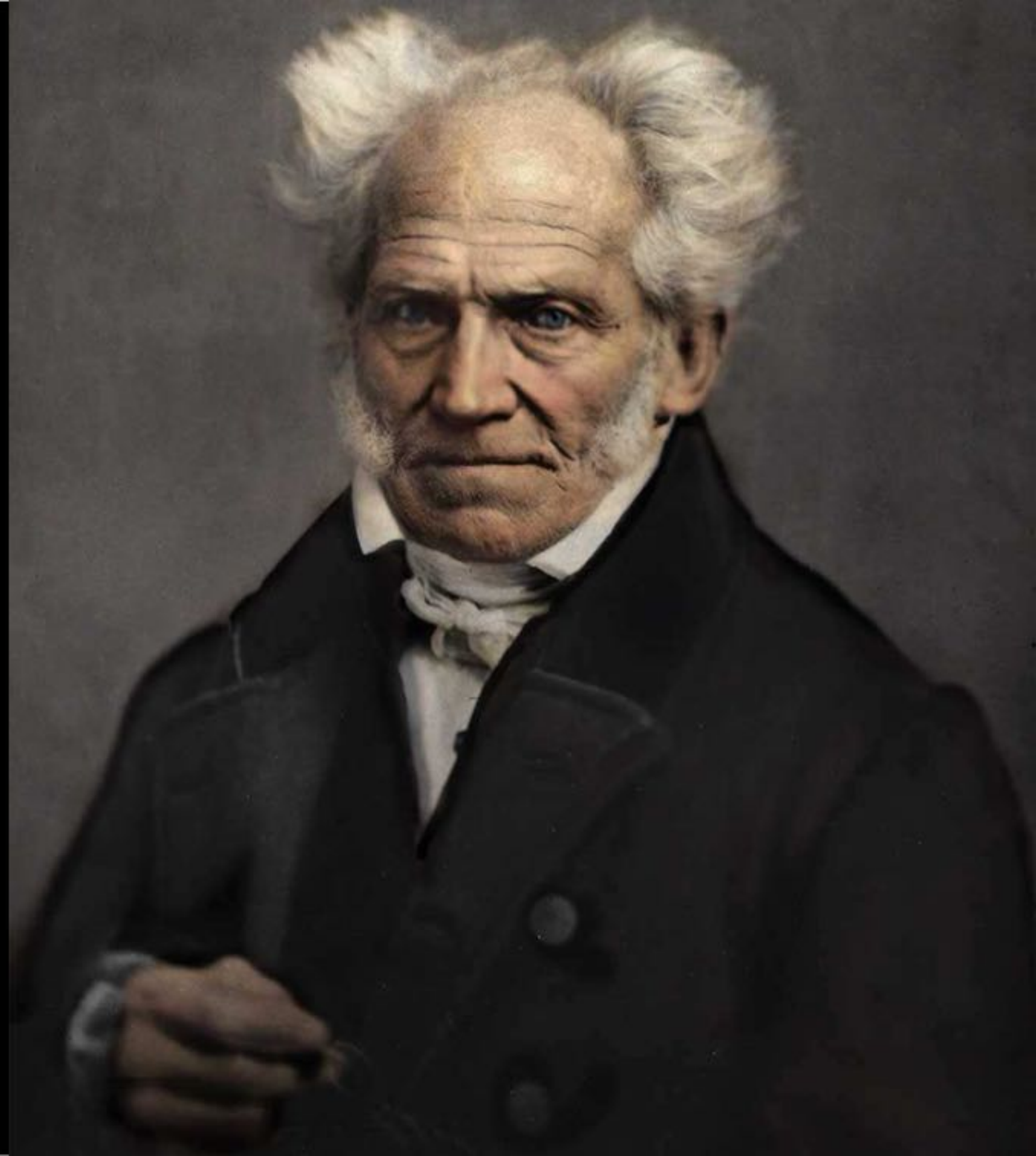
¹⁶ And he told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man produced **plentifully**,¹⁷ and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’¹⁸ And he said, ‘I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.”’²⁰ But God said to him, **‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you,** and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’

Luke 12:16–21 ESV

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BEATITUDES

Wealth is like seawater; the more we drink, the thirstier we become, and the same is true of fame.

