How does simple church measure "success"?

Some are tempted to measure success by attendance. But this ignores all the front-line missionary relationships that happen on a personal level throughout the week.

Some are tempted to measure success by baptisms. But this ignores discipleship activity that happens before baptism and continues long after a person is baptized.

Some are tempted to measure success in terms of tithe and offerings collected. But this ignores the bigger picture of stewardship: gifts of time, energy, opening of homes, helping the poor, and many other resources that are used in front-line missionary work.

Some are tempted to say these three are not important.

Could it be that attendance, baptisms, and money are secondary measurements that, in many circles, have become the primary measurement of success?

So what might be the primary measurement of "success"?

Jesus said it best. "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself. He does only what he sees the Father doing. Whatever the Father does, the Son also does." John 5:19.

Modern translation: "Success" is humbly, honestly, and boldly accepting God's invitation to join Him whenever, wherever, and in whatever He decides - period. (See Desire of the Ages, 209. And enter the discussion
on Facebook.)

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