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Life Skills

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LIFE SKILLS

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Be Positive And Make A Positive Difference...

Most people say:

It's too risky,

It can't be done,

We've always done it

It's too hard,

I can't be bothered,

It's not the right time,

What's the point in trying?

But you're not most people

Your aspirations are higher and your goals more ambitious.

Most people don't want things to change, because they see change as something negative that happens to them.

They play it safe, because they prefer the illusion of comfort over the risk of following their dreams.

And they feel threatened by those rogues who challenge these beliefs as they are afraid that they may feel compelled to do something about it.

Successful people understand the need to change and see it as an opportunity to make a positive difference in the world.

They understand that the biggest risk is to play it safe and know that if they don't take charge of their future, someone else will do it for them.

And they are inspired by the rebels who refuse to conform, using their stories as fuel to fire their enthusiasm.

So, stop listening to most people and start living the remarkable life that you were designed for.



Care Must Be Noticeable....

Do you care?

About your work?

About the people around you?

About how you present yourself?

About your reputation?

Most people would say a resounding yes to most, if not all, of the above scenarios.

But “do you care?” perhaps isn’t the right question.

Do others know that you care?

Now we’re getting somewhere.

Because we can say that we care, but if no-one notices, then perhaps you don’t really.

Your level of care has to be tangible, noticeable, obvious.

If it isn’t, perhaps you need to do something about that.



Always Stay Curious...

Be a learner, not a knower.

Smile when you don't know something, don't be embarrassed.

Ask questions, don't feel compelled to have all of the answers.

Stay curious, don't become cynical.

Embrace that you don't know everything, don't be threatened by it.

Surround yourself with smart people, not yes-people.

Read every day without exception, don't assume that you can afford not to.

Keep your mind open, whilst ensuring that your arms aren't closed.

Try to get smarter, without trying to look smarter.

Seek wisdom, not notoriety.

And please understand this, those who are always learning never peak, but those who think they know it all have peaked already.



Make The World Better Place..

We recently moved house to a lovely area near a pond (we are sure very soon it will vanish, courtesy the politically and massively powerful land mafias of Raipur) which means that we get regular native visitors to our small garden.

Some of those visitors are beautiful colourful birds (don't know the name) and colourful butter flies that add a delightful splash of beauty.

It's wonderful to see.

It catches the eye and makes us all point and smile.

They're so small, yet add so much value.

We live in a world that sometimes seems drab and grey.

But you have an opportunity to add a splash of beauty.

Through your smile and positivity.

Through your enthusiasm and passion.

Through your unique skills and creativity.

Through your encouragement and generosity.

Just like my regular visitors, let's make the world a better place.



Take Some Initiative..

Make something...

A speech,

A study

A video,

A piece of art,

A recipe,

A composition,

A career decision,

An exercise regime,

A mistake,

A teaching aid,

A connection.

Make something.

Make it now.

Make it astonishing.

Make a difference.



Dont Be Too Harsh On Yourself...

It doesn't matter what happened last time.

Whether or not you got the job.

Whether or not you won the game.

Whether or not you wowed the audience.

Whether or not you were successful.

So don't be too hard on yourself regarding the losses.

Those negative experiences don't need to replicate themselves.

Things have changed. Move on.

Because it's not about the last time, it's about the next time.

What did you learn that you can improve on?

How much have you grown?

How much do you want it?

And if you were successful last time, it doesn't matter either, so don't get too far ahead of yourself.

Yes, feel confident in your abilities, but remember to do the work.

Stay focused.

Embrace the challenge in front of you, without assuming that it will all fall into place automatically again.

Remember why the front windshield is larger than the rear-view mirror.

Because it's not about the last time, it's about the next time.



Your Actions Are Like Bank Interest Rate...

Actions are like bank interest in that they have a compounding effect.

The actions that you take today give you something to build on tomorrow.

The little wins give you momentum.

The progress that you make encourages you to keep going.

The detours that you find along the way help you to find remarkable opportunities that you wouldn't have found if you had stayed still.

The lessons that you learn from your mistakes hold you in good stead for when you are in a similar situation in the future.

The strength that you build through persistent training increases your capacity.

Every book you read, every call you make, every single action you take. It all makes a difference far beyond the acts in isolation.

Just imagine what this looks like after a month, a year, a lifetime.

Life Skills

Imagine the impact you can have if you persistently keep taking small actions that you know will have a cumulative effect over a long period of time.

Alternatively, you could just do nothing and wait for a miraculous breakthrough, but you could be waiting for a long time.



Instant Results...

Amazon delivers the product within a week and they guarantee it.
And in a society that expects instant results (2 minutes Maggie, quick delivery Zomato, two two teachers with byju's to become instant genius) we often expect that our dreams will be fulfilled just as quickly and if they aren't we are tempted to think that it wasn't meant to be and just give up.

But it doesn't work like that.

If your dreams and goals are big enough to matter, they will take time and effort.

And that effort will need to be repeated.

Again and again.

Over many years.

With a lot of mistakes, set-backs and reasons to quit along the way.

But don't fall for it.

Hang in there, stay focused on your dreams and never give up.

Because along the road you'll meet a lot of people who have given up.

They were expecting maximum results from minimal effort and it all got too hard.

Don't fall for it.

Your dreams don't arrive by Amazon but they do arrive for those who are willing to persist, develop and consistently work towards achieving remarkable deeds and fulfilling your potential.

So hang in there.

It will be worth it in the end.



Sir, I Am Nothing..

Over the years, I've met many people who thought that they are nothing.

They considered themselves to be insignificant and unworthy of anything special.

They saw themselves as a very small cog in a much larger machine.

They thought that their flaws and past mistakes were hindrances (excuses?) to being anything more than average.

They lacked confidence, self-esteem and a sense of purpose.

They thought that they were nobody and they lived their lives accordingly.

They were wrong.

Everyone has unique and valuable skills.

Everyone has potential.

Everyone can make a difference.

Everyone can learn, grow and develop.

Everyone has a job to do and a reason for being here (even if they don't know it yet).

Nobody's a nobody.

And that includes you!



We All Commit Mistakes..

We don't like to fail.

It feels rotten, embarrassing, shameful.

Yet, fail we do.

We all make mistakes.

Some worse than others.

Some more obvious than others.

But what if failure wasn't failure?

What if, when we made a mistake, we learned from the experience?

What if, when we offended someone, we **we** able to restore the relationships, making it stronger than before?

What if, after being knocked down, we got up again, tougher, braver and more resilient?

What if we lived life, not trying to avoid failure but understanding that if we live, we inevitably err?

Failure doesn't have to be failure.

Not if we react to it in the right way.



I Strongly Disagree...

Let's be honest, we don't have to agree on anything.

We have different backgrounds, cultures, political ideology and perspectives and they all have an influence on our worldview.

Disagreeing is important.

Too often, people live in echo chambers, with only the voices of those who sound like them for company. It distorts the mind, creates ruts, dulls the senses.

When we come across someone different, it can help us to consider our view and to think about how we got there.

My wife and I disagree all the day, hours, minutes and seconds (ultimately I have to agree that is the different story).

My son and I disagree all the time.

The people I work with disagree all the time.

And that's a very good thing.

So feel free to disagree, but can we all agree on one thing?

All of the name calling.

The abuse.

The yelling.

The ALLCAPS TYPING.

The harmful vitriol that's designed to belittle and intimidate.

Let's leave that behind.

Let's make the world a better place.

Not by smiling and agreeing with each other about everything.

But by disagreeing with civility, love and sometimes, silence.



The Power Of Small Steps Each Day..

I took another step.

Progress.

I learned another lesson.

Progress.

I invested in a relationship.

Progress.

I conducted a session for my students.

Progress.

I practiced in anonymity.

Progress.

I wiped my brow and kept going.

Progress.

I said no to something that threatened to hold me back.

Progress.

I looked back and saw how far I had come.

Progress.

Don't underestimate the power of a multitude of small actions over a long period of time.

All that progress leads to something greater.



We Must Win...

Confront the negativity in your team.

When people start complaining, call it out.

When they start focusing on the problems, point to possible solutions.

When they point out the faults in others, be quick to point out the strengths.

When fear and despair pervade the atmosphere, set the temperature to hope and enthusiasm.

And confront the negativity in yourself.

Catch yourself when you start getting bogged down in the challenges.

Correct yourself when you start whining.

Be conscious of your body language when you feel your shoulders start to slump.

Constant negativity is a battle that we must fight every day.

And we must win.

The alternative is truly terrifying.



Find Something To Admire Others...

Find something that you admire in others.

Look for a way to elevate them in your thinking.

It could be how well they can cook upma.

It could be their parking skills.

It could be how hard they work to improve at work.

Maybe it's their persistent efforts to change a negative habit.

It doesn't have to be dramatic or world-changing.

It's just an opportunity to look for the best in people.

Because when we do that, something wonderful happens.

People feel valued and respected.

They feel noticed.

They smile more and walk slightly taller.

The calibre of their work improves.

Find something that you admire in others.

Tell them what it is.

Then sit back and watch the magic happen.



You Have Skills And Abilities...

As I write this post, I'm staring at a set of ornamental bowls that we have in our living room.

We've had them for years.

I don't know how much they cost, but it may be expensive now.

And we've never used them once.

They just sit there.

Staring at me.

Looking moderately pleasant.

Getting dusty.

You were made for a purpose and it isn't ornamental.

You have a use.

You have skills and abilities.

So don't sit there gathering dust.

Get out there and change the world.

Just as you were designed to.



You Cant Change People By Using Fear.....

There's something very special about the act of encouragement.

When you highlight something that someone has done well, it changes their demeanour and body language.

When you praise someone, you increase the chance of them doing it again.

When you put your arms around someone and inspire them to keep going, they are able to find another burst of energy.

When you brag about their achievements and they hear about it, it fills them with pride and increases their confidence.

So often, attempts are made to change people by using fear, anger, threats, abuse or a range of other negative strategies.

How sad.

If you want to change people, encourage them.

Build them up.

Tell them you believe in them.

Give them a reason for hope and self-belief.

Help them to walk taller.

Fan their fading embers into flames.

What a wonderful legacy that would leave.



You Dont Choose The Words That Others Speak...

When someone criticises or discourages you, you get to choose how it impacts you.

You can ignore it completely.

You can let the words sink into your soul.

You can protest and take offense.

You can take on board that which is relevant and discard the rest.

Similarly, when someone praises or encourages you, you can choose the impact that it has.

You can brush it off with false humility.

You can recall their words later with fondness.

You can allow your head to wobble a bit as your pride increases.

You can allow yourself to feel good for a moment, whilst understanding that you may still have a lot of improving to do.

Life is rarely what happens to us and more about how we respond.

We don't get to choose the words that others speak, but we can choose how they impact us.



Learning Is A Process..

A proverb says..

“The stationary condition is the beginning of the end.”

It’s a wonderfully profound statement that describes far too many of us.

When we stop learning more about the sector that we work in, our skills soon become redundant.

When we stop trying to become better teachers (through research publications, academic conference’s, patent and book publication s) our students suffer.

When we become complacent and think we have done enough, we soon lose touch.

So let me encourage you today to keep moving.

Keep growing.

Keep learning.

Know that you haven’t peaked yet and make sure that you find a way to stay hungry for more.



Life Lesson For All..

I recently read of an 80-year-old watch man from Mumbai who was considering retirement for a third time.

But before he made his decision, he consulted a trusted mentor to discuss next steps and get some advice.

How good is that?

I hope when I'm 80, I'm still considering the next steps.

I hope that I'm still looking to how I can make a contribution.

I hope that I'm still living with purpose.

I occasionally fall into the trap of thinking that I'm getting old.

This guy reminds me that if your mind is sharp and the energy is there, you're never too old.

I hope I never forget that lesson.



A Quote With A Positive Meaning..

“When the winds of change blow, some people build walls for protection.

Other people build windmills, to create power.

What a fantastic principle.

I don't know what your world looks like, but I'm guessing that there's a lot of change and the winds are blowing.

Don't resist it.

Harness it.

Utilise it.

Create power.

Positively impact the people around you who are going through that same change.

Get into the windmill business.



We Are Busy But Not Effective....

When you look back on the meetings you attended today, did anything come out of them that mattered?

As a teacher when you are conducting a class, did you make a positive contribution?

After an hour spent working on your email inbox, was anything accomplished?

It's easy to be busy.

Or to look busy.

Or to pretend that you're busy.

To flit from meeting to meeting, project to project, students to students.

To look frustrated and stressed.

To do stuff just for the sake of it.

But it's far more important to be effective.



Control Your Response..

You can't control the emotions of the people around you, but you can control your own emotions.

You can't control the volume of work coming in, but you can control how hard you work.

You can't control the weather, but you can protect self.

We often spend a lot of time and energy discussing and complaining about things that we can't control.

What a waste.

Success in life doesn't come from what happens to you, it comes from how you respond.

Control your response.

Change the world.



A Quote With Excellent Motivation....

“Keep your head up in failure and your head down in success.”

Love it.

When we make mistakes, we often drop our heads in embarrassment,
hoping that no-one notices.

We shuffle about in shame,

We don't make eye contact.

We lose confidence and momentum.

But then when things are going well, we strut about like peacocks.

We let the success get to our heads.

We forget what it was that got us there in the first place.

When life doesn't go your way, keep your head up and don't let it
quash your self-belief.

And when you're on a roll, don't bask in the glory and thump your
chest, keep working, keep driving, keep pushing.



Your Dream Is Not Over.....

To the singer who auditions for a reality TV show, but doesn't get through to the next level...

Your dream isn't over, get back to work.

To the job applicant who misses out on her dream job after an arduous interview process...

Your dream isn't over, get back to work.

To the writer whose manuscript is rejected (again)...

Your dream isn't over, get back to work.

To the small business owner who has just closed the doors on his latest venture...

Your dream isn't over, get back to work.

To anyone who had a dream, but ran into obstacles, challenges or brick walls, the message is the same...

Your dream isn't over, get back to work.

There are too many people who tried, once, to do something significant with their lives, but gave up after the first major problem.

The success stories are those who pushed past the obstacles, stayed focused on their goals and realised that their dream is only over when they choose to stop working towards it.

So hang in there, keep dreaming and keep working hard!



Be A Shining Star...

I love it when I come across a new word, so you can imagine my delight when I stumbled across the word, effulgent.

Effulgent means shining forth brilliantly or radiant.

What a wonderful description of a person.

Their smile was effulgent.

When he spoke passionately, he was effulgent.

That's my aim for the next few days.

To be an effulgent husband (impossible task) father and teacher.

To write effulgent posts.

To be more radiant.

To shine and in doing so, enable the people around me to shine as well.

Do you know an effulgent person?



You Are Truly Blessed....

Whether life is treating you well, or it's been rough lately.

Whether you're healthy, or perhaps not feeling so good.

Whether your relationships are thriving, or you're feeling alone.

Whether your bank balance is going up, or couldn't go down any more.

Whatever your situation, if you can say, "I'm blessed," I reckon you're going to be OK.

If you can list everything that you're grateful for, that's a good place to be.

If you can reflect on the good things with a smile on your face, you can overcome your circumstances.

So say it.

Believe it.

Remember it.

Live like it's true.



Be A Good Friend..

Be a good friend to yourself.

Don't put yourself down.

Encourage yourself to keep going.

Highlight your strengths to yourself on a regular basis.

Keep yourself accountable when you make a mistake.

But do it kindly and in a non-condemning manner.

Remind yourself on a regular basis that you are enough.

Pray for yourself regularly.

Celebrate your progress and moments of success.

You do this as a good friend to others.

So perhaps it's time to be a good friend to yourself as well.



A Better Future Is On Your Way..

The past is the past.
There are chapters that have been completed.
They are done and they can't be changed.
But there are still pages unwritten.
They are blank, but full of opportunity.
Waiting for the pen to strike.
Eager for the story to unfold.
What will happen?
What will be said?
What adventures will be attempted?
You, the author, get to decide.
These pages are all yours.



Greatness In Every Single Day..

In a recent interview, Indian cricket team coach Rahul Draviddiscussed the advice that he gives to the young players of his team (The interview was recorded just before the recent T20 match against Sri Lanka.

“I talk to them a lot about mental preparation and consistency,” I keep telling them, ‘You’ve got to make up your mind. Do you want to be good, or do you want to be great? Because if you want to be great, you have do it in every single match not just when you feel like it.”

Do I get a comment “Agreed”.

I suspect that this advice has wider applications than just to young cricket players.

Whatever you want to do with your life, whether you’re a teacher, a student, a manager,a doctor, an accountant or a nurse, you have the potential to be great, not just good.

