

Success Strategies

The Potentialist Radio Show

“In the Pursuit of Purpose”

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In the Pursuit of Purpose

Dion C. Jordan

It has been said that the two greatest days in a person's life are the day a person is born and the day they find out why. Most successful people have found their reason why. Is there any doubt in your mind that Grammy Award singer Celine Dion was born to sing, or Martin Luther King was born to lead, or Olympic swimmer Michael Phelps was born to swim? One common trait that most Top performers share is that not only do they know WHO they are, but they know WHY they are.

Thomas Jefferson in his writing of the Declaration of Independence set an allusive goal and standard of living when he wrote "in the pursuit of Happiness". Catching and holding on to happiness can be as tricky as trying to catch the wind. I recommend taking a different route; don't pursue happiness, pursue purpose. Purpose is constant. According to national bestselling author John Maxwell, knowing their purpose in life gives a person stability. And when others around them start abandoning their causes and jumping ship when life gets tough, these people use this assurance to steady the boat, to ride out the storm, because they have a true North Star.

There are two schools of thought when considering finding your purpose. Some feel that we were created with purpose and it is up to all of us to discover what that purpose is. Others believe life does not have a design for you, but is to be designed by you. Regardless of which school of thought you choose to attend, you will soon find that both classes require a journey in self-discovery and mission.



Potentialist Point:

Focusing your life solely on making a buck shows a certain poverty of ambition. It asks too little of yourself, it's only when you hitch your wagon to something larger than yourself that you realize your true potential.

-Barack Obama President of the United States of America



Action Steps

Let me start by asking you a question. What is your mission? What guides you and inspires you? What gets you up out of bed in the morning? As a leader, what are your goals, objectives, dreams and/or governing values? Do you have a personal mission statement?

So what is a personal mission statement? It is a brief description of what you want to focus on, what you want to accomplish and who you want to become in a particular area of your life. For many of us we have never taken the time to really think about this. However, creating a mission statement is a great way to focus your energy, actions, behaviors and decisions towards the things that are most important to you.

So how do you create a mission statement? Well, there are certain aspects that show up in most mission statements. They include what you want to become or what you want to accomplish. Something else that is often reflected in one's mission statement are your values. After all, your values determine where you spend your time, energy and money. Therefore, they should be reflected in your mission statement.

We are going to take a few minutes to create your mission statement. Your mission statement is going to be your road map towards your own success. Look at the handouts that you have. I am now going to ask you a series of questions. All I want you to do is fill in the blanks in the proper order. Ready? Here we go. Write down the first thing that comes to your mind.

1. Write your name.
2. What are you passionate about?
3. Before my life is over I will _____ or die trying.
4. What special quality do you look for in a friend or co-worker?
5. What do you like most about yourself?
6. What is your greatest gift to the world?
7. If you had one career-related wish, what would it be?
8. What is one thing you would do if you knew you couldn't fail?
9. What is your greatest fear as it relates to your career?
10. Write your name once again.
11. In one positive word, how would you describe yourself?



My Personal Mission Statement

My name is (1)_____ and I am a young man who is passionate about_(2)_____. My life has meaning and my mission is clear. I am determined to (3)_____ and I will not be denied. People will know by my presence, when I walk into a room, that I am somebody. When it comes to others I will look for _(4)_____ within them. When it comes to me, I will let the pride of my_(5)_____ shine through. I am valuable because of who I am and what I have to offer the world, I have a gift of_(6)_____. Today I have decided to live my dream of becoming a_(7)_____, yet I reserve the right to change my mind. I have the tenacity and the audacity to _(8)_____ if I so desire. I will not shy away from my fear of_(9)_____ but rather use all my fears as fuel to make me stronger and propel me wherever I want to go. I am going to love the life I live, and I will follow my heart because I know it knows the way. My name is_(10)_____ and I am a _(11)_____ leader!

Signature



Now take a look at what you have written. Take time now to do one of two things. You can fill in what you wrote down to correspond to the numbers in the blanks on the next page. Or, you can choose to create your own mission statement. Using these questions and answers as a spark to help you consider what is important in your life.

Remember that your mission statement is not cast in stone. It will continue to change and evolve as you gain insights about yourself and what you want out of life.

THE BOTTOM LINE:

*Your mission statement does not have to be big. It does not have to change the world.
But it should be big enough to change your world.*

Put Your Purpose to The Test By Answering These Ten Questions:

1. The Ownership Question: Is your purpose really your purpose?

Let's face it, there are a lot of people out there who are not living their purpose simply because they are too busy living the purposes others placed on them. Search your heart and ask yourself is your purpose a passion you have for yourself or a position that has been bestowed upon you.

2. The Clarity Question: Do you clearly see your purpose?

Before your purpose can become a reality you need to have a clear vision of that purpose. What does it really look like? What does it feel like? Where will it take place and how will it be sustained? These and other questions can help you see your purpose more clearly.

3. The Reality Question: Are you depending on factors within your control to achieve your purpose? This isn't just a good question, it is the million-dollar question. If you are depending on other people and factors to make your purpose come true, then you are heading not towards your purpose but towards your nightmare! There is nothing more frustrating than depending on non-dependable people and circumstances. Remember, when living your purpose, you can only count on two people to make this purpose come true....You and your Divine help!

4. The Passion Question: Does your purpose compel you to follow it?

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This is the easiest of all the questions. If your purpose wakes you up in the morning and keeps you up at night, if your purpose reminds you of its existence on a daily basis and draws you to follow it, then you can say you have an active, alive, and awaiting purpose, ready to be fulfilled.

5. The Pathway Question: Do you have a Strategy to reach your purpose?

The old familiar saying rings true here: If you fail to plan, then you might as well plan to fail. Even the most vivid and tangible purposes need a strategy to bring it into fruition. (If you need a strategy visit our mentorship programs at www.dionjordan.com)

6. The People Question: Have you included the people you need to realize your purpose?

Although you are the number one factor in bringing your purpose to pass, there may be times we need the support of others. For example is your spouse on board? What about a mentor? I don't think I can over emphasize this point. You will save time, money and relationships by including the right people in your purpose pursuit.

7. The Cost question: Are you willing to pay the price for your purpose?

Have you considered what it will cost you for your purpose to become a reality? Have you made up in my your mind what you're not willing to give up in pursuit of your purpose. It most likely will cost you time, money, and countless sacrifices to reach your purpose. But it should never cost you your integrity, family or your values.

8. The Tenacity Question: Are you moving closer to your purpose?

Do you find yourself making progress towards your purpose on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis? I tell people all the time that you should never let a day go by without doing something towards your purpose. World renowned speaker Les Brown would say, "If you are casual about your purposes, your purposes will become a causality."

9. The fulfillment Question: Does working toward your purpose bring satisfaction?

This is what makes a purpose a purpose. The complete feeling of bliss and satisfaction that you are at the right place at the right time, doing the right thing for all the right reasons.

10. The Significance Question: Does your purpose benefit others?

This by itself is the right reason. If your purpose helps, inspires or benefits others in a positive way, then your purpose won't only be successful, but it will be significant as well.

Resources:

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