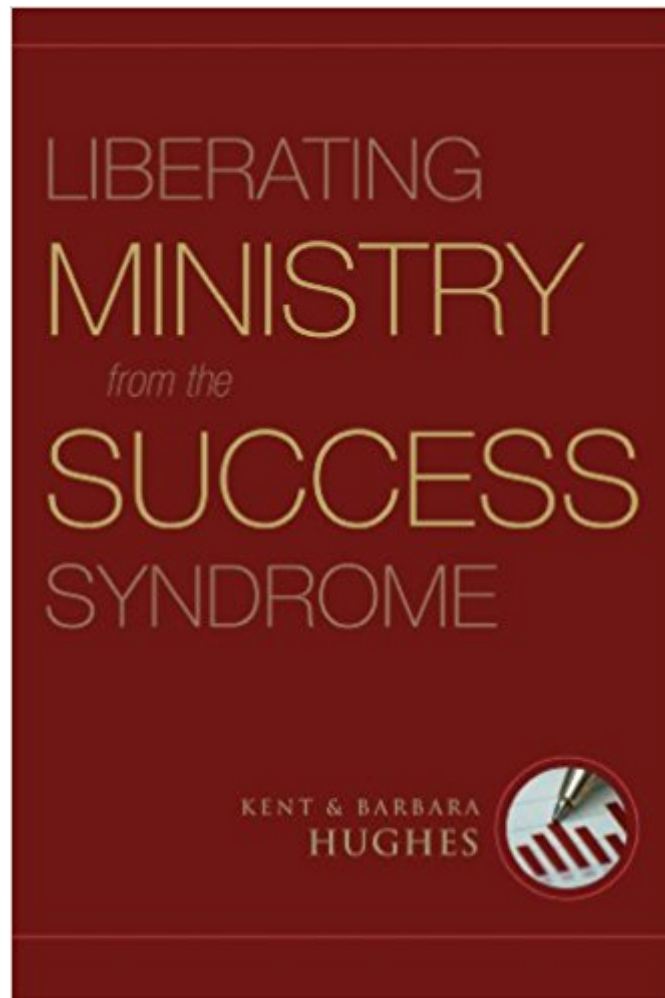




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Liberating Ministry From The Success Syndrome



Synopsis

Every year thousands of God's servants leave the ministry convinced they are failures. Years ago, in the midst of a crisis of faith, Kent Hughes almost became one of them. But instead he and his wife Barbara turned to God's Word, determined to learn what God had to say about success and to evaluate their ministry from a biblical point of view. This book describes their journey and their liberation from the "success syndrome"-the misguided belief that success in ministry means increased numbers. In today's world it is easy to be seduced by the secular thinking that places a number on everything. But the authors teach that true success in ministry lies not in numbers but in several key areas: faithfulness, serving, loving, believing, prayer, holiness, and a Christlike attitude. Their thoughts will encourage readers who grapple with feelings of failure and lead them to a deeper, fuller understanding of success in Christian ministry. This book was originally published by Tyndale in 1987 and includes a new preface.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"One of the very best books I have read on the spirituality of pastoral ministry." —Philip Graham Ryken, President, Wheaton College; author, *Loving the Way Jesus Loves* "I recommend that every pastor first read the Hughes's book privately and then go over it with his lay leaders. Doing this will not be less than a milestone and might well be a watershed." —J. I. Packer, Board of Governors' Professor of Theology, Regent College "Born out of experience, based on the Word of God, and applied to real life, this book is just what weary and discouraged pastors and their

wives need. And it wouldn't hurt if critical church officers read it too! I highly recommend it." — Warren W. Wiersbe, Retired General Director, Back to the Bible "With wisdom gained from their own struggles and long years of experience, Kent and Barbara Hughes spell out the principles that can set God's servants free from the yoke of unscriptural ideas." — Vernon C. Grounds, Chancellor, Denver Seminary "Bless you, Kent and Barbara, for saying with clarity and boldness what thousands of pastors and pastors' wives need to hear. Your call back to the basics in ministry will free many from the false demands of 'success' and restore the proper measurements of achievement." — Ray C. Stedman, Former Pastor, Peninsula Bible Church, Palo Alto, CA

R. Kent Hughes (DMin, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School) is senior pastor emeritus of College Church in Wheaton, Illinois, and visiting professor of practical theology at Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Hughes is also a founder of the Charles Simeon Trust, which conducts expository preaching conferences throughout North America and worldwide. He serves as the series editor for the Preaching the Word commentary series and is the author or coauthor of many books. He and his wife, Barbara, live in Wyncote, Pennsylvania, and have four children and an ever-increasing number of grandchildren. Barbara Hughes has supported her husband Kent's pastoral ministry for over forty years while also raising four children. She is a popular teacher of women's groups and the author of several books. Barbara and Kent live in Wyncote, Pennsylvania, and have an ever-increasing number of grandchildren.

I enjoyed this book tremendously! In fact I already owned a copy and ordered this second copy so that I can loan it to my minister friends and ensure that I keep a copy for myself. Kent Hughes does an excellent job of causing the reader to focus on their primary responsibility of doing the will of God no matter what that looks like. It is affirming to know that the size of ministry no matter how big or small is not the measuring stick for whether you are successful or not.

As a school teacher, I found Hughes' book applicable for all Christian vocation. It reminds all Christians that success is not found in size or numbers, but in faithfulness, servanthood, prayer, and love. It is so easy for us as Christians to get caught up in the world's idea of success. I recommend this to Christians of any vocation!

Have bought several copies of this book to share with younger pastors. It's recently been updated but is as relevant as the day it was first written and published. I highly recommend this excellent

work!

I would encourage anyone and everyone in ministry to read this book. This book will not only liberate you from a worldly "success" standard of measure in ministry, it will free you from the consequent discouragement that comes along with that wrong standard of measure. Its a very well written book. The Lord used it in my life. It should be standard reading for those in ministry. It's a ministry must read.

Small church pastors look at how other ministers preside over large, growing congregations, and then they sometimes wonder what they are doing wrong and why they cannot be more "successful." R. Kent Hughes says that we are operating with a faulty understanding of success. He says that success means being faithful to what God wants you to do, it means praying regularly, loving God and each other, caring for your family, having the right attitude, believing God in all things, etc. Hughes shares stories from his life and how he once felt discouraged enough to consider leaving the ministry, but his wife talked him out of it. She encouraged him by talking about the lives that have been changed for the better, even though the church he started was small. This is a good book for pastors to read when they are struggling, and even when they are NOT struggling.

In terms of content, excellent and well-needed. My complaint, at least with the Kindle version, is with typos - misspelled words, names not capitalized, commas in place of periods and vice versa. Kindle edition needs some proofing.

I am a pastor of a small church in a rural area and this book was an encouragement to me as well as a reminder of what success really looks like in the eyes of God. A timely and relevant message to Chrisitans who minister in churches of any size.

Good advice for Pastors and Church leaders. Too many anecdotes. The chapters composed by Barbara were especially well written. Uniquely helpful as an encouragement for both Pastors and their wives.

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