But you need to bring it every single day.

Not when you feel like it.

Not when all of the circumstances suit you.

Not when people are watching.

Every single day.

What do you need to do every day to make the transition from good to great?



You Are Much More Valuable Than Rolls- Royce.....

There is value in scarcity.

The McDonald's is able to charge much more than any other restaurant..

A Rolls-Royce is much more valuable than a standard family car.

People pay more for Apple iPhone than a mobile produced any other company.

And then there is you.

There is only one of you.

There are things that only you can do in the way you do them.

You have a unique perspective, a unique life story, a unique set of experiences.

You are scarce, but do you know your value?

Are you just repeating the mass-produced work that everyone else is spitting out, or are you a true craftsman?

Are you making knock-offs, or masterpieces?

We don't need another robot.

We need you.

The real you.

The scarce and incredibly valuable you.



Life Lesson From Super Inventor..

About a hundred years ago, a man looked at the morning newspaper and to his surprise and horror, read his name in the obituary column. The newspapers had reported the death of the wrong person by mistake. His first response was shock. Am I here or there? When he regained his composure, his second thought was to find out what people had said about him. The obituary read, "Dynamite King Dies." And also "He was the merchant of death." This man was the inventor of dynamite and when he read the words "merchant of death," he asked himself a question, "Is this how I am going to be remembered?" He got in touch with his feelings and decided that this was not the way he wanted to be remembered. From that day on, he started working toward peace. His name was Alfred Nobel and he is remembered today by the great Nobel Prize.

Just as Alfred Nobel got in touch with his feelings and redefined his values, we should step back and do the same.

What is your legacy?

How would you like to be remembered?

Will you be spoken well of?

Will you be remembered with love and respect?

Will you be missed?



Stay Focused And Committed...

I recently saw a photo of a cheetah chasing a young gazelle.
Her eyes were completely focused on her prey.
Nothing distracted her.
She was fixated.
She had to be.
A moment's hesitation or interruption and she would go hungry.
She had a goal and she was going after it.
We could learn from that cheetah.
It's easy for us to lose focus from our goals.
To get distracted by the peripherals of life.
To settle for the good, instead of striving for the great.
To look to the left or the right, constantly comparing our chosen path
with the path of others
If you want to achieve your goals, don't get distracted.
Stay focused.
Run hard.



Role Model...

There was a man who works as a foreman at a factory.

Every morning on his way to work, he would pass a particular shop selling watches. He will stop in front of the shop and adjust the time on his wrist watch, and will then proceed to work. He will do this everyday.

The watch shop owner became very curious and one day stopped the man and asked him what he was doing. The man said that he was the foreman of the factory and everyday it was his duty to ring the bell to sound the alarm at 5.00pm to indicate that it was time to stop work for the day. He wanted to be accurate with the time and therefore everyday he would look at the big clock in the shop to adjust the time on his wrist watch. The shop owner started laughing! He said, “Everyday at 5.00pm when the factory bell sounds the alarm, I would quickly adjust the time on my clock”.

It is important for us to realize that to be successful we have to follow and copycat the right leaders. We should role model leaders with good characters, values and beliefs, otherwise we may find that we may reach the “top of our ladder”, but only to realize that we are on “top of the wrong ladder”.

Hope that you will find a role model who can assist and inspire you to greatness.

Have a great day ahead!!!



We Are Eternal Apprentices..

In our journey through life, if we are doing it right, we are constantly learning and developing.

We are eternal apprentices.

There is still much that I don't know about parenting and being a great husband (very difficult target to achieve)

There are still lessons in leadership that I haven't mastered.

Sometimes, I read a great book and shake my head in wonder.

Sometimes, I am amazed at my own ignorance and struggle to fathom how I have made it this far.

So, I continue to read.

I continue to listen to those who are wiser than me.

I continue to be fascinated by life's challenges.

And I continue to attempt to apply the new skills that I am developing.

Of course, I could fold my arms and make the bold claim that I have learned all there is to learn.

Perhaps I am the master now.

But we all know that's not true.

And it's OK to admit that we are just apprentices.



Some Times Life Is Like A Puzzle Game...

If you're doing a jigsaw puzzle and you can't find a spot for the piece in your hand, what do you do?

Do you give up?

Do you try to force the piece to fit?

Or do you put that piece down and pick up another one?

Sometimes in life, we go through seasons where nothing seems to fit.

You feel out of sync and you aren't making any progress.

If that sounds like you at the moment, please don't give up.

Please don't keep doing the same thing over and over again if it's not working.

Pick up a new piece.

Try something different.

Develop a new habit.

Cultivate a more resourceful mindset.

Break the cycle.

If you can do that, eventually, the puzzle will all come together.

And it will be astonishingly beautiful.



Come Out Of The Negative Mindset...

OK, so you lost that battle.

You didn't get the job that you were after.

You broke that diet schedule for weight lose (again).

You snapped under pressure and got angry unnecessarily.

I know, it hurts.

You wish that it didn't turn out that way.

It would be easy to maintain a negative mindset and start complaining.

But thankfully, we live to fight another day.

We can learn from the experience.

We can turn up again.

We can dust ourselves off.

We can forgive. Others and ourselves.

We're still in this.

Keep going.

Keep fighting for the things that matter



Just Keep Doing Hard Work..

Not all of Charlie Chaplin movies make me split my sides with laughter.

Not all of LataMangeshkar songs are destined to be hits.

Not all of Sachin Tendulkar's shots will go for win.

I'm a massive fan of all of the above guys, but not everything that they do is their best work.

And that's OK.

They're not afraid to keep putting their work out there.

To keep working on their craft.

To keep taking risks.

Because maybe it's not just about your best work every time, but a body of work over time.



Positive And Optimistic Group..

There are people working hard and having fun.
Pursuing ambitious goals and making great progress towards them.
Positive and optimistic about the future.
Constantly learning and challenging each other to grow.
Willing to lend a hand to anyone who is brave enough to ask.
From a distance, they look like an elite band.
Their confidence and courage makes them stand out.
It's easy to look at them with longing and perhaps a touch of jealousy.
Surely, you couldn't be part of that group?
Yes, you can.
Go on, join them.
Don't hesitate.
They're not that different from you.



You Are With A Unique Mission..

Read the interesting quote, "To be nobody-but-yourself — in a world which is doing its best, night and day, to make you everybody else — means to fight the hardest battle which any human being can fight."

It's not easy to be yourself.

Lots of people will have opinions about who you are and what you should be doing with your life.

And it's tempting to compare your life and progress to others.

But that's not what we need.

And it's certainly not what you were created for.

You have a unique set of skills.

A unique perspective.

And a unique mission.

The world may want you to be somebody else, but you've got to fight that battle to be the best version of you.



Have Patience At Some Point Success Is Approaching You...

Recently read the motivating quote somewhere..

“Courage doesn’t always roar”.(Unlike Indian film heros).

Sometimes courage is the little voice at the end of the day that says,
“I’ll try again tomorrow.”

Maybe that’s all we need at the moment.

Not bombastic confidence that smashes down doors.

But quiet persistence that keeps going, despite the circumstances.

You may not think of yourself as particularly brave.

But this is a different kind of brave.

You may look at the audacity of others and wish you could be like
them.

But perhaps they’re watching you with admiration as you refuse to
yield.

You may feel as though you can’t keep going as it’s all too hard and
you aren’t making any progress.

But maybe your breakthrough is just around the corner.



Focus On Positivity....

If you can't see the positivity...

If you can't see the reasons for hope...

If you can't see the opportunity for change...

If you can't see the wonderful possibilities...

If you can't find a reason to laugh...

If you can't find something to be grateful for...

You're not looking hard enough.

Yes, I know that life is challenging.

And I know that it's easier to focus on the negatives.

But if you look hard enough, there's still some positivity to find.



You Are Fascinating..

Before I purchase a new book through online or at store, I will often quickly scroll through the reviews, making sure that I'm not wasting my money.

As I read the ratings on a particular book of interest, one reviewer simply said, "Fascinating."

That's good enough for me.

We need to be fascinated more.

To be made to think.

To sit and wonder.

To shake our heads at new information and say, "I have never thought of it like that."

To have our curiosity stimulated.

To be forced to reconsider how we see aspects of the world.

Fascinating.

It's a great review for a book.

And I hope that people say that about you and me as well.



Belief Is A Currency Spend It Wisely..

One of my favourite writers is Andy Andrews, and his iconic character, Jones once said:

“In your life, what’s possible is often determined by what you believe. On the other hand, what is impossible can always be determined by what you believe. Belief is a currency of sorts. If you spend it foolishly by believing a thing is impossible, it will be. But if you spend your currency wisely—by believing a thing is possible and allowing that belief to fuel your thinking and work—then to you it will be.”

What’s possible for you and your life?

Do you believe it?

Do you own it?

Are you able to block out the doubts?

Are you able to smile at the obstacles in your path?

Are you able to stay the course when it takes longer than you anticipated?

Belief is a currency of sorts.

Spend it wisely.



Someone Needs You Today..

They need your enthusiasm.

They need your optimism.

They need a kind word from you.

They need your encouragement.

They need your wisdom.

They need your insight.

They need your listening ear.

They need that little something that only you can bring.

Now, go find them.

Make their day better.

And do your part to make the world a better place.



There Is A Space For Everyone.....

Sometimes, we look at the top of the mountain and wonder if there's much room at the top.

We imagine it to be a lonely place that only a chosen few can climb to.

It's not for me.

It's certainly not for you.

It's just for them.

I want to tell you today, that there is room at the top.

If you put the work in and persist, there's definitely room for you.

And I also want to remind you that there is plenty of room for others as well.

It's not a competition with limited places.

It's a destination with a wonderful view that we can share.

So please, keep climbing.

And don't be afraid to help others on their journey as well.



Please Open That Gate....

There's a gatekeeper for your goals.

It's not your parents and their expectations for your life.

It's not your partner or your kids and the amount of time that they spend demanding your love and attention.

It's not your unrealistic and unrelenting boss, with all of his frivolous requirements.

It's not your peer group or your community.

It's you.

You're the one who sets the priorities and the standards.

You're the one who has to show up and do the work.

You're the one who is responsible for the impact of your life.

And most importantly, you're the only one who is required to give permission to get started.

So get started.

Open that gate.



You Matter Your Opinion Matters...

The world is a very divided place right now(Uttar pradesh, Punjab and Goa state election and union budget) there's a lot of finger pointing and yelling going on.(Boycott all one hundred percent sponsored print and electronic media and their senseless debate)

People are frustrated, angry and are looking for someone to vent at.

There are people I know, love and respect who give me reason to groan internally when I hear their views on certain subjects.

And I'm sure that they do the same when they hear my opinion.

Politics, religion, the environment.

They are divisive issues and they can tear us apart.

But only if we let them.

We may disagree on a lot, but there's room for such differences.

Our perspectives may be a long way apart, but we can still be together.

There may be important issues that get our blood boiling, but we don't have to call each other names.

You matter.

Your opinion matters.

We may not fully understand each other and we may vehemently disagree, but we can still treat each other with dignity and respect.

I know that love doesn't sell newspapers or attract clicks, but it's a good place to start.

And it starts with us.



No Substitute For Hard Work...

The fastest runner doesn't necessarily win the marathon.

It's the person with the most effective preparation.

The person with the strongest mind who can push through the pain.

It's the person who can run the hardest for the longest.

Sound familiar?

Whatever you want to do with your life, you won't win it in a short sprint.

You have to prepare.

You have to push yourself.

You have to persist.

There is no other way.



Today Is Your Lucky Day...

American writer and historian, Will Durant once said,

Forget mistakes, forget failures, forget everything, except what you're going to do now and do it. Today is your lucky day.

There are times when our past threatens to rob us of our future.

When our mistakes and failures remind us of our frailty and inadequacies.

There's a reason why the rear view mirror is smaller than the windscreen.

We are meant to look ahead, not over our shoulder.

We're meant to focus on what we're doing, not what we've done.

If we can manage that, today truly will be our lucky day



Please Keep Going....

Have you ever tried running in sand?

It's hard work.

You feel as though you're expending a lot of energy, but not making much progress.

Your legs are sore.

Your chest hurts.

It's all a bit too hard.

We all have days like that occasionally.

The words on the keyboard don't seem to flow.

You're working feverishly, but when you look back over your day, you haven't gone very far.

You wonder if it's even worth trying.

There's a reason that people run in sand.

It makes them stronger.

So, on those days when it all seems to be a bit too hard, please keep going.



Let Success Be Your Noise..

Music director and singer A.R. Rahman once said,

Work hard in silence, let success be your noise.

I like it.

In this age of self-promotion and brash ambition, the principles of self-discipline, hard work and persistence are still relevant, perhaps more than ever.

Don't start with a bang, start at the bottom.

Don't tell us what you're going to do, show us what you've done.

But also, don't just sit in silence, waiting for something to happen.

Do the work.

Start now.

Keep going.

Let success be your noise.



Sale!! Sale!! Sale!!.. Hurry Up...

The Republic day sale ends today you had better buy it now.

That hotel is only offering that price for the month of January, you had better book it now.

That movie is only in cinemas for another couple of weeks, you had better see it now.

The schemes on plots/ flats for a short period, you better buy now.
The car prices are going to increase after the budget, buy it just now.

So many things had a very limited time frame attached to them, inciting us to action.

It's a great marketing tool that encourages us to make a decision.

But what if we were more aware that we only had a limited time to take action towards our goals.

That our lives were fleeting, so we need to do something meaningful now.

Not next year.

Not next week.

Now.

Limited time only.



Be A Source Of Inspiration..

Surprise yourself with how adventurous you can be.

Surprise yourself with how much you can get done in a day when you really put your mind to it.

Surprise yourself by starting (and finishing) that project you've been putting off.

Surprise yourself by learning something new and applying it in a practical way.

Surprise yourself by reaching out to someone you wouldn't have dreamed of contacting before.

Surprise yourself by doing something innovative, creative or artistic.

Surprise yourself by pushing yourself past your usual limits.

Surprise yourself by smiling in the face of adversity.

Surprise yourself by believing in yourself and acting on that belief.

Surprise yourself...

and inspire the rest of us!



Please Ignore The Distractions.....

If you're obsessed one week with playing chess.

And then the next week, you're obsessed with pencil drawing.

Then the following week, you can think of nothing else but cooking some new recipe.

And then the week after, you've forgotten about all of the above and are suddenly smitten with yoga classes, you probably won't get very far.

Sure, the first couple of days, you'll be encouraged by your progress, but you'll never become elite.

The reality is, you'll probably never even become very good.

Greatness requires sustaining the obsession over many years.

Practicing the fundamentals.

Learning the craft from the greats who have gone before.

Reaching a frustrating plateau for a while and then persisting until you get the break through.

Ignoring the distractions of other, seemingly attractive options, to stay focused on your true obsession.

Don't look around for something else.

Stick with it.



You Create A Future You Want...

Are you accepting or creating your future?

Does life just happen to you, or do you happen to life?

Are you just a stick floating along in the river, or are you swimming to the other side?

Are you waiting for good things to happen, or are you working for the good things that you want in life?

You can choose to just accept what life throws at you.

“Oh well, it just didn’t work out.”

Or you can create the future that you want.

Through hard work, persistence and a positive mindset.



You Have Just One Life.....

Give yourself a chance,
Give yourself the moment,
Give yourself the freedom,
Give yourself the power,
Give yourself the confidence,
Live for today not for tomorrow,
Live the EXTREME!!!!!!
Because you got yourself only one life... LIVE IT!!!!



Which One Are You? A Tiger Or A Fox

A man was walking through a forest when he saw a crippled fox. “I wonder how it manages to feed itself?” He thought.

At that moment, a tiger approached, carrying its prey in its mouth. The tiger ate its fill and left what remained for the fox.

“If God helps the fox, he will help me too,” The man thought. He went back home, shut himself up in his house and waited for the God to bring him food.

Nothing happened.

He lay there in bed waiting for God to provide for him as he had for the fox, but instead just starved.

Just when he was becoming almost too weak to go out and work, God appeared.

“Why did you decide to imitate the crippled fox?” asked the God.”I have given you gifts and abilities to contribute to the world and make a living, while looking after the crippled foxes of the world. Get out of bed, pick up your tools and follow the way of the tiger!”

I only have one question today. Which one are you, the fox or the tiger?



We All Need Courage...

We need courage to act in spite of our fears.

We need courage to stand out from the crowd.

We need courage to confront the (external and internal) voices that tell us we're no good for anything.

