



The Financially Responsible Steward

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Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household? Blessed is that servant! - Luke 12:42-43

MEDITATION SCRIPTURE

Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all. Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name. - 1 Chronicles 29:12-13

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Once we drink of the wine from the true Vine, the Tree of Life, all earth's attempts to quench our thirst will fail. - Unknown

WAYS TO LIVE A SUCCESSFUL LIFE

It seems that great achievement always correlates to money, power, possessions, and impressing other people. Is that it? Is that all we can define success as? When our skin wrinkles around our eyes and our bones grow weary, will money and power alone warm our souls and allow us to think, "I've lived a good life?"

There are plenty of people who have millions of dollars in their bank accounts, and yet, not a single true friend. Are they a success? Of course, in an ideal world we would all have both -- tons of money and tons of friends -- but why is it that our broadly accepted idea of accomplishment revolves around materialism?

Of course, who doesn't hope to be financially secure? Most of us probably do, but to make money, power, and possessions your sole goal in life is to ignore the deeper purpose of the human experience. Here are several components you should consider in order to live a successful life:

- 1) Know who you are, what your values are, and what you stand for.
- 2) Have a small group of people -- or even just one -- around whom you can be 100-percent yourself. These are the people who know the most genuine of your smiles and your long list of dreams, but have also seen you eat an entire sleeve of Oreos (in one sitting) and wipe your snot on the sleeve of your sweatshirt as you cry.
- 3) Have a circle of people who, though you don't see them as often as you'd like, are still the first ones celebrating your victories and listening on the other end of the phone line when your world is crashing down. These are the kind of friendships that time and distance and different life paths don't change -- and they require nourishing.
- 4) Understand that life is precious and tomorrow isn't guaranteed. Continuously remind yourself who and what you're grateful for, and show them your appreciation often.

- 5) Recognize that there is pain and suffering in this world beyond your comprehension. Still choose to see the good in life.
- 6) Be generous with your soul. Be compassionate and empathetic towards your fellow human beings. Give. Don't expect anything in return for your generosity -- the camaraderie you will feel for a fellow human being is reward enough.
- 7) Always strive for personal growth, but accept your smaller imperfections and love yourself regardless. If you demand perfection, you will only be exhausted.
- 8) Love. Love deeply. Love fully. Don't ever let fear prevent you from experiencing the greatest feeling in this life. Love your family, love your friends, love children, love strangers, love yourself. Immerse yourself in love -- it's worth it.
- 9) Find something you are passionate about and something that always brings peace to your soul. These two things might be the same thing. Do them often.
- 10) Know when to close your mouth and listen. Everybody has something to share.
- 11) Overcome toxic habits and say goodbye to toxic people. You only get one shot at this life -- so why let anything hold you back?
- 12) Learn from every single experience you have. Allow these lessons to guide you in the future. Share your wisdom with friends, peers, strangers and younger generations. (And don't ever think you're too old to learn something new!)
- 13) Never take yourself so seriously that you've forgotten how to laugh or be silly. Never get too old to see the world through the eyes of a child -- with wonder and awe. Maturity and playfulness can coexist.

[Cortese, Alexa. 18 Ways to Live a Successful Life (That Have Nothing to Do With Money)
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/alexacortese/third-metric_b_5113931.html, April 14, 2014.]

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