Arthur Schopenhauer





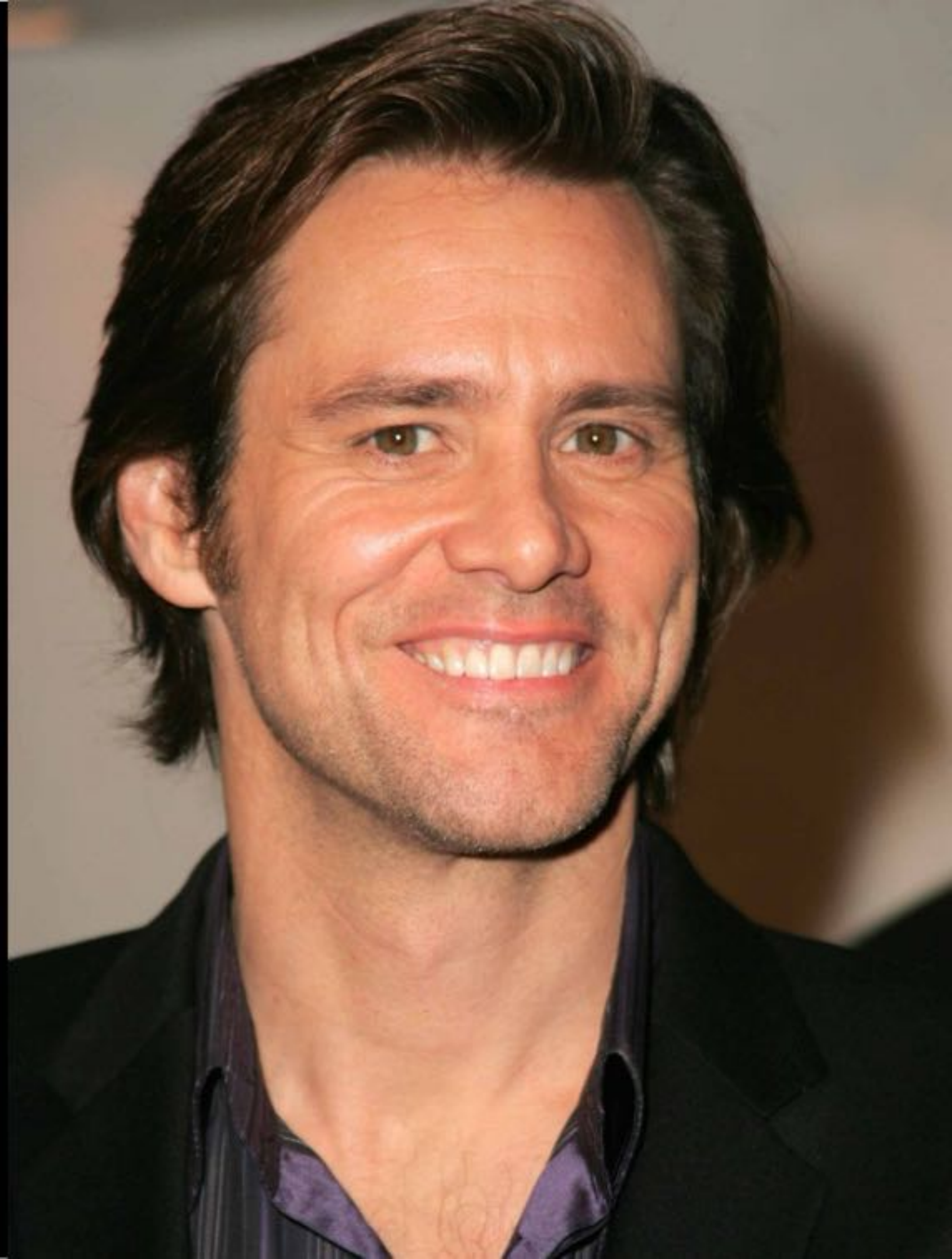
Fame doesn't fulfill you. It warms you a bit, but that warmth is temporary.