We need courage to have those difficult conversations that we sometimes need to have.

We need courage to keep pushing ourselves when we feel like stopping.

We need courage to admit that we still have much to learn.

We need courage to maintain our integrity under pressure.

We need courage to be the person we were born to be.

The paradox of courage is how we get it in the first place.

We get courage by acting in spite of our fears.

We get courage by standing out from the crowd.

We get courage by confronting the (external and internal) voices that tell us we're no good for anything.

You get the gist.

We all need courage to live our best life, so let's go and get it.



What Will You Choose....

I wonder if, when Michelangelo was asked to paint the Sistine Chapel, he was asked how long it would take.

I can just imagine the conversation.

“Can you get it done next month? We have a big event and it would be great to have it completed by then.”

The great artist rolls his eyes and gets back to work.

Four years later it gets done.

“I could have done it quicker, but I wanted to do it with excellence.”

We live in a world of instant results.

Fast food, two minutes Maggie, instant coffee, seven days plastic abs, English/German/French communication in 14 days, 10 kg weight loss in ten days, beauty queen or king in ten minutes from a parlour, instant hair growth and number of instant and short term courses.

We want everything at once, but excellence is still a differentiator.

You can charge more for excellence.

You can take more pride in a job well done.

You can build something that lasts.

You can improve your craft.

You can create a masterpiece.

But not if you're constantly rushing.

Whatever you do, you can do it quickly, or you can do it with excellence.

But you can't do both.

What will you choose?



What Outcome Are You Looking For??

James Clear, author of the book, “Atomic Habits” recently tweeted,
“We want solutions, but what we really need are attitudes.
You don’t need abs, but rather an attitude of training.
You don’t need the answer, but rather an attitude of curiosity.
You don’t need an easier life, but rather an attitude of perseverance.
Attitude precedes outcome.”
You know he’s right.
So my questions today are, “What outcome are you looking for?”
And, “What attitudes need to be adjusted to get there?”
It’s the attitudes that drive the hard work, the habits, and the processes
that will get you where you need to go.
If you can get them right, you’re most of the way there.



What Are You Going To Do Between Monday To Saturday...

A lot can happen between Monday and Saturday.

We go to work.

We go home.

Some people call in sick (far too often giving a lame excuses suffering from cough and cold)

Some people watch too much TV(mega serials , a criminal wastage of national time) or play too much mobile game .

Some people avoid making much of a contribution, hoping that no-one notices.

Some people just hope that they can make it through to another weekend.

Then there are those who take advantage of the opportunity that the week allows to continue to grow.

They read, learn and then teach others.

They utilise adversity to become stronger.

They prepare themselves and the people around them for the future.

They build better relationships.

Between Monday and Saturday, we have a choice.

To follow a meaningless routine that takes us nowhere.

Or to engage with the opportunity to make the most of our days.

A lot can happen between Monday and Saturday.

Make the most of it.



Some Tips To Be Successful..

Many people want to achieve success in life, but it's easier said than done.

There are so many distractions that it can be challenging to discipline oneself to accomplish a monumental goal. By keeping the following advice in mind, however, you can dramatically increase your chances of becoming successful in whatever you choose to pursue.

Imagine becoming successful.

Einstein said the imagination is more important than knowledge.

The more vividly and accurately you imagine your success, the easier it will be for the rest of yourself to follow through.

The same way engineers first imagine a bridge and then build it, you can be the engineer of your success, too.

Dedicate a few minutes every day to imagining your success.

Imagine yourself in a movie in which you are successful. What are you doing in the movie? What is your success like? Savor the feeling of your success, and use it as motivation to stoke your fire.

Cultivate a healthy motivation when imagining your success.

Successful people all believe in themselves and their missions.

At the same time, you do not want to alienate other people with extreme narcissism.

Understand that other people want to be just as successful as you do; your goal should not be to trample over them to get what you want.



Persistence Trumps Talent...

The person who is willing to work harder and longer will always beat the person who relies on natural ability.

The person who is able to overcome challenges will always beat the person who relies on avoiding pain.

The person who keeps going despite the voices that have advised them to stop will always beat the person who floats along because they always been told how good they are.

The person who never gives up will always beat the person who was given everything to start with.

Persistence trumps talent.

Always.



Employee Engagement...

Research conducted around the world by Nelson and Company suggests that 70-85% of staff are disengaged at work.

If you're a leader, this has to be a concern.

By why is this happening?

Is it because they aren't paid enough?

Is their work boring and meaningless?

Do they not get along with their peers?

Is the coffee in the cafeteria ordinary?

Do they want to have more freedom for gossip in the lunch room?

Is the air-conditioning is not functioning properly.

No, no, no.

The single biggest reason that the majority of people are disengaged at work is due to substandard leadership and management.

If you're concerned about staff engagement, don't run another program, become a better manager.

It's as simple as that.



Do You Want To Be Great ...

Every great song writer has been scorned at some stage.

Every great comedian has been heckled.

Every great orator has had listeners who thought they were nuts.

Every great entrepreneur has had their ideas mocked.

Every great writer has had their ideas rejected.

Every great athlete has made a blunder at an important moment.

Every great person has been ridiculed at some stage of their life.

Do you want to be great?

Then you had better be more ridiculous.

Stop playing it safe.

Take seemingly absurd risks.

Be true to your calling.

No-one ever changed the world playing it safe.



Thermometer And Thermostat..

You know the difference.

Thermometers tell us the temperature and thermostats regulate it.

If you want to be a leader, aim to be a thermostat, not a thermometer.

Why?

It's easy to tell the temperature.

Anyone can do it.

There's a problem. Anyone can see that it's a problem.

There are challenges. Anyone can see that there are challenges.

Work's busy. Anyone can see that work's busy.

That's the thermometer doing the talking.

But you're a leader, so be a thermostat.

Change people's expectations, change their perspective, and change their morale levels.

If there's a problem, find a solution.

If there are challenges, rally the troops.

If work's busy, attack it with enthusiasm and passion.

You're the leader, so don't be impacted by your surroundings, change them.

I can feel it warming up already!



What Is Your Excuses.....

Lots of people have excuses for not doing great things.

One guy was blind and one was deaf.

One guy was sacked from the company that he built from scratch.

One guy was sent home from school as a young child and his parents were told that he had a learning difficulty and was unteachable.

One guy was dyslexic and another suffered from severe motor neurone disease.

They are each reasonable excuses for not amounting to anything.

What's your excuse?

The blind guy is Erik Weihenmayer and he has climbed Mount Everest as well as the highest summits on every other continent.

The deaf guy was Ludwig van Beethoven who wrote most of his music after losing his hearing including some of the greatest symphonies in human history.

Steve Jobs was fired from Apple in 1985 before returning in 1996 to lead the company to its current iconic position.

Albert Einstein was sent home from school with perceived learning difficulties before going on to become one of the greatest scientists and thinkers ever.

Sir Richard Branson suffers from dyslexia, something that hasn't stopped him from becoming the charismatic and successful entrepreneur that we see today.

The guy with motor neurone disease is Stephen Hawking, the eminent physicist who has continued to push the boundaries of his field despite his illness.

Life Skills

Each of these individuals had an excuse for not achieving greatness,
but they succeeded in spite of their circumstances.

I have two questions for you today.

What's your excuse?

What are you going to achieve anyway?



Just One Word Of Encouragement.....

Entrepreneur and prominent environmentalist, Sir Richard Branson, recently shared a story on his site.

One day, when he was coming in from a tour, he noticed that a fisherman had caught a beautiful rare sea turtle.

Without hesitating, he purchased the turtle for \$50 and released it back into the sea.

It may only be one turtle that he was saving, but he had reckoned that this one turtle has the opportunity to lay hundreds of eggs over the course of its life, possibly making it a key contributor to the saving of this critically endangered and remarkable species.

It's tempting sometimes to think that doing one small thing doesn't make much of a difference, but inspirational people like Sir Richard remind us that one seemingly minute action can make a massive difference.

One smile.

One donation.

One prayer.

One word of encouragement.

One generous act.

One moment of kindness.

You don't know where it will end, but you can be assured that one small action rarely ends just there.

What small thing are you going to do today that has the potential to make a lasting difference in the world around you?



Risk Free Formula Of Success....

It would be nice if success was guaranteed.

If you just followed a simple, risk-free formula and all of your dreams suddenly come true.

There are those who would tell us that it's that easy.

It's not.

There are no guarantees.

Then there are those who understand that there is no 100% chance of success when doing anything meaningful, so they don't try at all.

They don't think that they can cope with the disappointment of perceived failure.

They choose a comfortable, yet unfulfilling life, with a nagging thought in the back of the head that they are capable of so much more.

Advertisements

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I wish that I could offer you a fool-proof formula, but I'm not that clever.

All I can do is encourage you to try your best.

To work hard.

To take risks.

To fail.

To fail again.

To fail spectacularly.

To learn from these experiences.

Life Skills

To not compare your perceived lack of progress with the perceived remarkable success of others.

To celebrate the progress that you are making.

To know that we are cheering you on.

To know that you are called to make a positive contribution to the world around you.

And even though there are no guarantees, to aspire to greatness.

YET.....

I believe that the language we use is very influential and has the capacity to either diminish or improve our mindsets and levels of success.

Over the years, I've worked with a lot of people who lived with extremely limiting beliefs that held them back from realising their full potential.

They would use statements like:

"I'm not good at interviews."

"I don't have the resources required to launch my own business."

"I can't even run around the block."

"I can't change the world."

"I can't do it."

Comments like this become an excuse for not living the life that we are meant to live, but some people use them so often that they become facts.

If that's you, I would encourage you to add one word to the end of these sentences.

YET!!

Life Skills

This one word changes the statement from one of limitation to one of hope.

Instead of becoming an excuse for living a mediocre existence, these statements become something positive to work towards.

Instead of “I’m not good at interviews,” say, “I’m not good at interviews yet.”

“I don’t have the discipline to work towards my goals yet.”

“I don’t have the resources required to launch my own business yet.”

“I can’t even run around the block yet.”

“I can’t change the world yet.”

“I can’t do it yet”

If you work towards overcoming these obstacles, you can do it eventually.

What sentence do you need to add the word “yet” to?



Improvement Is Required On Daily Basis....

Don't try to be better than your nemesis.

Don't try to be better than your competition.

Don't try to be better than your next-door neighbour or the person in the next cubicle.

Don't try to be better than your parents expected you to be.

Don't try to be better than the very best person in your field.

Don't try to be better than the next guy.

Just try to be better than you were yesterday.

And then do that again tomorrow.

And the next day.

And the day after that.

Yes, that will do.



Very Happy New Year..

This year is the year of boldness.

It's a year for bold proclamations, bold goal-setting and bold action.

It will belong to those who are able to pull themselves up their full height, look life in the eye and do what they know they should.

It takes courage to be truly bold, but too many people see the boldness in others and think that they can't possibly be like that. They think that they need to be fearless, forgetting that the bold aren't without fear, they just don't let it hold them back from doing what they know they should.

This year, I want to challenge you (as I challenge myself) to be bolder.

This is the year:

To stare down your fears.

To take more risks.

To follow your true calling.

To live your best life.

To be the one that others see as fearless, inspiring them what they can achieve.

If you can become bolder in 2022, I suspect that it will be a year that you can look back on with pride and satisfaction.

If not, it could just end up becoming another year of regrets and unfulfilled potential.

Are you bold enough to be bolder this year?



Time To Look Back Your Past 12 Months.....

I hope that as you look back on the past 12 months and beyond that there are quite a few things that you are proud of.

I hope that you can reflect positively and feel satisfied with your past achievements.

But I also hope that you're not done yet.

I hope that the best is yet to come.

So my question today is, "What will you be proud of?"

What goals are you setting that, if achieved, will make a positive difference?

What are you doing behind the scenes, that no-one else sees, that you will be glad you did in the future?

What are you investing into your family, your finances, your faith, your career and your health that will pay a solid dividend in the years ahead?

What will you build, create, imagine, develop, nurture, establish?

What actions are you taking that will enable you to look back with great satisfaction (and without regret) one day?

And what do you need to change to make this happen?



Learn Lesson From The Nature....

There is a lonely tree that hangs grimly onto a cliff-face somewhere, with no visible means of support.

There is a lion who launches at a passing zebra and grips tightly with its claws and teeth, being dragged along by its prey.

That same zebra kicks and leaps and does everything that it can to escape the clutches of its predator.

There is a eagle flying against the strong gales of the coast, flapping hard against the power of the wind and slowly making progress.

There is a forest, burned by terrible flames. Blackened and seemingly dead, except for a new green shoot that sprouts and gives hope.

There is a glacier, slowly, inexorably moving down a mountain towards the coast, crushing everything in its path.

And then there's you and your situation.

Will you give up or hang on?

Will you succumb or conquer?

Will you settle for an average life, or display the extraordinary tenacity required to do remarkable things against the odds?



Fight Like A Champion...

When you have a bad day, fight through it.

When you're out of form, fight through it.

When nothing seems to be going right, fight through it.

When your relationships are struggling, fight through it.

When you're in a rut, fight through it.

When your negative thoughts start to take over, fight through it.

When your fear is stopping you from living your best life, fight through it.

When you feel like giving up, fight through it.

Life won't always be easy.

Success won't be given to you on a silver platter (and it's best that it isn't).

So on those tough days, fight through it and come out the other side smiling, better prepared for the next exciting challenge..



You Are Not A Loser...

One loss doesn't make you a loser.

One mistake doesn't mean that you're a mistake.

One failure doesn't define you as a failure.

Sometimes we need a reminder of this.

We can become too harsh on ourselves.

We can become too self-conscious about what others think.

We can focus too much on the threat of failure, rather than the threat of doing nothing.

And in doing so, we become risk averse and struggle to progress as we should.

So lose and keep smiling.

Make mistakes and keep learning.

Fail more and progress more.



Leave The Job With Good Terms....

In this day and age, it is increasingly normal to move jobs on a regular basis. In fact it's estimated that the average college leaver will work for over 20 employers during their career.

Whilst there are less expectations these days upon people to remain with their employer for decades at a time, there are still a few key things to consider before giving your notice.

Always leave on good terms. Sometimes it may be tempting to go out in a blaze of glory and let everyone know what you really think of them. However, it's never a good idea to burn your bridges and leave on bad terms. Whenever possible, keep to your current company's leave notice policy and make sure that you're courteous and respectful when you inform your boss of your intentions to move on.

It's better for your reputation, it's the classier thing to do and in this small digital world, you never know what the long-term implications of a rude, abrupt ending to your tenure at a particular company can be.

Will discuss some more points in the forthcoming articles.



Please Come Out Of The Shell..

Over the years, I've met many people who thought that they were a nobody.

They considered themselves to be insignificant and unworthy of anything special.

They saw themselves as a very small cog in a much larger machine.

They thought that their flaws and past mistakes were hindrances (excuses?) to being anything more than average.

They lacked confidence, self-esteem and a sense of purpose.

They thought that they were nobody and they lived their lives accordingly.

They were wrong.

Everyone has unique and valuable skills.

Everyone has potential.

Everyone can make a difference.

Everyone can learn, grow and develop.

Everyone has a job to do and a reason for being here (even if they don't know it yet).

Nobody's a nobody.

And that includes you!



A Letter To Problems.....

Dear Problems,

You've tried to stop me, but all that you've done is build my resolve.

You've tried your best to weaken me, but all that you've done is give me strength.

You've tried to distract me from my goals, but you've made me more focused than ever.

You've tried to diminish my self-esteem, but every time I overcome you, my confidence builds.

So next time you come after me, you had better knock me out.

Because, I'm planning to bounce straight back up again.

And again.

And again.

And I'll be stronger, wiser and more determined than ever.

I respect you Problems, and know that you're part of life, but I think that you should know that there's no Problem that my God and I can't overcome.

And don't start with my readers either, most of them are bigger and stronger than me.

So give me your best shot and know that every time you fail to bring me down, my resilience and boldness grows.

Warm regards,

Dr. Shridhar



Add Some Value To Each Day....

When I write a post, I don't yearn for it to find an audience of millions.

I just write.

I'm not dreaming of the masses.

I'm believing that it will be helpful to someone.

Anyone.

And that value may not happen on the day that it was written.

Perhaps someone will stumble on this post in a few months, or even years, and be grateful that they read this.

Or maybe not.

The aim here is not to be famous, or popular, or recognised.

It's to be helpful.

It's to make a contribution.

Why do you do what you do?

Are you hoping to be found?

Or are you trying to find a way to add value?



Get Up And Change Yourself...

