



SUCCESS

AND THE **SHAPE**

OF LIFE

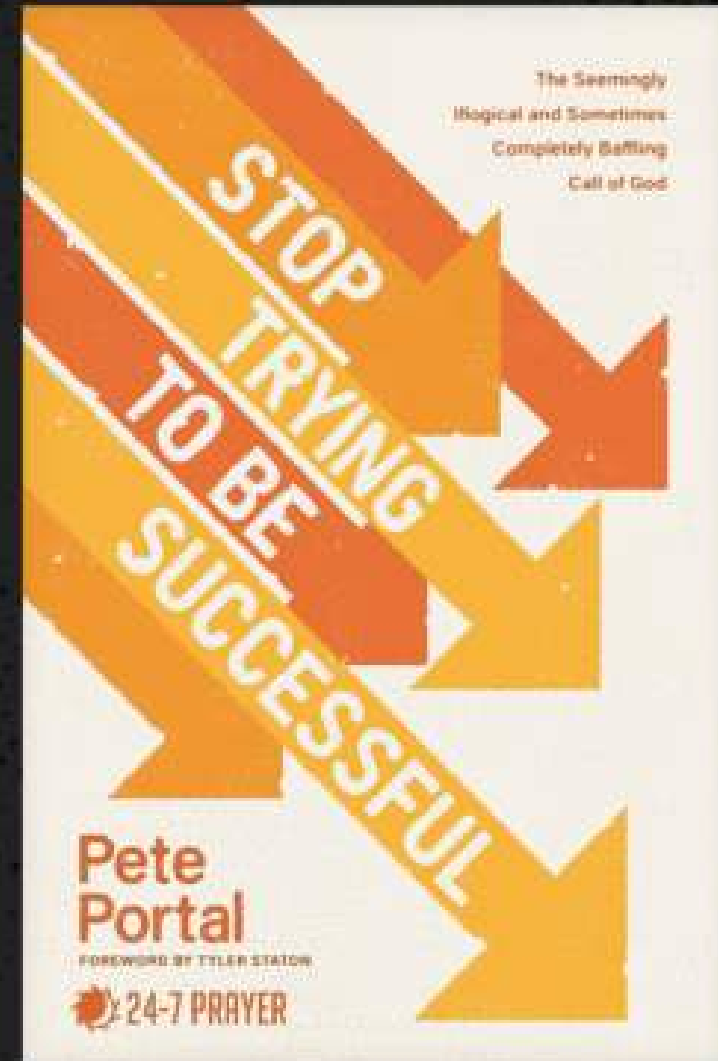
Most Likely to Succeed

Pete Portal

How
un to be
successful

An unlikely
guide to human
flourishing

24-7 PRAYER



Most Likely



To Succeed

We all live in a world that tells you that your life needs to matter, but rarely tells you clearly what that means.

Most Likely



To Succeed

"The questions *Am I successful?* or *What is success?* are deeply significant, and to ask such questions is a normal part of the human experience."

(Pete Portal)

Matthew 6:19-21, 25-33

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¹⁹ "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also...

Matthew 6:19-21, 25-33

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Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?
²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷ Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

Matthew 6:19-21, 25-33

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²⁸ "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin.

²⁹ Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ³⁰ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?

Matthew 6:19-21, 25-33

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³¹ So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Our success scripts are revealed by what we treasure,
what we pursue, and what we worry about.

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- Treasures on Earth

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- Treasures on Earth
- What We Eat and Drink

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- Treasures on Earth
- What We Eat and Drink (Satisfying Our Desires)

“Modern economies thrive by encouraging ever-increasing consumption of harmful junk, and our culture encourages us to satiate any and all of our appetites in our pursuit of happiness. If that pursuit turns out to make us unhappy instead—well, that’s probably just because some limits remain un-busted.”

(Paul Kingsnorth)

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- Treasures on Earth
- What We Eat and Drink (Satisfying Our Desires)
- Our Bodies and Clothing

SUCCESS AND THE SHAPE OF LIFE




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\$24 million

Our success scripts are revealed by what we treasure, what we pursue, and what we worry about.

- Treasures on Earth
- What We Eat and Drink (Satisfying Our Desires)
- Our Bodies and Clothing (Our Projected Image)



“FOR WHERE YOUR
TREASURE IS,
THERE YOUR HEART
WILL BE ALSO.”

MATTHEW 6:21

What if worry is a diagnostic tool for our embedded (and sometimes invisible to us) success scripts?

“What is the effect of the Kingdom of God on us? It is to align our loves and longings with his—to want what God wants, to desire what God desires, to hunger and thirst after God and crave a world where he is all in all. You could define success as correctly directing your love and energy to what is primary and of most importance.”

(Pete Portal)

Psalm 90:1-6, 12-17

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¹ Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.

² Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

³ You turn people back to dust, saying, "Return to dust, you mortals."

Psalm 90:1-6, 12-17

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⁴ A thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night.

⁵ Yet you sweep people away in the sleep of death—they are like the new grass of the morning:

⁶ In the morning it springs up new, but by evening it is dry and withered...

Psalm 90:1-6, 12-17

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¹² Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

¹³ Relent, Lord! How long will it be? Have compassion on your servants.

¹⁴ Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.

Psalm 90:1-6, 12-17



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¹⁵ Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, for as many years as we have seen trouble.

¹⁶ May your deeds be shown to your servants, your splendor to their children.

¹⁷ May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work of our hands.