Marilyn Monroe

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BEATITUDES

I think everybody should get rich and famous and do everything they ever dreamed of so they can see that it's not the answer.

Jim Carey



I. The Folly of Worldly Success

a. Temporary

b. Costly

²³...Because you have rejected the word of the Lord,
he has also rejected you from being king.

1 Samuel 15:23 ESV

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BEATITUDES

²⁶ For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?

Matthew 16:26 ESV

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Questions:

1. Have you ever achieved a goal and still felt a sense of emptiness?
2. In what ways does the pursuit of success distract us from the things that truly matter to God?
3. How would our community change if we measured success by the depth of our relationship with Jesus rather than our bank accounts?

SUCCESS

- I. **The Folly of Worldly Success**
- II. **The Formula for True Success**

II. The Formula for True Success

a. Humility

⁴The **reward for humility** and fear of the Lord
is riches and honor and life.

Proverbs 22:4 ESV

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BEATITUDES

“Aim at Heaven and you will get earth 'thrown in'; aim at earth and you will get neither.”

C.S. Lewis

II. The Formula for True Success

- a. Humility**
- b. Obedience to God**

²² “Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices,
as in obeying the voice of the Lord?
Behold, **to obey is better than sacrifice,**
and to listen than the fat of rams.

²² And when God had removed Saul, he raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, 'I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, **who will do all my will.**'

II. The Formula for True Success

- a. Humility**
- b. Obedience to God**
- c. Seeking first His Kingdom**

³³ But **seek first the kingdom of God** and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Matthew 6:33 ESV