If you're not happy with your current job...

If you feel unappreciated...

If you would like to earn more money...

If your relationships are not what they could be...

If you feel guilty because you're not spending enough
time focusing on your family life...

If you feel like a hamster on a wheel, with a lot of activity, but little
progress...

If you're dissatisfied with your physical conditioning...

If you have dreams and aspirations that are yet to be realised...

If any aspect of life is getting you down, remember...

Life has no remote control.

So get up and change it yourself!



Dont Be Disheartened...

We all know that Rome wasn't built in a day, but what if it takes years for you to achieve your goals?

What if your progress is slower than you anticipated?

What if others seem to have an easier ride and get there before you?

What if you get distracted or make bad decisions along the way?

What if the recognition that you crave for your work seems to take a long time to materialise?

It may well take years.

Good things... great things take time.

Be patient.

Hang in there.

Don't give up.

Don't be disheartened.

It will be worth it in the end.



You Are Here With A Reason...

You may not know why you are here.

You may not have a clear purpose for your life yet.

You may feel as though you don't fit in.

You may look back over your life and think that everything is just a jumbled mess of random events.

But I want to assure you today that you are not an accident.

You may not know what it is yet, but there is a plan and purpose for your life.

It may not feel like it sometimes, but there is an exciting future ahead.

You may seem insignificant, but your unique blend of skills, experiences, knowledge and perspective can change the world.

God created you for a reason.

He doesn't make useless junk.

He specialises in beautiful masterpieces.

And that includes you.



Some Questions Need Immediate Answers...

There will come a day when I'm very old and weak.

My back will be sore (already started) and my gait will be slower.

I'll be less capable and my mind won't be as sharp as it once was.

On that day, I'll have a few moments up my sleeve to sit and ponder my life.

Will I be proud of my achievements?

Was I the best husband, father, teacher and citizen I could be?

Did I make a positive difference in the world?

Did I maximise my potential?

Will there be a legacy that will last after I'm gone?

Did I stand up for the underprivileged?

Did I live according to my beliefs?

God willing, we will all reach a day like that.

Will your answers fill you with regret or make you smile?

And what do you need to change now to get the right answers?



Controle The Controllables

...Sometimes, I think about how nice it would be if we could control everything, but we all know that's just not possible.

We don't get to control the weather, the economy, the national and international politics.

We don't get to control the opinions of others and what they talk on our back and their moods or their attitudes towards us.

But that doesn't mean that our lives are destined to be impacted solely by the circumstances around us.

Because we may not control everything, but can control a few key things.

Our attitude.

Our work ethic.

Our perspective.

Turning up every day.

Continuing to grow and develop.

Control the controllables.

Take responsibility for your response.

That's how we make the world a better place.



Always Keep Your Head Up.....

Your arm may be broken, but it will heal.

You may be limping, but you will move freely again.

Your heart may be in pieces, but it will get better.

Your dreams may be shattered, but they can still be restored.

Your confidence may be crushed, but it can be rebuilt.

You may have had a disappointing day, but there's always tomorrow.

You may be hurting, bruised, crushed, maybe even broken, but you will recover.

So hang in there.

Keep your head up.

Surround yourself with positive people.

And believe in yourself.

Because you may be broken, but you're not beaten.



There Are Ways To Be Happy.....

There's a story about a team of Red Cross doctor who visited the African nation of Mali for the management of pandemic.

One woman asked the doctor how many children she had.

"None," the doctor replied.

The local woman looked at her with mournful eyes and said that she was sorry.

The doctor asked the woman how many children she had.

The woman beamed as she responded, "Eight. I'm very fortunate to be so rich."

The doctor realised that the women of Mali measured their wealth very differently. It wasn't in financial or material terms, but in the number of children they were privileged to bear.

It's a great reminder that there are a lot of people in the world who have a lot of money, but don't consider themselves to be wealthy. And many who we would define as poor who see themselves as very rich.

There are a lot of people who live in very fortunate circumstances, but are far from happy. Whilst there are people living in the most desperate of situations who are able to laugh and sing.

Real wealth and happiness comes when you look at what you have and are grateful for it.

If you want to be wealthier and happier, I would suggest that you don't need more money or material things, but a change in perspective.

What are the things that help you to feel wealthy and happy?



The Harder I Work The Luckier I Get.....

It's easy to look for the one big hit.

The video that goes viral.

The million dollar idea.

The instant, overnight success story.

However, instead of the one big hit, aim for that one thing that you can do a thousand times.

Instead of hoping to get lucky, take luck out of the equation through consistent, diligent excellence.

Instead of an outcome that you can't replicate, focus on activities that you can repeat and improve over and over again.

Because success doesn't come from one moment of good fortune.

It comes from years of discipline, focus, sweat and persistence.

And if you are hoping for luck, remember what Ratan Tata once said, "The harder I work, the luckier I get."



Your Working Time Is Most Valuable.....

Two men were working for the public works department.

One would dig a hole and the other would follow behind him and fill the hole in. They worked up one side of the street, then down the other, then moved on to the next street, working furiously all day without rest, one man digging a hole, the other filling it in again.

An onlooker was amazed at their hard work, but couldn't understand what they were doing. So he asked the hole digger, "I'm impressed by the effort you two are putting in to your work, but I don't get it. Why do you dig a hole, only to have your partner follow behind and fill it up again?"

The hole digger wiped his brow and sighed, "Well, I suppose it probably looks odd because we're normally a three-person team, but the lad who plants the trees called in sick today."

Elon Musk once said, "Never mistake activity with achievement."

Sometimes, it's easy to be like the two gentlemen in this story. We can fall into the habit of looking as though we're working diligently, but in the end we're either doing stuff that doesn't matter, doesn't get us closer to our goals or that is a waste of time.

Make sure that you know why you're doing what you're doing and regularly assess your activities to maximise their potential impact.

Your working time is valuable, so make sure that you fill your days with meaningful work that uses your time and energy wisely.



You Have To Choose One...

One of the books that I'm reading at the moment is Wayne Cordeiro's "The Divine Mentor." In it, Wayne reminds us:

"Life has given us two very effective teachers. Both are topflight instructors, but neither comes cheap. While both are effective, both require something of us. We have to choose one or the other, and if we choose neither, the second will be chosen for us. The teachers are Wisdom and Consequences."

Wisdom and consequences.

You can commit your life to searching for wisdom.

You can learn how to make better decisions.

You can do the work and pay the price required to gain the instruction that you need to live your best life.

You can develop strategies and take action that will help you to maximise your potential.

Or you can suffer the consequences.

You can live in ignorance.

You can repeat the same year over and over again.

You can go to a dead-end job and wonder why things don't get better.

Wisdom and consequences.

Both of them are difficult.

One of them is inevitable.

Which one you get is up to you.



Life Is Like A Train Journey...

When you observe people on a train, you can see that they have a different response to the journey.

Some love it.

They look out of the window, pointing out key features.

They sit back and relax, happy that someone else is doing the driving.

It's a pleasant, enjoyable experience for them.

And then there are those who merely tolerate it.

They complain about the overcrowding.

They huff and puff when there's even the slightest delay.

They can't wait to get to their destination, barging their way through the masses to get off at the station.

Life can be like that train ride.

You can love it, or you can tolerate it.

You can enjoy the journey, or find everything annoying.

It can be a wonderful experience, or a drudgery.

Your choice.



Some Time Ask Questions To Yourself.....

How did I get here?

What did I do right?

What did I do wrong?

What could I have done differently?

What should I have done differently?

Do I like this situation that I'm in?

If so, how can I replicate it?

Do I not like this situation?

If not, what do I need to do differently?

Here's the thing with these questions.

Until you can ask yourself these questions honestly and take responsibility for the answers, you'll forever be at the beck and call of the winds and tides around you.

But if you know how you got where you are today, you can make decisions and start taking action to get where you need to go tomorrow.



Are Your Dreams Are Free.....

For some people, their dreams are like a bird that they keep in a cage.

They hear them sing, reminding them of the possibilities.

They feed them just enough to keep them alive.

They admire them, but don't have the courage to let them loose.

They know that they are meant for more, but feel safer and more comfortable when their dreams are restrained.

It's time to free your dreams.

It's time to let them fly.

It's time to allow them the freedom that they need to flourish.

It's time to live the life that you were meant to live.

Are your dreams free or stuck in a cage?



Come Out Of The Safe Zone.....

You are fully fledged now.

Your wings are strong enough to carry you.

You are fully equipped to fly.

But you look out of the comfort of the nest and it looks scary.

It is scary.

It's terrifying.

It's a long way down.

You're about to embark on a remarkable journey and there's no turning back.

But you have to try.

You have to leave.

You need to have faith in yourself and the One who gave you your purpose and the capabilities required to fulfill it.

You can't stay in the nest forever.

You're fully fledged now.

It's time to fly!



We All Believe In You.....

What if I told you that you have the capacity to change the world?

And what if you believed me?

What if I told you that it would take persistence and grit over many years?

And what if you weren't deterred by that challenge?

What if I told you that you would need to stretch and challenge yourself beyond your current skill-set?

And what if you had the discipline to do so?

What if I told you that you won't be an overnight success, but it would take thousands of small, incremental steps?

And what if you took them?

What if I told you that we all believe in you?

And more importantly, what if you believe in yourself?



You Are Invited In A Press Conference What Would You Say???

As a passionate cricket fan, I enjoy watching the press conference after the game to see the response from the winning and losing captains.

Some rant and rave about umpiring decisions.

Some bemoan their bad luck.

Some take the blame for any losses, but give the credit to others for any victories.

Some do the opposite.

Some love seeing the development in their younger players.

Some list the star players who weren't available.

Some are excited about the next opportunity to test themselves.

Some are so exhausted by the game that they can't focus on anything else yet.

What if you had a press conference?

What if, at the end of each week or after a significant event, you had to sit behind a microphone and explain what had happened?

Would you be surly, or engaging?

Would you take responsibility for negative outcomes, or make excuses?

Would you point out all of the contributors to your success, or try to keep the spotlight on your own awesomeness?

Would you be excited about the challenges ahead, or wonder when it will all end?

What would you say?



Why Do You Go To Work?

Do you go to work:

Because you have to earn a living?

So that you don't get fired.

Because to pass the time

Just to get away from the kids?

To pay off your massive debts?

Out of a sense of duty?

Because you're counting down the days to retirement?

Or do you go to work:

To make a difference.

So that you can fully utilise your skills.

Because you're passionate about what you do.

Because you have challenging problems to solve.

With a skip in your step.

Because you have a purpose.

to create a winning team.

So that you can get closer to your dreams.

The average person will spend 100,000 hours at work.

If you can find the right answer to the title of this post, that massive chunk of time will be maximised.

But if you just go through the motions and try to get by, you're wasting the terrific opportunity to do something truly remarkable with your life.

Why do you go to work?



Your Attitude Determines Your Altitude..

Just imagine three groups of people.

The first group complains about everything.

They think that because of the pandemic the economy is tough which means that they have the perfect excuse for a mediocre career.

They feel threatened by change and resist it vigorously.

Their goal is just to get through the year.

They walk around with their shoulders slumped and their head down.

They give up when the going gets tough.

They think that they've learned all that they need to and perhaps all that they can.

They feel as though they will never amount to anything, so they don't bother trying.

And everything that goes wrong is someone else's fault.

The second group is slightly more optimistic.

They're reasonably satisfied with what they've achieved so far in life.

They're generally liked by those around them and are careful not to offend anyone.

They're aware that they can do more with their lives, but suspect that the risk is too great to change.

They're happy to work in a team environment, but don't want to stand out from the rest.

They come into the office, put their head down, do their job and go home.

Life Skills

And their goals are trivial and uninspiring.

The third group lives life with enthusiasm and energy.

They see every interaction, every meeting, every task as a great chance to do great work.

They push through the challenges in front of them.

They're always on the look-out for ways to upgrade their skills.

Their goals are ambitious and challenging.

They don't see the economy as an excuse, but an opportunity.

And they constantly inspire and motivate those around them.

Each of these groups have a different attitude to life.

And each one of these groups has chosen that attitude.

Which group will be the most successful in virtually any aspect of life?

Which group is most likely to earn the most money, have the best reputation, the most successful relationships and is most likely to make a significant difference in the world?

Which group are you in?

If you want a better life than the one you have now, remember...

Your attitude determines your altitude.

Choose wisely!



Every One Can't Have Iphone...

A politician won't get 100% of the vote.

Not everyone has an iPhone.

And it would be boring if everyone supported the same IPL team.

Your goal isn't to please everyone.

It's to find your market.

To work with people who are headed in the same direction.

To find opportunities to utilise your unique skills in a place that needs and appreciates them.

You won't please everyone.

You won't be able to convince everyone.

You won't be able to influence everyone.

Be OK with that.

Not every workplace will suit you.

Not every reader will appreciate you.

Not every employee will follow you.

So take the pressure off.

Be you.

Be the best version of you.

Find those you can impact.

You may not be able to change the whole world, but you can still make it a better place.



Are You Happy With Your Present Level??..

You've done it once, can you do it again?

Do you still have the hunger, the desire, the yearning?

Now that you know how much work it takes to get to the top, are you willing to start the climb once more?

Are you motivated by the same drivers, or do you need new ones?

Is the fire still raging, or have the flames diminished slightly?

Are you basking in the glory of past achievements, or are you striving for new accomplishments?

Are you happy with the level you are on, or are you looking to continually improve and evolve?

Are you still celebrating, or are you looking for a fresh reason to smile?

Some people say that the only thing harder than getting to the top, is staying there.

Can you go back to back?

We'll be watching with interest.



Simple Formula Of Success...

There's an old saying that, "if something's worth doing, it's worth doing well."

It's a great philosophy, but today I would like to add to it.

If something's worth doing:

It's worth doing with excellence.

It's worth doing with enthusiasm.

It's worth doing with a smile.

It's worth doing with flair and creativity.

It's worth failing sometimes so that we can continue to get better.

It's worth teaching someone else how to do it too.

It's worth doing with generosity.

It's worth persisting with when the going gets tough.

It's worth spending more of your time doing it rather than wasting your time on tasks that are either unnecessary or can be done by someone else who is skilled in that area.

What would you add to the list?



Today Or Tomorrow We Have To Pay The Price.....

Sometimes, it's tempting to think that we can get away with:

1. Treating your loved ones poorly and still have successful, flourishing relationships.
2. Eating rubbish and not exercising without any long-term health consequences.
3. Consistently spending more than you earn without having to pay it back.
4. Not reading or learning without any impact on the relevance of your skills.
5. Putting in a minimal effort at work, yet still have a flourishing career.

This may be you.

I know that there have been times in my life when it was me.

If you think that you can get away with these behaviours, you're wrong.

There are consequences for actions.

You may get away with it for a while, but sooner or later, you will pay the price.

Why not save yourself a lot of pain and make the changes to your life that you need to make now.



Select One You Have Two Roads For Success....

There is an easy and a hard road to success.

The easy road requires years of blood, sweat and tears.

It requires discipline, focus and the ability to say no to immediate gratification so that you can say yes to long-term results.

It requires the capability to continually learn new skills and update knowledge.

And it requires taking risks that have no guarantees of a positive outcome.

Comparatively, the hard road to success requires you to sit on your hands and wait for positive things to happen to you.

It requires the constant search for short-cuts and easy options.

It requires doing the same thing over and over again with little apparent progress, like a hamster on a wheel or a vehicle stuck in mud.

It requires a yearning for comfort, despite the nagging voice in your head and heart to have a go.

There's an easy and a hard road to success.

Please don't get them confused or think that you are the exception!

The easy road may make success look difficult, but it's got nothing on the alternative.



Motivation Comes First Or Action.....

It's an age-old question, what comes first, the chicken or the egg?

It must be the egg.

But then who laid it?

But then where did the chicken that laid the egg come from?

I guess we'll never know.

The same question arises when it comes to motivation. What comes first, motivation or action?

Do we get motivated and then take action?

Or do we take action and then feel motivated afterwards?

This is what I've noticed.

People who need motivation before taking action rarely get things done.

Whilst those who act feel energised to do more.

Psychologist William James puts it this way, "We don't sing because we're happy, we're happy because we sing."

Don't wait for the motivation to do what you know you should.

You don't need a pep talk, the right circumstances or to feel as though the time is right.

Take action now and you'll find your motivation as you go.



Why Not You...

It's tempting sometimes to look at envy upon those who are living the life that we dream of and think that this isn't possible for us.

We assume that others are luckier or made a certain way.

Perhaps we believe that we are somehow incapable or less deserving of success.