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Key Tower

SUCCESS AND THE SHAPE OF LIFE



Key Tower



One World Trade

SUCCESS AND THE SHAPE OF LIFE



Key Tower

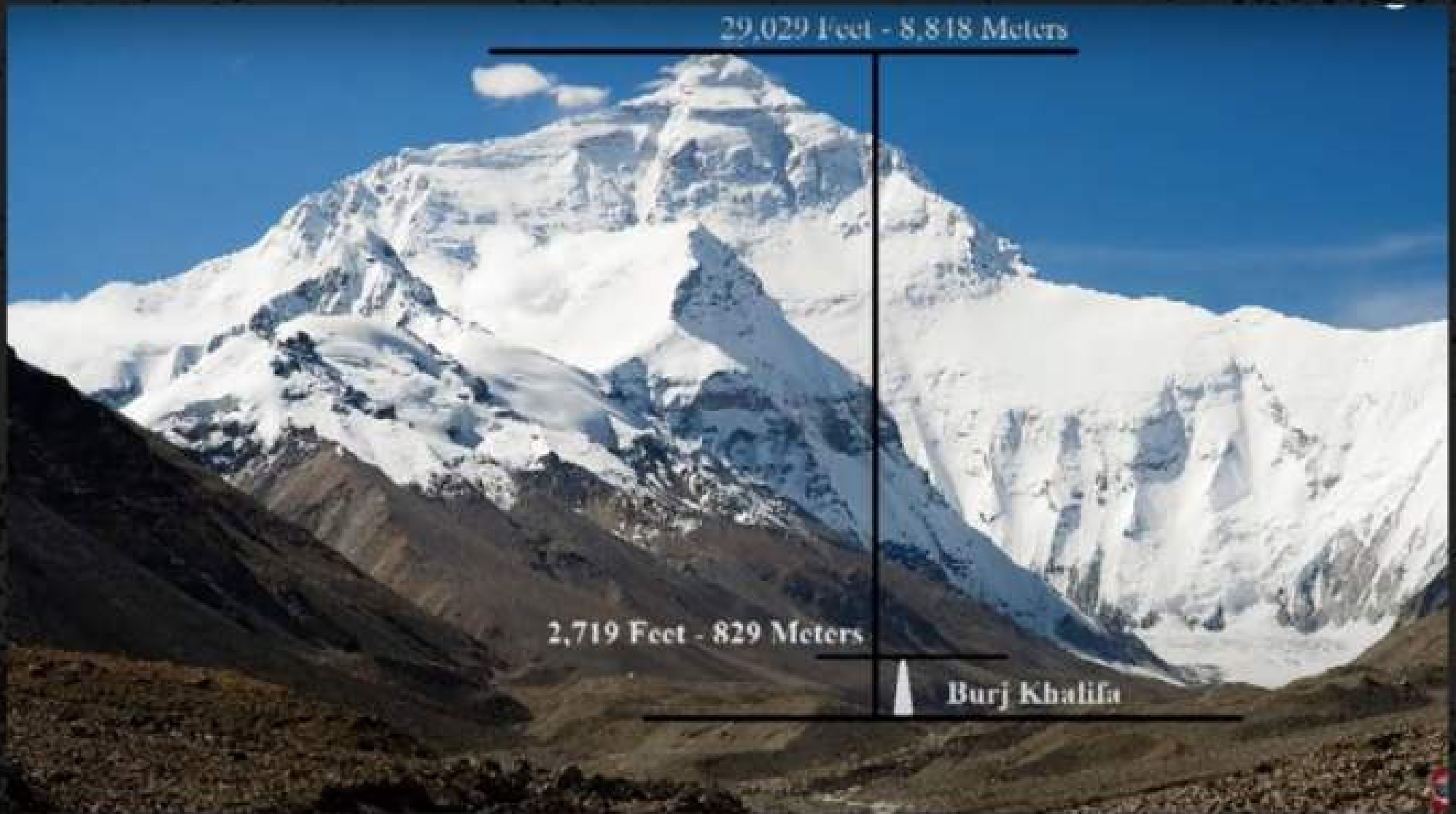


One World Trade



Burj Khalifa

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Psalm 90 is not trying to crush us. Instead, it is trying to free us from the exhausting illusion that everything depends on us.

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Psalm 90 doesn't stop when it informs us of how small we are. It finishes by reminding us how kind God is to small people like us.

"There's a recognizable concern underscoring much of the mainstream literature on success: *There is not enough time*. I don't mean being in a hurry in an immediate sense (though that's definitely a thing); rather, a lifelong, drawn-out feeling that, from cradle to grave, we apparently experience an acute fear that time is running out...

But what if unencumbered productivity, unceasing activity, and unrelenting progress—however that is defined—are signs less of success than of self-centered insecurity? Could busyness really be the counterfeit of significance?”

(Pete Portal)

Psalm 90:12 "Remixes"

"Teach us to number our days... so that we can optimize our productivity."

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Psalm 90:12 "Remixes"

"Teach us to number our days... so that we can optimize our productivity."

"Teach us to number our days... in order to squeeze in all our desired activities."

"Teach us to number our days... for the purpose of stacking our accomplishments as tall as possible."

“May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work of our hands.”

Jesus tells us to ask: *What are you storing up?*

Psalm 90 helps us to ask: *What will actually last?*

Closing Reflections



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Is your heart being led by any of these success scripts: treasures of earth, fulfillment of desires, or projection of image?

Closing Reflections



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What worries you most often or most deeply? What do those worries reveal about what you believe a successful life should look like?

Closing Reflections



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Are you numbering your days? If not, why not? If so, for what reasons?

Closing Reflections



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Invite God to ignite your passion for the work of your hands, while also relinquishing your success to whatever He wants to establish.



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