THE BENTONVILLE
BEATITUDES



ERIC LIDDELL

OLYMPIC ATHLETE AND MISSIONARY TO CHINA

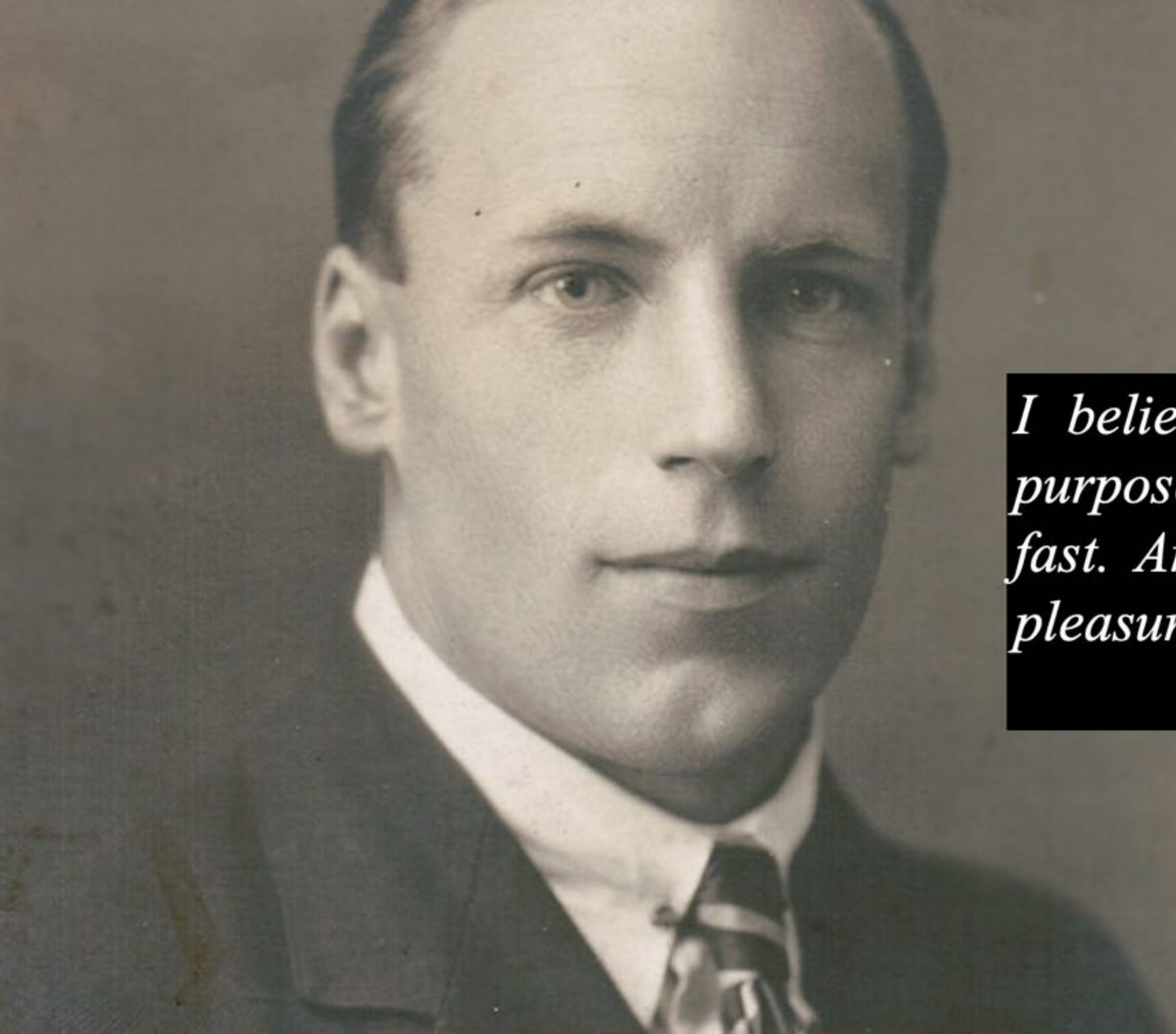
II. The Formula for True Success

- a. Humility**
- b. Obedience to God**
- c. Seeking first His Kingdom**
- d. Working for God**

²³ Whatever you do, **work heartily, as for the Lord** and not for men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the **inheritance as your reward**. You are serving the Lord Christ.

Colossians 3:23–24 ESV

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I believe God made me for a purpose, but He also made me fast. And when I run, I feel His pleasure.

Eric Liddell

Our greatest fear should not be of failure but of succeeding at things in life that don't really matter.

Francis Chan

²⁰ And Saul said to Samuel, “**I have obeyed** the voice of the Lord. I have gone on the mission on which the Lord sent me. I have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and I have devoted the Amalekites to destruction.

Questions:

1. Can you identify areas in your life where pride might be hindering your spiritual growth and how can you address them?
2. Reflect on a time when disobedience to God led to a difficult situation.
3. How can embracing humility before God lead to greater satisfaction than striving for recognition?

SUCCESS

- I. The Folly of Worldly Success**
- II. The Formula for True Success**
- III. The Fruit of Lasting Success**

III. The Fruit of Lasting Success

a. Peace and Joy

¹¹ I have learned in whatever situation I am to **be content**. ¹² I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. ¹³ I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Philippians 4:11-13 ESV

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BEATITUDES

*Insert OU WOMENS
SOFTBALL VIDEO*

III. The Fruit of Lasting Success

- a. Peace and Joy**
- b. Eternal Reward**

⁸ Henceforth there is laid up for me the **crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

2 Timothy 4:8 ESV

THE BENTONVILLE
BEATITUDES

**How do you define
true success?**

**True success is
living for Jesus**

Questions:

1. How has pursuing success according to the world's standards disrupted your peace and joy?
2. How might the relentless pursuit of worldly accolades rob you of the deeper contentment found in Christ?
3. In what ways has your pursuit of Christ brought a sense of lasting accomplishment that worldly achievements never could?

Congregational Prayer

Pastor

Lord, we stand together,

Congregation

hearts united in Your purpose.

Pastor

We dedicate our work to You,

Congregation

let it be worship.

Congregational Prayer

Pastor

We lay down our crowns,

Congregation

Your will, be our success.

Pastor

Teach us humility,

Congregation

let pride fall away.

Congregational Prayer

Pastor

Guide us in obedience,

Congregation

Your word, our command.

Pastor

Lead us to seek Your kingdom first,

Congregation

in full surrender.

Congregational Prayer

Pastor

Bless our efforts for Your glory,

Congregation

not for our fame.

Pastor

In every triumph, in every trial

Congregation

Christ alone be praised.

Congregational Prayer

Everyone
Amen.