But let me ask you...

If others can have a fulfilling career, why not you?

If others can learn new skills, why not you?

If others can have meaningful relationships, why not you?

If others can be optimistic about the future, why not you?

If others can improve their fitness, be disciplined in their eating and get their weight under control, why not you?

If others can read everyday to expand their minds, why not you?

If others can take substantial risks, believing in their skills and God-given purpose, why not you?

If others can build a reputation for excellence and world-class work, why not you?

If others can write a book, create art or perform in public, why not you?

If others can be successful, why not you?

No more excuses.

Other people can do it.

Why not you?



Avoid Criticism....

Most people don't like criticism, so we do everything that we can to avoid it.

We surround ourselves with people who agree with us.

We don't dare to share our ideas.

We do work that is well below our true capabilities.

We come in and leave quietly, hoping that no-one notices.

We conform, we hide, we camouflage ourselves.

It seems logical.

Why leave ourselves open to criticism if we can avoid it?

There's just one problem.

That's not how we change the world.



Never Ever Underestimate Your Self...

When you walk into an interview, walk with boldness, looking people in the eye and confidently introducing yourself.

When you walk into the office walk with boldness, knowing that this is another exciting week when you have the chance to do meaningful work and change the world.

When you walk onto the stage to give a presentation, walk with boldness, knowing that your story, your expertise, your passion and your perspective is valuable to someone in the audience.

And when you walk into the next phase of your life, walk with boldness, not shrinking from the challenge, but confident that God has a plan for you and that life is meant to be an adventure.

Don't underestimate your abilities.

Don't talk yourself out of doing your best work.

Don't allow your thoughts and actions to be controlled by fear.

Don't diminish yourself by thinking that you are just a very small person in a very small corner of the world.

But know that you have done the work.

Know that you are enough

Stay humble.

Walk with boldness and change the world.



Essence Of Effective Leadership...

According to French writer, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry:

“If you want to build a ship, don’t drum up the men to gather wood, divide the work, & give orders. Instead, teach them to yearn for the vast & endless sea.”

If you’re a leader, how do you get things done?

Do you just give orders?

Do you tell people what to do?

Do you run a well-oiled machine?

Or you genuinely inspire them?

Do you tell them stories?

Do you help them to see the possibilities beyond the humdrum of their otherwise boring daily tasks?

Yes, it’s important to tell people what they need to do with clarity and authority.

But can I also encourage you to find a way to teach them to yearn to be part of something greater.

That’s when the magic happens.



We All Needs A Traction In Life..

Car stuck in mud with its wheels spinning doesn't go anywhere until it gets traction on the ground.

We live in a world where everyone is busy, but too few seem to be actually getting anywhere.

We hustle and bustle about like hamsters on a wheel, but no progress is made.

We have devices and technology that is designed to save us time, but we end up using them to waste time.

We're all action, but no traction and it's time to change that.

It's time to take deliberate action that will take you closer to your goals.

It's time to get rid of useless habits that squander valuable time.

It's time to stop and consider the next course of action, rather than just flapping around between activities.

It's time to reconsider busyness at the expense of effectiveness.

It's time to do things that matter, instead of continuing to perform trivial, meaningless tasks.

And it's time that we start to do things that we will look back on in the future and say, "I'm glad that I did that, I wouldn't be where I am now if I didn't."

I know that you're busy, we all are.

But is your action getting traction?



The Problem In Front You Is It A Comma Or Full Stop?

Will it halt you in your tracks forever, or will you be able to find a strategy to move past, around or through it?

What about that rejection that you received, is it a comma or a full stop?

Will it give you an excuse to give up, or will you keep trying?

Life isn't a short, smooth, straight lane.

It's often a long, winding trail full of obstacles and challenges.

And off to the side of that trail, you will find those who have given up too soon on their dreams. They're sitting there wondering what could have been, but refusing to press on.

They ran into one too many challenges and had one too many setbacks.

And they became a full stop, ending their aspirations.

Don't let that happen to you.

Turn your full stops into commas.

Turn your reasons for stopping into reasons to keep going.

Turn your failures into learning experiences.

Make it a comma, not a full stop.



Will You Keep Pursuing Greatness.....

It's easy to believe that our dreams will never be achieved, that the time has passed and it's too late to do anything about it.

It's easy to think that we peaked sometime in the past and will never reach those heights again.

It's easy to slump down in our seat defeated and despondent.

But what if I told you that the game wasn't over?

That the siren you heard wasn't for the end of the game, but was just a time out?

What if I told you that this isn't the time to give up, but to regain your energy and rethink your strategy?

What if I told you that despite everything that has happened, that the best is yet to come?

What if I told you that we believe in you and are cheering you on?

Would you get back into the game?

Will you keep pursuing greatness?

Please do.



We Expect Passion From You..

Imagine two bakeries.

One has staff that just go through the motions, whilst the other employs staff who are fun, energetic and engaging.

Which one is going to be more successful?

Or perhaps two classrooms.

One has a teacher who can't wait for the bell to ring to end the day, whilst the other teacher loves educating her students and matching the curriculum to meet their individual needs.

Which one has the better students?

Or two gardeners.

One is pulling out overgrown weeds, whilst the other one is working on a masterpiece to be proudly displayed to every passer-by.

Which one is more beautiful?

Which one is growing?

In each of these examples, the participants are doing the same thing, but with difference levels of passion.

You have a choice.

You can go through the motions or you can bring energy and enthusiasm to your activities.

You can look for opportunities to do the bare minimum or to add maximum value.

You know which one will be more effective.

That's the difference that passion makes.

So get your heart pumping, get a spring in your step and start changing the world!



Today Is The Awesome Day..

It seems that there is a day for everything (Father's day, mother's day, daughters day friends day).

Some of the more unusual include:

Bubble wrap appreciation day (January 28)

Draw a picture of a bird day (April =ØP

Lost sock memorial day (May 9)

And one of my all-time favourites:Talk like a pirate day (September 19)

It seems as though just anyone can make up their own day, so I thought that I would give it a try.

This is my proposal:

“International Tell Everyone You Meet That They're Awesome Day”!

Imagine a day when every person told everyone that they met how awesome they were.

Shopping centres would change.

Office environments would change.

Households would change.

Even crime rates would change. You couldn't tell someone that they're awesome and then steal their handbag.

The world would become a more positive place and it would be difficult to maintain a grudge against others.

So today, and on November 13 every year, celebrate International Tell Everyone You Meet That They're Awesome Day.

Life Skills

Find something positive about the people you meet and don't be afraid to tell them.

And if you've read this after the event or are afraid that you'll miss next year, why not get some practice in and find something awesome about everyone you meet every day of the year.

If you know someone who's awesome, feel free to share this with them as a way of telling them.

And for the record, you're awesome too!

What do you think? Could this be crazy enough to work?



Take Small Steps Each Day...

It doesn't matter what your goals are, if you make even a small amount of progress each day, you'll be amazed at what you can achieve.

If you write a few hundred words a day, you'll have a book within a few months.

If you save a few rupees a week, you'll be more comfortable financially in the long-term.

If you make a few calls a day, you'll gradually increase your network or client base.

If you read a chapter a day, you'll build your knowledge base remarkably quickly.

If you exercise and eat right every day, within a few months you'll get to your ideal weight.

Of course, most people won't bother.

They'll wait until the right time.

They'll hope for the instant result.

They'll think that it just isn't possible.

But not you.

Don't be daunted by the size of the task.

Take a few small steps each day and one day you'll look back amazed by how far you've come.



You Are Truly Remarkable...

The rhino looked at the zebra..

“I wish I was that pretty,” she said to herself.

The zebra looked back at the rhino.

“I wish I was that strong,” she thought.

We make life more complicated than we need to sometimes.

We compare the worst attributes of ourselves to the best attributes of others, always to our own detriment.

And in doing so, we forget that we each have wonderful aspects that help us to live with purpose.

So, please stop comparing.

And let's remember that we each have the capacity to be truly remarkable



Practice Makes Man Perfect....

A professional batsman has confidence when he stands over a pitch to hit six in a last ball to win a championship because he has done it a thousand times in practice.

A concert violonist walks in front of a large audience with poise and calmness because she has rehearsed the piece that she is about to play relentlessly.

A surgeon approaches a delicate and complicated procedure on a critically ill patient with assurance, knowing that years of study and careful preparation have given him the skills required to complete this task with aplomb.

A university student sits down at her end of year exam, knowing that she has studied hard and feeling positive about the end result.

If you need more confidence for job interviews, sales pitches, public speaking or any other moment in life, learn from the experts and remember that the proficiency that you gain from constant repetition and practice is what gives you the strong foundation of confidence required to perform at an elite level.

I know that some people will suggest that with confidence, you just need to fake it until you make it.

This may work with small, incidental matters, but not with the big moments when you're under scrutiny and pressure.

You have to practice your skills over and over again until they become instinctive and natural.

You can't take short-cuts with confidence.

You have to earn it through disciplined focus and hard work.



How To Find The Best Opportunity....

Two monkeys, a father and his young son, were sitting in a large tree together.

The son turned to his dad and said, "I'm hungry, can you get me some leaves to eat?"

The father looked at his son and smiled, "Well, then you had better get some yourself."

"But I don't know how," the son protested.

"You have a choice," responded the dad. "You can pick the dry, unpalatable leaves that are found near the trunk or you can go to the edge of the limbs and choose the freshest, most delectable leaves."

"That's not fair, why can't the nicest leaves be found where everyone can get to them easily?"

"That's just the point. If everyone could get to them, they wouldn't be so fresh."

"But it's risky to go out on the smaller branches. They could break or I could lose my grip and fall!"

"Son, listen closely. If you remember this, you'll be successful in everything that you do and will always have the nicest leaves to eat. When you take a risk and go out on a limb, the fall isn't nearly as bad as it looks."

"But why doesn't every monkey go and get the fresh leaves?" asked the son.

"Because fear of perceived danger is a powerful motivator and too many monkeys would rather eat rubbish and complain about it than take a risk and go for what they really want. The opportunities are out there son, go get them!"

Life Skills

Which leaves are you eating?

The safe, ordinary, common ones or the ones worth taking a risk for?

Does your cautiousness hold you back from getting the most out of life or are you going out on a limb to find the opportunities that few others are willing to take advantage of?

Do you look with a mix of envy and admiration at those who are doing what you want to do?

Or are you living a life of risk, knowing that the fall is rarely as bad as it looks?

Join us where the good leaves are.

It's exhilarating!



Commitment Is Needed..

Whatever it is that you want to do with your life, whether it's losing weight, joining a better job , starting a business or growing vegetables in the backyard, if you're fully committed to what you are trying to do, you'll find a way.

You'll find a way to learn the skills required to be successful.

You'll find a way to persist when times get tough.

You'll plan your time properly and prioritise the important over the trivial.

You'll go around, over or through any obstacle in your path.

You'll ignore the critics and naysayers.

You'll overcome the inevitable excuses that life throws up to distract you from your purpose.

And when you feel like you're miles away from ever reaching your goals, you'll find a way.



You Are The Richest Person..

A poor man asked the Buddha, “Why am I so poor?”

The Buddha said, “you do not learn to give.”

So the poor man said, “If I’m not having anything?”

Buddha said: “You have a few things, The Face, which can give a smile; Mouth: you can praise or comfort others; The Heart: it can open up to others; Eyes: who can look the other with the eyes of goodness; Body: which can be used to help others.”

So, actually we are not poor at all, poverty of spirit is the real poverty.



Wishing All Very Happy Diwali.....

You may have come a long way.

You may look back with great satisfaction at your progress so far.

Remember there's still more to be done.

You may have learned a lot over the years.

You may be wiser and have more to offer than you once did.

Remember there's still more to be done.

You may have just landed a big sales, gained a big promotion or completed a big project.

You may have delivered results greater than you (or anyone else) thought were possible.

Remember there's still more to be done.

You may look at the lives of others and think that you have achieved much more than them.

You may think that you have made a bigger contribution than most of the population.

Remember there's still more to be done.

You may have made a significant impact on the family, society and the nation.

There may be others who are singing your praises and are grateful for your contribution.

Remember there's still more to be done.

You may feel satisfied with all that you have achieved.

Remember please don't get too comfortable for too long.

Because there's still more to be done.



Simply No Excuses....

I can't be a leader, I don't have enough experience."

"I can't give that presentation, I've never given one before."

"I can't help that person, I wouldn't know where to start."

Here's the deal.

You'll never be ready.

That fearful voice inside your head has a limitless number of excuses for not doing what you were born to do.

So go, then grow.

Learn on the job.

Surround yourself with great mentors.

Read voraciously.

Make mistakes.

Fail.

Embarrass yourself.

Realise that mistakes, failure and embarrassment aren't as bad as they seem.

Change your nation!!!



Some Time You Need A Small Victory...

Sometimes you have to believe that I can do it.”

Then reality sets in.

“I still believe that I can do it.”

But reality continues to suggest otherwise.

“I think that I can do it.”

But still nothing changes.

“I hope that I can do it, but I’m starting to doubt.”

Then you have a small victory.

“I can see a way forward now.”

Momentum starts to build.

“I think that I can do it.”

The evidence is now incontrovertible.

“I believe that I can do it.”

And now you are unstoppable!

Many of us have big goals and are looking for big victories, but sometimes all you need is a small victory to get back on track.



Yes, You Can.

Can you find work that is fulfilling and pays the bills?

Can you defeat your fears and doubts to create phenomenal work?

Can you develop the skills required to maximise your potential?

Can you overcome the obstacles in your path?

Can you find the time to do all that you need to do?

Can you wake up with passion and enthusiasm?

Can you stay positive in the face of adversity?

Can you work and hustle hard enough to achieve remarkable goals?

Can you become an expert in your field?

Can you keep delivering outstanding results come rain, hail or shine?

Can you become an inspiration and encouragement to others?

Yes, you can.

If you really want it enough, I have no doubt that you can.

And if you can, then I would suggest that you should.



Dont Hesitate To Commit Mistakes..

Every great writer has thrown out a lot of pages that were full of inadequate ideas.

That's just part of the process.

Every great athlete has missed a big shot on the big stage.

That's just part of the process.

Every great actor has fluffed a scene and had to re-do a simple take.

That's just part of the process.

Every great inventor has developed hundreds of prototypes that didn't work.

That's just part of the process.

But if that's the case, why are we so afraid of making mistakes?

Why do we avoid the big moments?

Why do expect perfection at all times?

When we realise that they are all a part of the process, we can relax and get to doing our best work, warts and all.



Do Not Afraid Of The Thorns...

It would be nice to have a nice cruisy life on a flat, straight road that takes us to our destination.

But so often we're walking on rocky ground.

The path is sometimes treacherous and we know that we have to watch our step so that we don't trip and fall.

So we sit and wonder, "Am I better off staying where I am, or should I risk the path?"

Those who make it in life are those who aren't afraid to walk on rocky ground to get where they need to go.

They understand that they can't always bound along, but they can still walk.

They know that there are times when they will trip, but they dust themselves off and get back up.

They walk with a limp, but they don't use their sore ankles as an excuse to give up.

They know that the rocky ground makes them stronger and more resilient than the smooth, straight path.

And they understand that the ground is rocky for others too, so they are happy to assist those who are struggling.

The ground at your feet may be rocky for you at the moment, but let me encourage you to keep walking, even if your progress seems slow.

It won't be easy and your knees will get grazed, but you will get there.



You Can Be Iconic....

“The Monk Who Sold His Ferrari,” Robin Sharma, recently said:

The victim believes the haters so stops the dream.

The icon knows that the better you become, the more you won't fit in.

Here's the deal.

You will be tempted sometimes to conform to the standards of everyone else around you.

To match them for mediocrity.

To aspire to nothing more than average.

But why fit in, when you were born to stand out?

You can get better.

You must get better.

You have so much potential, it's extraordinary.

You can be iconic.

You can change the world.



Someone Is Watching You...

Do you ever get the feeling that someone is watching you?

That they are looking over your shoulder?

That your efforts are being scrutinised?

Make no mistake about it, you are.

We want to see what you can do.

We want to see you shine.

We are looking for inspiration.

We are cheering you on.

And we believe in you.

We are watching, but in a good way.

Make us proud!



Inspire All Of Us..

Surprise yourself with how adventurous you can be.

Surprise yourself with how much you can get done in a day when you really put your mind to it.

Surprise yourself by starting (and finishing) that project you've been putting off.

Surprise yourself by learning something new and applying it in a practical way.

Surprise yourself by restraining yourself when necessary.

