Munroe, Myles
In Pursuit of Purpose

20. Purpose and Success

This chapter challenges the world's definition of success—wealth, power, fame, recognition—and replaces it with a purpose-based one. The author argues that chasing someone else's standard leaves people burned out and empty, and that real success means finishing the specific assignment God created you to do. It closes with a call to discover your purpose through a relationship with God.

Key takeaways

- Worldly success (money, status, fame) is superficial and often leaves people dissatisfied, trapped living up to others' expectations.
- We confuse success with fulfillment, accomplishment with satisfaction, and achievement with peace—they are not the same.
- Success is defined by purpose and measured by obedience: doing what you were created to do, not what others praise.
- Purpose means doing the RIGHT thing, not merely a GOOD thing—good activity can distract from your actual assignment.

- Only the Creator knows a product's purpose, so only God can reveal why you exist; discovering and finishing your assignment is true success.

Passages worth keeping

> *"Success can only be defined by purpose and measured by obedience."*

The chapter's thesis—reframes success away from achievement toward fulfilling your intended purpose.

> *"Purpose is doing not a good thing, but the right thing."*

Warns that busy good works can waste a life if they aren't your actual calling.

How it connects

Jesus is held up as the model: knowing His purpose ('for this cause came I into the world') protected Him from distraction and let Him declare 'It is finished.' The chapter's measure of a fulfilled life is being able to say the same.

Scripture referenced

- **Luke 9:25** -- Opening warning—gaining the world while losing yourself.
- **John 19:30** -- Jesus' 'It is finished'—the model of completing one's assigned purpose.