Surprise yourself by doing something innovative, creative or artistic.

Surprise yourself by pushing yourself past your usual limits.

Surprise yourself by smiling in the face of adversity.

Surprise yourself by believing in yourself and acting on that belief.

Surprise yourself...

and inspire the rest of us!



How To Be An Efficient Leader...

Dale Carnegie once said,

“People rarely succeed unless they are having fun in what they are doing.”

So my question today is, are you having fun?

Are you able to laugh at work?

Do others laugh with you?

Are you creating opportunities to interact in a light-hearted manner?

Or is it all huffing and puffing and endless wiping of brows?

Is there a culture of excessive seriousness?

Do leaders frown upon laughter as it makes it seem as though people aren't solemn or grown up enough?

Don't be afraid to have fun.

People will enjoy coming to work.

It will bring out their creative side.

It will reduce stress.

And quite frankly, it will increase your opportunity to be successful.



Forgive Yourself And Others..

We all make mistakes.

We all say things that we wish we could have taken back.

We all do.

Disappointments are a part of life.

There are times when we have got it wrong.

Times when others have wronged us.

Times when we are just desperately unlucky.

But they're moments.

They don't have to become monuments.

We don't have to build memorials to those times when life hasn't gone according to plan.

We don't have to stay in that place of hurt.

We don't have to turn a bad day into a bad week or a bad year.

Dust yourself off.

Forgive (yourself and others).

Smile.

Keep going.



Do You Have Any Message For Yourself

We all have messages that we tell others.

If someone asks us how we are doing, we respond with some like, “Good, thanks.”

Or perhaps, “Awesome!”

Maybe even, “I’m having a great day, how about you?”

It doesn’t matter if they’re not completely true, they are habitual, responses that we give without careful consideration.

And then there are the messages that we create on social media.

Photos of the kids winning races and receiving trophies.

Carefully constructed and edited selfies, ensuring that the makeup and hair is perfect. If you can see the double chin, keep going until you get it right.

Inspirational and pithy quotes designed to show how clever we are.

It’s a bit of a front designed to elicit nice responses from others, but is rarely a true reflection of our lives.

But more importantly, there are the messages that we tell ourselves.

Behind closed doors.

In the dark.

No-one else can hear them.

I hope that they’re positive and kind.

I hope that they keep you going.

I hope that they don’t dredge up all of the mistakes that you have made over and over again.

Life Skills

I hope that they don't paint you as a victim of your circumstances.

I hope that they inspire you to take action.

I hope that they enable you to look in the mirror and see what God sees.

Someone made in His image. Someone useful, valuable, lovable.

Incredibly unique, extraordinarily gifted.

What messages are you telling yourself?



Lesson From Football Superstar Cristiano Ronaldo..

Ronaldo once said, “If you think that you’re already perfect, then you never will be.”

Despite his obvious talent and natural skill, Ronaldo’s work ethic is legendary. Since a very young age, he has pushed himself on the training track harder than most of contemporaries, developing his skills and physical capabilities to a level reached by very few athletes.

Others may say that with all of his achievements he can ease up, but he knows that he can’t. It’s what sets Ronaldo apart from the rest.

So now over to you.

Are you continually pushing yourself to improve?

Are you satisfied with your achievements to date?

Is there more that you can learn?

Do you honestly think that you can rest on your laurels?

When you’re tempted to sit back and say that you’ve made it, remember, “If you think that you’re perfect, then you never will be.”

And then get back out there and keep getting better.



Dont Give Up After 100 Failures..

Don't aim for fame and fortune.

Don't aim for the adulation of the masses.

Don't aim to be recognised in the street.

Don't aim for overnight success.

Don't take short-cuts.

Don't give up after one (or 100) failures.

Just do what you do really well, every single day.

Aim for excellence.

Aim for consistency.

Look for opportunities to add value to your team, your clients, your field.

Look back on your portfolio with pride and satisfaction.

Aim for a job well done.

That will be enough.



Our Life Journey...

A young man once asked the sage in his village, “What’s more important, the journey or the destination?”

The wise man smiled and replied, “The Company.”

We forget that sometimes.

We get so fixated on our goals and our progress and our achievements that we forget that all of that doesn’t really matter if we don’t have friends and family and colleagues to share it with.

Management guru C. Maxwell once said, “If leadership is lonely, we’re doing it wrong.”

Let’s take others with us on our journey.

Let’s help them get to their destination.

Let’s laugh and smile and tell stories together.

Let’s look around and wait for others to catch up.

Let’s do this together.



Find Your Own Voice..

I love music and have a range of artists on my playlist.

Lataji, kishoreji, rafisahab, subbalaxmiji, Susheelaji, yesudas sir and PBS sir all sing to me regularly, their genius on display.

But as I listen to these wonderfully talented individuals, one thing strikes me.

They are each amazing singers, but they each have their own voice.

They are brilliant, yet different.

“But who is the best?”

“They are all great in their own way. The best is a matter of opinion,” is my standard opinion.

Like me, you may not be a great singer, but you can still be great at something.

And whilst there may be others who are elite at what you do, you can still be great in your own way.

With your own voice.

And your own perspective.

And your own way of expressing your capabilities.

Feel free to be influenced by the icons in your field, but find your own voice.

That’s what we’re looking for.

That’s what you’re called to deliver.



Are U Nail Or Hammer..

Some people are like a nail.

They are happy to be hidden away with all of the other nails, waiting to be struck into a wall somewhere.

They are anonymous.

They are replaceable.

Their whole life is impacted and influenced by external sources.

Other people are like a hammer.

There is only one of them in the toolbox and they are the ones who do the striking.

They stand out.

They are useful.

They impact and influence the world around them.

Of course, such implements don't get to choose what they are or what their role is.

But you do.

Choose wisely.

Make a difference.



You Are Truly Great..

We recognise greatness in world cricketer.

It's easy to see how good they are, especially when compared with their opposition.

We recognise greatness in extraordinary musicians.

What they do moves us, amazes us, entertains us.

We recognise greatness in phenomenal leaders.

They have the ability to inspire us and compel us to work towards something remarkable.

Similarly, we recognise greatness in teachers, doctors, nurses and others.

But what about when you look in the mirror?

Do you recognise the greatness in yourself?

Do you know what you are capable of?

Do you really understand your true potential?

It's there.

Believe me, it's there.



You Me And All Of Us.

It's not up to them to change the world, it's up to us.

It's not up to them to help those in need, it's up to us.

It's not up to them to bring peace and defuse volatile situations, it's up to us.

It's not up to them to take the first step towards reconciliation, it's up to us.

It's not up to them to take charge and lead, it's up to us.

It's not up to them to make our communities safer and cleaner, it's up to us.

It's not up to them to raise the next generation, it's up to us.

Note: There is no them, only us. We're all in this together and we're all responsible for making the world a better place.



Imagine An Extra Ordinary Future..

Where you are doing your best work at a world-class level.

Where your influence is greater than you could imagine.

Where you are able to make a decent living doing work that you love.

Where you are healthy and energetic.

Where you are making a positive difference in the world that will last well after you're gone.

Where your relationships with your spouse, your kids and significant others are flourishing.

Where every day is seen as an opportunity to do amazing work.

Now take that future and write it down.

Be very clear about what you want and write it in the present tense.

Now stop dreaming and make it happen!



Be A Wholesale Distributor Of Hope....

When people look to you in desperation, be a dealer of hope.

When they are seeking words to help them on their walk, give them something to look forward to.

When the walls are crashing in and turmoil is all around, allow your calmness to bring needed solace.

When the clouds look dark and bleak, point to the blue sky beyond and a brighter future.

When your team is struggling and on their knees, lift them up with a strong arm and a warm smile.

When they look for reasons to complain, give them reasons to be grateful.

It's easy to deal in misery and anxiety.

To highlight the myriad of reasons to give up in despair.

We need optimists.

We need positive people.

We need dealers of hope.

And we need you to deliver it.



Your Visiting Card..

At the end of an interaction with a new contact or client, it's customary to leave a visitingcard.

Of course, you can do it the old-fashioned way and give them a piece of card with your name and number on it.

Or you could leave them with something more impacting and longer lasting.

They can walk away impressed by your passion.

They can recall your knowledge and wisdom.

They can appreciate your generosity.

They can be grateful for your encouragement.

They can feel better about themselves because you took an interest in them.

Of course, there is also a possibility that they leave you shaking their head, wondering if you're the right person to help them.

The good news is that this is your visiting card, your reputation, your opportunity to impact.

You get to decide what it says.



Past Or Future..

Are your memories more vivid than your dreams?

Do you spend more time contemplating the past, or planning for the future?

Are you thinking about your regrets, or ensuring that you don't have any?

Are you dwelling on past missed opportunities, or looking for your next big break?

When you remember, are you focusing on your past failures or replaying your finest moments?

And when you dream, are there ropes holding them down, or do you let them float to the heavens?

Our minds are incredibly powerful.

When they control us, they can significantly limit our capacity to make the world a better place.

But when we take charge of our thoughts, they can equip us to do remarkable things.



No One Was Born Great..

I believe that everyone was born for greatness, but no-one was born great.

Great leaders, artists, explorers, athletes, inventors, teachers, influencers and thinkers, were not born that way.

Greatness doesn't come exclusively from a particular country, race, religion, gender or set of fortunate economic circumstances.

Because no-one was born great.

People who have reached greatness did so because:

they honed their skills over many years.

they rose and fell and rose and fell and rose again.

they were disciplined and focused.

they saw problems as challenges to be solved.

they never stopped learning and growing.

they refused to listen to the critics.

they refused to be critics.

they didn't settle for second best from themselves.

they were passionate and maintained their enthusiasm in the face of negative circumstances.

they were people of grand ideas and grander actions.

they identified what they were placed on the planet to do and did it. Brilliantly.

No-one was born great.

They became great.

And you can too!



I am Sure One Day You Will Achieve The Greatness...

Once Amitabh Bachchan has this to say about success in KBC..

“Success isn’t always about greatness. It’s about consistency”. Consistent hard work gains success. Greatness will come.

It’s easy to be tempted to aim solely for greatness.

To continually compare and assess your exploits against those of your peers or others within your field.

And in doing so, it’s easy to become impatient and demoralised by our apparent lack of progress.

I can’t guarantee that success is around the corner.

I don’t know if it will take weeks, months, years or decades to achieve your goals.

But if you work hard every day and stay focused on improving your skills and results, greatness will come.

And what I love about this concept is that it’s not reliant on others, or circumstances, or luck, or talent alone.

These factors may speed up the process or make it seem easier, but you don’t get to control them.

But you do get to control how consistently you work.

Every day.

Every single day.

Greatness will come.



Are You Looking For A New Job???

I hear many of people use the phrase, “I’m looking for a new challenge,” when describing why they are moving on from their current role.

Then, when they talk about the next role that they would like to go for, it seems remarkably similar to the job that they are looking to leave.

There are no additional responsibilities, no opportunities to utilise different skills, no stretching of boundaries.

In essence, when they use the phrase, “I’m looking for a new challenge,” they’re really saying, “I’m bored, surely anything else must be better than this.”

The bad news is, if you take the same attitude into a new role, after a while, you will experience the same level of dissatisfaction that you felt at the last place.

But there is good news.

You can look for a new challenge.

But it’s not found by changing your circumstances or job.

It’s found within.

If you want a new challenge, look in the mirror and challenge yourself.

Challenge yourself to:

learn new skills,

become more influential,

take more risks,

follow your dreams,

solve challenging problems,

Life Skills

deliver better service and products,
become world-class,
truly maximise your potential,
become more passionate and enthusiastic about your work,
make a greater contribution to the people around you.
In short, challenge yourself to be the very best you can be.
You'll never get bored or jaded with that!



Life Has Given Us Two Teachers..

One of the books that I'm reading at the moment is Wayne Cordeiro's "The Divine Mentor." In it, Wayne reminds us:

"Life has given us two very effective teachers. Both are topflight instructors, but neither comes cheap. While both are effective, both require something of us. We have to choose one or the other, and if we choose neither, the second will be chosen for us. The teachers are Wisdom and Consequences."

Wisdom and consequences.

You can commit your life to searching for wisdom.

You can learn how to make better decisions.

You can do the work and pay the price required to gain the instruction that you need to live your best life.

You can develop strategies and take action that will help you to maximise your potential.

Or you can suffer the consequences.

You can live in ignorance.

You can repeat the same year over and over again.

You can go to a dead-end job and wonder why things don't get better.

Wisdom and consequences.

Both of them are difficult.

One of them is inevitable.

Which one you get is up to you.



There Are No Guarantees Of Success..

I wish I knew what was at the finish line.

I wish that I could guarantee that you will win.

I wish that I could tell you that there are riches, glory and fame waiting for you.

I wish that I could assure you that there's a big trophy with your name on it.

I wish that I could affirm that you will cross the line looking fresh as a daisy and ready to go again.

And it would be nice if there were lots of fans cheering you on and applauding your efforts.

But it may not work out that way.

Maybe you won't win, perhaps you'll come last.

Maybe there are no riches, no glory, no fame, no trophy just continued anonymity.

Maybe instead of feeling fresh, you'll be limping and disheveled.

Perhaps the applause that you've been eagerly anticipating has been replaced by a few sneering critics telling you that you've been wasting your time.

It's even possible that instead of a finish line, you find out that there is still a long way to go.

There are no guarantees of success, but that doesn't mean you shouldn't try.

It also means that you should probably enjoy the journey, just in case you don't get the grand finale that you are yearning for.

I don't know what is at the finish line, but I do know what there is for those who never take off from the starting line.



No Shortcut To Success..

If you're designing a building, the cheapest and quickest way to do it is to use pre-fabricated concrete panels.

They're put together in a factory somewhere, transported to the site and then are put into place by a very clever crane-operator and his crew.

Instant wall.

It's much faster than building brick by brick.

Much less expensive.

Much more convenient.

Alas, sometimes, we fall into the trap of thinking that there's a pre-fabricated solution to becoming successful or highly skilled.

There isn't.

You still have to build your reputation, your skill-set and your brand brick by brick.

Day by day.

Moment by moment.

Action by action.

No short-cuts, no hacks, just years of diligent, focused work.



Will You ??

Sometimes, it feels as though life just kicks you badly.

Everything's going swimmingly until out of nowhere, it all spins out of control.

And then you're lying on the ground, blood spilling from your nose, eyes all blurry, with everyone watching.

Some people were waiting for this moment to clap and laugh and to celebrate.

Some are as surprised as you are and express their sympathy.

But none of that matters, all you know is that it hurts like hell.

In that moment, you have a choice.

You can stay there.

Deflated

Defeated.

Destroyed.

Or you can muster all of your strength and stagger to your feet.

You can rise again.

You can return to the fray.

You can inspire us with your resilience.

Getting kicked in the head doesn't define the winners and losers. It happens to us all sometimes.

But our response does define our status.

The champions always get back up.

Will you?



Ask, Seek And Knock..

Most people have a Plan A for reaching their goals.

It's a strategy that they've devised that they hope will get them closer to their ideal future.

They read it somewhere, they heard about it from someone or they came up with the strategy themselves and they think that they've found the magic bullet for success.

But life isn't always that easy and the first thing that you try doesn't always work.

So what do you do then?

Do you give up?

Do you adjust your goals to something less ambitious?

Or do you go to Plan B?

But what if Plan B doesn't work?

I would suggest that you try Plan C.

Then D, E, F, G & H.

Whatever it takes, don't give up.

Learn from your mistakes.

Ask, seek, knock.

Most successful people didn't reach their goals because the first thing that they tried worked.

They got there because they kept persevering, even if it meant persisting beyond plan Z.



Who Is The Fool..

The person who is trying to change the world, or the person who laughs at him for trying?

The person who tried and failed, or the person who never tried at all?

The person who's trying to find innovative solutions, or the person who's coming up with reasons why they won't work.

The person who is (seemingly) recklessly pursuing her dreams, or the person who goes every day to a (seemingly) safe job that they hate for 40 years?

The person in the arena playing the game to the best of his abilities, or the spectator who's jeering and mocking their efforts?

The person who is trying to learn because they are aware of how much they don't know, or the person who thinks that they know it all?

Make sure that you're the right kind.



Just Keep Going..

Do It Anyway

Don't feel like it?

Do it anyway.

Scared?

Do it anyway.

Not sure if you will succeed or fail?

Do it anyway.

Don't think you can do it perfectly?

Do it anyway.

Can't see anyone else trying?

Do it anyway.

Not sure if anyone is watching?

Do it anyway.

You can't change the world through inaction or excuses.

Only by giving it a go.



You Have Just One Life To Live...

Do you remember the person who gave up?

Do you remember the person who never took a risk?

Do you remember the person who stopped learning?

Do you remember the person who wandered aimlessly from day to day and job to job?

Do you remember the person who thought that it was OK to be average?

Do you remember the person who never aspired to anything?

Do you remember the person who never set any meaningful goals?

Neither does anybody else!

You have one life to live.

Make it memorable!



Only Hope Is Not Sufficient...

Are you hoping for a better tomorrow, or are you working for it?

Are you hoping to build a great career, or are you working for it?

Are you hoping that your relationships will get better, or are you working for it?

Are you hoping that your health will be OK in the long-term, or are you working for it?

It's important to have hope.

It's important to have a positive attitude about the future.

But if you're not backing up your optimism with action, your future may not be as bright as what you are hoping for.



Are You A Original Or Duplicate..

There is one Mona Lisa, but millions of replicas.

The original is priceless, the replicas can be purchased in the gift shop for a few rupees.

We all know who painted the original, but we have no idea who copied the replicas.

The original took great skill, but all the replicas needed was a fancy printer.

People travel from all across the globe and queue for hours to see the original, but just cast a passing glance at a replica.

And then there's you.

You can be the original masterpiece that you were created to be.

Priceless.

Remarkable.

Extraordinary.

Or you can play it safe and try to be a cheap replica.

Expendable.

Mediocre.

Innocuous.

The choice is yours.

The benefit is ours.



One Day I am Going To Change..

One day I'm going to...

Start a business

Get a better education

Lose 20 kilograms

Be a better parent, boss, spouse etc.

Write a book

Make more sales calls

Start saving money

Be more positive

Stop smoking

Read more

Stop losing my temper

Change the world

One day, one day, one day...

One day never comes.

But there is today.

So stop procrastinating and make today your one day.



Post Covid Uncertainty...

Uncertainty is one of the few things that we can be certain about in life.

And whatever we do, we can never be absolutely sure about what the future holds.

But uncertainty can be uncomfortable, so we try to avoid it.

We try to find safe, secure jobs (Government jobs ??) even if they are mundane and meaningless.

We try to control our relationships (male dominated) even if that means we limit their potential.

We only read books by people we already agree with (if we read at all specially current generation reading books is a question mark.), so that our worldview isn't challenged.

We prefer the guaranteed sale, the easy win, the life without surprises.

We prefer certainty.

But what if, instead of avoiding uncertainty, we embraced it?

What if we spent more time with people with different backgrounds, different religions, different political persuasions who could challenge us and cause us to think, change and grow?

What if we understood that life is less about controlling the outcome and more about maximising it?

What if we became less anxious about the future and more resilient during times of change?

What if we replaced our fear of uncertainty with hope for a better, if unknown, future?

Life Skills

What if we understood that we don't need to see the whole staircase, we just need to take the next step?

I honestly don't know what the next day, week, month, or year will bring.

Sometimes, that scares me and sometimes that excites me.

My prayer today is that we each learn to embrace the uncertainty more and more as we endeavour to increase our influence, maximise our potential and live a life that's worth living.



Opportunity Is Evey Where...

Ants seem like they're everywhere.

They scurry about on their little adventures and it's not hard to find them.

I sometimes wonder, are these the same ants that I saw yesterday or are they new ones?

I could squash them, spray them, call the exterminator.

But still there are ants and they are everywhere.

A bit like opportunities.

They are everywhere and you really don't have to look too hard to find them.

You can ignore them, you can deny their existence, you can wonder if they're for you.

Let me assure you today.

They are real.

They are for you.

Sometimes we fall into the trap of asking, "When am I going to get an opportunity?"

When instead we should be asking, "What am I going to do with the opportunities that are in front of me?"



The Harder I Work The Luckier I Get....

It's easy to look for the one big hit.

The video that goes viral.

The million dollar idea.

The instant, overnight success story.

However, instead of the one big hit, aim for that one thing that you can do a thousand times.

Instead of hoping to get lucky, take luck out of the equation through consistent, diligent excellence.

Instead of an outcome that you can't replicate, focus on activities that you can repeat and improve over and over again.

Because success doesn't come from one moment of good fortune.

It comes from years of discipline, focus, sweat and persistence.

And if you are hoping for luck, remember what Robin Sharma said, "The harder I work, the luckier I get."



Will You Succumb Or Conquer...

There is a lonely tree that hangs grimly onto a cliff-face somewhere, with no visible means of support.

There is a lion who launches at a passing deer and grips tightly with its claws and teeth, being dragged along by its prey.

That same deer kicks and leaps and does everything that it can to escape the clutches of its predator.

There is an eagle flying against the strong gales of the coast, flapping hard against the power of the wind and slowly making progress.

There is a forest, burned by terrible flames. Blackened and seemingly dead, except for a new green shoot that sprouts and gives hope.

There is a glacier, slowly, inexorably moving down a mountain towards the coast, crushing everything in its path.

And then there's you and your situation.

Will you give up or hang on?

Will you succumb or conquer?

Will you settle for an average life, or display the extraordinary tenacity required to do remarkable things against the odds?



Be Proud Of Your Scars..

Last week, we finally received the centre table that we had ordered a few months ago.

We wanted enough storage in the bottom so that we could keep some news paper and magazines.

It was crafted by a local furniture maker to these specific measurements and they have done a great job.

But of course, being made of wood, it has its imperfections.

There are marks and knots in the surface of the table.

But to me, it's the imperfections that make it unique and give it character.

They make turn it into a conversation starter.

They ensure that it's not just a run of the mill, garden variety, mass produced piece of furniture, but it's one of a kind and it's ours.

We all have our imperfections.

Our scars.

Our quirks.

There are elements to our personalities that we would rather hide and we wish that we were normal just like everyone else.

The reality is that no-one is completely normal, we're all a little bit weird.

And that's OK.

Your imperfections are unique and are an important part of what makes you who you are.

There is no-one else on this planet quite like you.

And I think that's glorious.

Life Skills

You were created for a purpose.

Made in the image of God.

Not mass-produced but a masterpiece.

Designed in a way that no-one else is, so that you can make a positive difference in the world that no-one else can make.

So embrace who you are.

Be proud of your scars.

You're a wonderfully, imperfect person.

And that's what we love about you.



Say Something Nice..

Who remembers their mum saying, “If you don’t have anything nice to say, don’t say anything at all.”

In a world full of hate-speech, trolling and anonymous keyboard warriors, it sometimes feels as though the world would be a very quiet place if we all listened to our mums.

But I suspect that we don’t have to be quiet.

I suspect that there’s always something nice to say.

A word of encouragement.

An acknowledgement of a job well done.

A quick thank you.

A positive quote or motivational story.

A gentle prompting to keep going.

A prayer.

If you don’t have anything nice to say, you’re probably not trying hard enough to think of something.



Try Harder And Try It Again..

When there's a door of opportunity in front of you, don't just stare at it, waiting for it to open.

Go up and knock.

Ring the doorbell.

Try the doorknob.

Try it again.

Try it harder.

Bang on the door with your fists.

Try to force it open.

See if you can pick the lock.

Then, if no-one responds or you can't open the door by any means, move on to the next door.

And if you can't open that door, move on to the next.

And if every door in the corridor is locked, move on to the next corridor.

Staring at a door won't open it.

But if you keep knocking and trying, eventually you will a way in.



Horses Are Always Better Than Camels...

Why People Prefer Horses to Camels

Camels are able to travel without water for much longer periods than horses.

Camels can carry heavier loads than horses.

Camels are less likely to bolt after being scared than horses.

Camels don't need to be shod, so they can be less expensive to keep than horses.

However, camels have a reputation as being much more unpredictable, surly and stubborn than horses. As a consequence, people prefer horses.

In the workplace or any other organisation, it doesn't matter how qualified, capable, efficient or knowledgeable you are.

If you're grumpy, surly, argumentative, stubborn, short-tempered, moody, negative or emotionally unpredictable, people will almost always prefer to work with those who are easier to get along with.

If you want a flourishing career, to be a better salesperson or to be a more impacting leader, remember that people prefer horses to camels.



The World Is Full Of Opportunities..

I spy with my little eye something beginning with O.

Obstacle?

No, opportunity.

I spy with my little eye something beginning with C.

Competitor?

No, collaborator.

I spy with my little eye something beginning with P.

Problem?

No, potential.

I spy with my little eye something beginning with C.

Complaint?

No, chance to do better.

Some people look at the world and all they see are a range of reasons not to do anything with their lives.

Others look at the world and see immeasurable opportunities to do something amazing.

Both groups are looking at the same world, but what we focus on is what we inevitably get.

What do you spy in the world around you?

And how would your life change if you were more optimistic?



True Definition Of Success..

We often think of success in terms of how we compare to the people around us.

Do we have more money, more prestigious jobs, expensive cars, expensive life style or greater reputations?

If so, we may consider ourselves to be successful, if not, we may berate ourselves and feel as though we have underachieved.

Last week at a meeting I met a gentleman who reminded me that there are other, more resourceful ways of measuring success.

This elderly man had a weathered face that clearly had a story to tell.

He gently shook my hand and explained that he had been an alcoholic for 52 years, but would be celebrating that he had been sober (left alcohol) for seven years this week.

What a terrific achievement!

His measure of success isn't against anyone else, but against the person that he was seven years ago.

He may never compose a great symphony, be a leader in business or write a best-selling book, but he is a genuine success story.

He is a man who has battled some serious demons and won.

I'm sure that many people would walk past him in the street and think very little of him, but I have a new definition of success.

It's not how you compare against everyone else, but how you compare against who you were a few years ago.

Have you won your battle against a particular challenge?

Have you learned new skills?

Life Skills

Have you made a contribution to those around you?

Thanks to my new friend for this reminder and I hope that he enjoys his anniversary with a nice glass of orange juice.



Great Slaves. But Terrible Masters.

I Love Chocolate, I Hate Chocolate

I love chocolate.

I'm a bit of a chocoholic and can eat it in abundance.

You know how chocolate melts if you hold it in your hands for too long? (Just imagine the advertisement).

That doesn't happen to me, I eat it too quickly.

I love chocolate, but I'm also conscious of the impact of eating too much of it.

And so I hate it, because it gets me every time and adds inches to my waist-line.

I hate it for tasting so good that I just want more.

I love it and I hate it!

For some people, it's chocolate or some other food that they have a love/hate relationship with.

For some it's Facebook, TV, alcohol, shopping, the Internet, or some other perceived vice.

It may be something that isn't particularly wrong, but you know that it's not right for you.

There are many aspects of life that are great in moderation, but damaging in excess.

They are great slaves, but terrible masters.

Whatever it is, you can control it.

You can say no.

You can take charge again.

Life Skills

I love chocolate, but I'm determined to make sure that I don't love it so much that it damages my health.

What do you love (and hate)?



A Quote With Life Lesson.

“You don’t drown by falling in the water; you drown by staying there.”

It’s a timely reminder that it’s not our problems that defeat us, it’s our inability to come up with resourceful solutions to them.

Sometimes, we get caught in the trap of focussing on our circumstances.

We think that we’re defeated and if we go on thinking that way, we are.

Let me encourage you today to keep your head above water, to keep swimming, to find a way to make it through whatever challenges are in your way.

It’s easy to allow one mistake to sidetrack our endeavours, but don’t let that happen to you.

One bad eating day doesn’t need to destroy your weight loss aims.

One bad customer interaction doesn’t need to hinder you from reaching your sales targets.

One negative comment doesn’t need to stop you from sharing your ideas.

One day of inaction doesn’t need to turn into a life of lethargy.

You may be down at the moment, but you don’t need to stay there.

Through persistence, a positive attitude, hard work and innovative ideas, you can come up out of the water. Dripping wet and smiling!



We Need Your Very Best..

Sometimes you think that no-one notices... be your best anyway.

Sometimes everyone around you just goes through the motions... be your best anyway.

Sometimes your job seems pointless and menial... be your best anyway.

Sometimes you can get away with less... be your best anyway.

Sometimes you just don't feel like it... be your best anyway.

Sometimes even your average is better than the best of others... be your best anyway.

Sometimes you feel as though your circumstances have conspired against you, giving you the perfect excuse to underachieve... be your best anyway.

In all circumstance, at all times, whatever it is you're doing. Be your best!

There are enough people in the world who are content with average.

Don't let that be you.

Set the bar higher.

We need your very best!



The Importance Of Your Job..

Where are you working right now?

Is it just a job or is it the job?

Is it something that you turn up to most days and just go through the motions, or is your heart in it?

Do you dread Monday mornings, or are you excited by the prospect of another week of meaningful work?

Do you do it because it pays the bills, or doesn't it matter how much you get paid?

What about the job that you're thinking about applying for?

Is it just a job? Are you applying because you are desperate to leave your current role?

Or is it the job? The one that you've been dreaming about and preparing yourself for over the past few years?

Life is short, but our careers take up such a big chunk of time that it seems like a waste to me to just be doing a job.

Why not find the job?

It does exist.

If you're willing to look hard enough.

Do you need to start looking?



There Is Always Tomorrow..

Your arm may be broken, but it will heal.

You may be limping, but you will move freely again.

Your heart may be in pieces, but it will get better.

Your dreams may be shattered, but they can still be restored.

Your confidence may be crushed, but it can be rebuilt.

You may have had a disappointing day, but there's always tomorrow.

You may be hurting, bruised, crushed, maybe even broken, but you will recover.

So hang in there.

Keep your head up.

Surround yourself with positive people.

And believe in yourself.

Because you may be broken, but you're not beaten.



Do You Attack Life....

When you wake up in the morning, do you jump out of bed with energy and vitality or do you press the snooze button and wish that you could stay under the covers all day?

When you have an important task to complete, do you get it done immediately or find an excuse to leave it to the last minute?

When you have an important opinion that needs to be heard, do you speak out or do you shy away?

When you have an innovative idea, do you pour your energies into making it happen or do you pretend that the idea never existed?

When you walk into a room of key contacts, do you initiate conversations or do you sit in the corner, waiting for someone else to approach you?

When you need to have one of those “challenging” conversations at work, do you smile and do it straight away or do you hope that everything magically gets better without your intervention?

Those who are successful in almost every aspect of life are those who attack their tasks with energy and optimism.

The mediocre majority are those who retreat from life’s opportunities, hoping just to get by, unnoticed and unremarkable.

Do you attack life or do you retreat from it?



No Risk No Gain..

It's one of the great paradoxes of the knowledge age we live in.

If you want to play it safe then you need to take risks and the biggest risk you can take is to play it safe.

You can try to maintain the status quo, but very soon one or all of the following will take place:

Your skills become redundant (and so do you).

Everyone passes you by.

You run out of ideas.

You read the manual.

You're boring.

You become controlled by fear.

You end up doing what everyone else thinks you should do.

No-one listens to you any more.

Then again you can take risks and here are a few of the potential rewards:

You learn from your mistakes.

You write the manual.

You become an exciting person to be around.

Your skills continue to develop.

You find that you have something of interest to say.

You become an expert in your field.

You become more and more fearless.

People want to follow you.

Life Skills

You end up in a career of your choosing.

Life's too short to play it safe and if by doing so you end up irrelevant then what's the point?

Take a few risks, do something different, reach for your goals, break out of your rut and start living. In the end it's the safest thing you can do!

What risk are you going to take this week that will potentially enhance your life?



A Cup Of Coffee Please..

It's the standard comment that most of us make on every morning.

So many of us need that morning caffeine fix to get us up and running for the day.

But what if there was another way to get us going?

What if you were so inspired by what you were doing that you didn't need a cup of coffee to get yourself started?

What if the energy that you needed came from within?

What if your cup of coffee was to help you to reflect with satisfaction on a job well done, not to delay starting one?

Of course, it's possible that you really do need a cup of coffee to face the day. If that's the case for you, just know that it doesn't have to be that way. Life and careers can be more rewarding.

To quote Lou Holtz,

“If you're bored with life...you don't get up every morning with a burning desire to do things...you don't have enough goals.”

Let's set some ambitious, meaningful and exciting goals and reclaim our burning desire to do great things, with or without coffee.



Will You Take The Necessary Risk...

When a painter displays a new piece, they risk being rejected.

When a singer/songwriter first performs a new song, they risk no one liking it.

When a writer submits a new manuscript, they risk being mocked.

When any artist puts their work on display, they put their reputation on the line again and become completely vulnerable.

They may seem to have a lot of confidence in their abilities, but they are still scanning their audience for a positive reception and checking the reviews for feedback that endorses their craft.

And so the artist has a choice.

Do they become vulnerable and risk rejection, or do they give up and try to be like everyone else?

You too have a choice.

You can create art with your work.

You can do something meaningful, passionate and truly creative.

You can invest energy and devotion into your daily activities.

And you can be completely vulnerable whilst doing it.

Or you can colour by numbers.

You can do things the same as everyone else and meet everyone else's expectations.

You can surprise no one and you can keep your dreams to yourself.

You can risk nothing and achieve nothing.

Vulnerability or anonymity.

We have enough of the latter, we need more of the former.

Will you take the risks necessary to bring your art to the world?



We Have Too Many Traffic Controller..

Near my home at the moment, there are quite a few road works being completed.

Along with them come the obligatory traffic controllers.

That's what they call the guys with the signs who stand by the side of the road.

The signs give you two options.

Stop or slow down.

Over the years, I've met a lot of people who seem to operate with these signs as well.

Whenever someone around them goes to try something new, they hold up the sign.

Stop or slow down.

Whenever someone in their team takes initiative and does something outside of their job description...

Stop or slow down.

Whenever someone sets the bar higher and displays ambition...

Stop or slow down.

Whenever someone under their leadership dares to apply for a role outside of their area...

Stop or slow down.

Whenever their kids have grand dreams and want to do something that no-one in the family has achieved before...

Stop or slow down.

Life Skills

Traffic controllers have an important role. There is a need to manage situations near road construction sites to ensure that there's no danger to the general population.

For the rest of us, let's change our signs.

Go for it or you can do it!



We Want A Success Story From You..

How Does an Ocean Start?

Is there already a massive amount of water that is used to start an ocean?

If there was, wouldn't it already be an ocean?

Or is one drop of water added to another drop?

And then another?

And another?

We want the finished product.

We want the success story.

We want the ocean.

But you don't get it in one go.

Otherwise, you would already have it.

You get it one small action after another.

It's not the answer that we want, but it's the only answer that we have.



Dont Imitate Be Original...

It's OK to be you.

Distinctively you.

Uniquely you.

Not a version of someone else you may admire.

Not a version of yourself that you think we want you to be.

You.

With all of your remarkable talents.

With all of your innate skills.

With your unique perspective and experiences.

With your quirks and eccentricities.

With your flaws.

You.

You may not be perfect, but you're still a masterpiece.

You're one of a kind.

Not just one in a million, one in almost 8 billion.

Wonderful.

Valuable.

Lovable.

You.

Be yourself.

Everyone else is taken.



Our Brothers And Sisters Of Afganistan....

The nation may seem dim.
Dark clouds may be hovering.
The future seems foggy.
There is far too much negativity and fear.
So bring the light.
Be a source of hope and optimism and laughter and joy.
Help those with heavy loads.
Bring peace and calm to those who are anxious.
We don't need more people telling us how bad things are.
We need more people who can help to make things better.
And the good news is, you can be one of those people.



A Perfect Tweet...

I recently read the tweet by someone, “I’m doing the best with what I have and that is enough.” A perfect quote for present time.

This is true for all of us.

If you’re doing your best, that’s all we can ask for.

And it is all that you can expect from yourself and the people around you.

So don’t compare.

Don’t be too hard on yourself.

Don’t set unrealistic, unfair expectations on yourself.

Just do the best with what you have.

That truly is enough.



Life Is Really Beautiful...

Holocaust (The period of Hitler) survivor and author of "The Happiest Man on Earth," Eddie Jaku says, "Life can be beautiful if you make it beautiful. It is up to you."

Remember, this isn't an ordinary person making this statement.

This is someone who has seen and experienced the very worst that humanity has to offer.

And he says, "Life can be beautiful."

Whether life is going well, or not so well.

Whether you're experiencing good fortune, or a wretched run of bad luck.

Whether you're part of a winning team, or surrounded by a bunch of losers.

Whether you look in the mirror and like what you see, or are harsh in your judgement of yourself.

Whether you think that your best days are ahead, or believe that it's only downhill from here.

Life can be beautiful if you make it beautiful.

It is up to you.



Absolutely Free.....

It doesn't cost you anything to have a good attitude.
You don't need talent.
You don't need luck.
You don't need an education or special training.
You don't need the people around you to demonstrate it.
You can demonstrate it for them.
Attitude is free.
So bring it every day.
Every single day.
In good times and bad.
Be positive.
Be generous.
Be persistent.
It won't cost anything, but it will still be a great investment.



Will You Please Define Your Job..

Someone was to ask you what you do, how do you describe your job?

Do you see yourself as just a teacher, or someone who inspires children to gain a lifelong love of learning?

Are you just a receptionist, or someone who creates a warm and friendly atmosphere?

Are you just a civil engineer, or someone who builds magnificent edifices that change the city landscape and houses that become homes?

Are you just a doctor, or someone who promote health by proper diagnosis and treatment to all stratas of patient.

Are you just a home maker, or are you raising resilient, optimistic and loving young people who will go on to change the world?

How you describe your work, to others and to yourself, says a lot about how you perceive what you do.

How you perceive what you do significantly influences the meaning and purpose that can be found within your job.

The meaning and purpose that you find in your work is the difference between making a living and making an impact.

How would you describe your job?



Evey One Have Insecurities But.....

We all have insecurities.

There are aspects of our lives that we feel uncomfortable with and the voices inside our heads take great delight in reminding us of our inadequacies.

It's time to stop focusing on your negatives.

You don't have to allow your fears, your flaws or your weaknesses to hold you back any longer.

Remember your strengths.

Remind yourself of your past victories.

Speak to yourself with kindness.

Know that God has a plan for your life.

Allow yourself to feel good about your future possibilities.

So hang up on your hang ups and take a call from the side of you that believes in your capability to change the world.



But Will You.....

I know that you can change the world.

I know that you can have a fulfilling career.

I know that you can overcome those obstacles in front of you.

I know that you can live a healthy lifestyle.

I know that you can live the life of your dreams.

I know that you can lead.

I know that you can maximise your potential.

I know that you can forgive those who have hurt you.

I know that you can dare to aspire to greatness.

But will you?



Happy Independence Day...

Encourage them.

Inspire them.

Serve them.

Teach them.

Connect with them.

Empower them.

Motivate them.

Lead them.

Help them.

Equip them.

Value them.

Enable them.

Show them.

Coach them.

Support them.

Bless them.

Not with a hidden agenda.

Not in the hope that one day others will make it all about you.

And I'm not talking about having a martyr syndrome where you just let others walk all over you.

I'm talking about choosing to do what you know to be right.

I'm talking about how to make your nation a better place.



Certainly That's You.....

One person...

With big dreams and bold aspirations...

With a lot of passion...

Taking lots of small steps...

With discipline and focus...

Who never gives up...

Who ignores the doubters...

Who acts in spite of fear and potential failure...

Who chooses to do something meaningful with their lives...

Can truly change the world.

And that one person can be you.



See You On The Stairs..

Wouldn't it be great if there was a lift that took you straight to the top? Where all that you had to do in life was step in, press a button and you arrive at your destination in a matter of seconds?

How much easier would it be for our finances, careers, relationships, health and parenting if the elevator did all of the work, while we just stood there listening to nice relaxing music, until the door opened and we stepped out on the top floor, ready to enjoy the spoils of success?

It would be great, but the lift is broken.

If you want to get to the top in your chosen area of expertise, you can't rely on something else to get you there, you have to take the stairs.

You have to start at the bottom and make gradual progress through persistence, hard work, enthusiasm, resourcefulness, goal-setting and a positive attitude.

Step by step.

Floor by floor.

There's no other way to genuine success.

No short cut, no easy way, no buttons to press on a lift somewhere. Just a lot of hard work and the satisfaction of a job well done when you get there.

If you ever wonder why so few people maximise their potential, perhaps it's because so many are standing in a broken lift, randomly pressing buttons, waiting for the ride to start and wondering why they aren't making any progress.

Don't let that be you.

See you on the stairs.



The Sick Globe Needs Your Kindness.....

Recently I read the given quote "No act of kindness, however small, is ever wasted."

Every time you help someone with a problem.

Every time you smile at the downcast.

Every time you teach a student.

Every time you do something practical for someone else.

Every time you provide a listening ear.

Every time you provide a meal for someone in need.

Every time you call someone who is lonely.

Every time you give to charity.

Every single time, it is valuable.

It is never wasted.

It makes the world a better place.



There Are Three Groups Of People. Which Group Are You In.....

Just imagine three groups of people.

The first group complains about everything.

They think that during pandemic the economy is tough which means that they have the perfect excuse for a mediocre career.

They feel threatened by change and resist it vigorously.

Their goal is just to get through the year.

They give up when the going gets tough.

They think that they've learned all that they need to and perhaps all that they can.

They feel as though they will never amount to anything, so they don't bother trying.

And everything that goes wrong is someone else's fault.

The second group is slightly more optimistic.

They're reasonably satisfied with what they've achieved so far in life.

They're generally liked by those around them and are careful not to offend anyone.

They're aware that they can do more with their lives, but suspect that the risk is too great to change.

They're happy to work in a team environment, but don't want to stand out from the rest.

They come into the office, put their head down, do their job and go home.

And their goals are trivial and uninspiring.

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The third group lives life with enthusiasm and energy.

They see every interaction, every meeting, every task as a great chance to do great work.

They push through the challenges in front of them.

They're always on the look-out for ways to upgrade their skills.

Their goals are ambitious and challenging.

They don't see the economy as an excuse, but an opportunity.

And they constantly inspire and motivate those around them.

Each of these groups have a different attitude to life.

And each one of these groups has chosen that attitude.

Which group will be the most successful in virtually any aspect of life?

Which group is most likely to earn the most money, have the best reputation, the most successful relationships and is most likely to make a significant difference in the world?

Which group are you in?

If you want a better life than the one you have now, remember...

Your attitude determines your altitude.

Choose wisely!



Many Organization Are Losing Good Employees Out Of Crab Mentality..

It is said that if you keep a solitary crab in a bucket without putting the lid on it will have no trouble escaping.

But if you have a bucket full of crabs, whenever one gets to the top and is about to escape, the rest of the crabs will reach out and pull him back down to the bottom with the rest of them.

It sounds like a lot of workplaces to me.

Someone comes up with a great idea, an innovative solution or wants to assist the organisation with committed work culture, others come in and “bring them back to earth.”

Often with a thud!

I've also seen a lot of managers subtly sabotage the aspirations of their people because they think that they can't replace them, so they find ways to keep them where they are through false promises, poor references or terrible advice.

Don't let that be you.

Don't be a naysayer.

When you see someone aspiring to live their dreams, instead of finding ways to bring them back to the pack, encourage them in their endeavours and allow yourself to be inspired by them.

Instead of pulling them back into the bucket, give them a helping hand to get out.

And when you look around, make sure that you're not surrounded by crabs.

Find people who will assist and guide you to be the best version of yourself.

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Find people who have escaped the bucket and are living the life that you want.

You may have been impacted by the crab mentality in the past, but that doesn't need to continue.

Break free and help others to do the same, because we weren't meant to live in a bucket.



We Proud Of You Ravi Kumar Dahiya...

There has been some consternation from certain pundits about athletes celebrating winning a silver medal at the Olympics.

They seem to think that only the gold medallist deserves this privilege.

As if being the second best in the entire world, missing out by .06 of a second and getting a medal for your efforts is some kind of participation award.

What a sad, mean-spirited way of looking at the world.

I can only imagine the hard work and dedication that it takes to become an Olympic athlete.

Not to mention to give yourself a chance of winning.

And then to come so close that you only have one other person or team ahead of you.

A silver medal is an extraordinary achievement and one to be cherished.

Just because some was slightly faster, slightly stronger or slightly higher shouldn't wipe away the smile.

So to all of those silver medallists in the Tokyo Games, well done, congratulations and celebrate as hard you as you see fit.

While the 7+million of us who could never even get close to your capabilities sit back and marvel.



Our Mindset Is Our Number One Enemy..

Damn You Keyboard

Sometimes, I hate you keyboard.

You just sit there and taunt me.

You look at me, daring me to write something.

You know that I have nothing but a few random, unallocated thoughts and you laugh at my indecision.

I stare at you.

But you don't respond, you just sit there and taunt me.

Eventually, I put aside my indecision and stop procrastinating.

I get to work.

I write a few words and then delete them ferociously.

I start again, even more frustrated than before.

Then the mind finally coordinates with the fingers and something flows.

The keyboard is no longer my enemy, but is now my work colleague and friend.

My stumbling block has become my tool.

The ideas begin to become words, then sentences, then entire paragraphs.

Just because I sat down to work.

Something marvellous happens when we sit down and get industrious.

The things that frustrated us suddenly conspire for us to achieve what

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we know we must.

And we realise (again) that it's not the keyboard that's the enemy, but our mindset of indecision and procrastination.

Bless you, keyboard.

I'll see you again tomorrow for our regular dance.



Never Under Estimate Self You Have Great Potentials....

A little boy once wanted to learn to swim.

His parents took him to the local swimming pool and enrolled him with an instructor.

After a few weeks, he had learned the basics of swimming and could perform a few strokes, travelling a few feet before stopping.

His parents cheered and clapped.

But the boy thought that he could still do better.

So he kept going to swimming classes and after a few more weeks, he was able to swim across the little pool that he was learning in.

His parents cheered and clapped.

But the boy thought that he could still do better.

He kept training and after a few more months he was able to swim an entire length of the main pool.

His parents cheered and clapped.

But the boy thought that he could still do better.

He kept training and was eventually able to turn and swim back the other way. After a few more months, he was able to complete a few laps of the pool in one effort.

His parents cheered and clapped.

But the boy thought that he could still do better.

He started to enter swimming competitions and eventually won his first race.

His parents cheered and clapped.

But the boy thought that he could still do better.

He went to the ocean and swam from the beach to a pier a few hundred metres away.

His parents cheered and clapped.

But the boy thought that he could still do better.

He entered an ocean race that was a couple of kilometres in length and won at the first attempt.

His parents cheered and clapped.

But the boy thought that he could still do better.

So he stood on the beach and looked out over the ocean, out to the horizon beyond.

He wondered what the limits were on what he could achieve and whether he had reached them yet.

And he aspired to something greater and set about planning how to achieve it.

We're all that little boy.

We all have some basic skills at something.

Let's not stop there.

Let's go from basic skills to competent.

From competent to good.

From good to great.

From great to expert.

From expert to world-class.

Look out to the horizon, dream big dreams and find a way to be magnificent.



We Expect Just One Masterpiece From You...

Many of us would like to create at least one masterpiece in our lifetime.

Write a book like R.K. Narayanan.

Paint a picture like Raja Ravi Verma .

Sing a song like great LataMangeshkar.

As I considered this thought it struck me that all creators of masterpieces didn't get lucky and have everything that they did become a classic.

I'm sure that all great composers and artists created a lot of rubbish that we don't remember.

They may have had different training, different inspirations, different backgrounds and different IQ's, but I suspect that they had one thing in common.

How do you create a masterpiece?

Create a lot of crap as well, because one day you'll get it right!

Keep trying, keep making mistakes and keep learning.

Just don't sit there waiting for the perfect idea or the perfect moment of inspiration.

I'm sure that R.K. Narayanan wrote a lot of essays that went straight in the bin, that Raja Ravi Verma had a lot of paintings that he couldn't be up to the mark and that Lataji sung many songs that never saw the light of day.

The world is waiting for your masterpiece and it understands that you won't get it right every time.

So start today, take action and create some genuine crap.

It will take you closer to your masterpiece.



Life Skills



Dr. R. Shridhar is a futurist, charismatic leader, celebrated motivational speaker: leadership trainer are the entrenched facts. Currently he is the Vice Chancellor of Kalinga University, Raipur, (CG). His ascend from a corporate milieu to a top management position is a chronicle of fortitude, hard work, and integrity. His leadership persona and connoisseur listening style are the outcome of life-long learning, conviction, and passions to follow his vision. Being an inspiration & a role model for many of his peers, subordinates, aspiring entrepreneurs and the students, he is bridging the prevailing islands between the academic sector and industries.

He is honestly dedicated for empowering Indian businesses by sharing healthier, sustainable management solutions and innovations for new startups. One of his most incredible leadership qualities is that he is thinking exceptionally beyond the horizons and providing hand on solutions for new feasible innovative startups. It was the power of his guidance and light of motivation during the COVID -19 pandemic crises due to which several people could take empathetic decisions with conviction to sustain proficiently from all angles and acclimatize to the multi-faceted changes during the contingency period.



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