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The Secret of My Success Is...

If I could bottle the secret to success and hand it to you as a free gift, I would. As it turns out, success is a complex thing, and at the same time almost too simple to wrap our minds around. Complex in that your success, and your definition of success, is unique to you. And as humans, we tend to over complicate it by nature. Simple in that it is often just a shift in mindset that unlocks the door to your success.

There's certainly a lot more to success than money. There is life balance, personal achievements, lack of financial stress, free time – you name it. Money is not the ultimate solution. Not even to achieve lack of financial stress. There are people out there earning ridiculous figures that are stressed to the max.

I was a successful business owner, earning nice figures, long before I discovered “success”.

That turning point began when I created a clear vision of where I wanted to go, and what I wanted to achieve in my life. I sat down and created a 10-year plan, and from that point forward everything began to fall into place. It wasn't magic or some woo-woo experience, but rather that every single thought and action had a purpose. Every step I took, I took in the direction of my goals.

My turning point was precipitated by a shift in mindset as it turns out. While you may or may not share my personal beliefs, I was asked to share my story with you... and this is where it began:

Most of my life I was a victim of circumstance. I used to jokingly refer to myself as the Queen of Adversity. I was constantly reacting to life, and to decisions made by everyone around me. I was simply allowing my life to happen. And happen it will, all on it's own. You just may not like or enjoy the direction it chooses for you.

I was studying the Parable of Talents in the bible. Bible Study is something I enjoy in my personal life, so I've studied it quite a bit over the years. This particular parable was one I never truly understood. If you know the characters, you'll recall that one was given only one talent (monies) and hid it in the ground for safekeeping. He was then punished for not doing something productive with the talent he was given.

I always thought this was unfair. He didn't gamble the talent. He didn't lose the talent. He returned it to his master in full, without loss. Yet he was punished, and his talent was given to the more productive character – the one who (in my opinion at that time) took huge risks and could have easily lost it all.

As I sat down to study that parable again, it finally became clear to me. In fact, I felt I had finally figured out the purpose to life. We are each given talents. We are born unique, with a unique set of gifts and characteristics. It is our job to figure out what they are, and to use them to their full potential.

What an incredible and fun challenge! And how liberating to know YOU are in control!

Many people will passively float through life, expecting God or some higher power to direct and lead them where they should go. The bible says none of that. Others simply wake up and go to bed, day in and day out, and figure this is all there is to life.

The bible teaches personal responsibility. It teaches choice and wisdom, and also free will. Religious or not, these are powerful teachings and there is beautiful freedom in realizing that you CAN make a positive difference. You may not save the world (you're not meant to) but you can live an incredible life. A much better life than just eating and breathing and sleeping. A life of SUCCESS.

(As for saving the world, imagine how beautiful a place it would be if everyone were doing this!)

Have you ever noticed that some people just seem lucky. That some people seem blessed with options and opportunities? Have you also noticed that these are the proactive risk-takers? And those who study them with envy or resentment... are the people who are sitting on the sidelines taking zero risk?

My life changed dramatically the day I realized all of this. I found hope, felt encouraged, and found the energy to dust myself off exactly where I was, and start over from there.

I stopped believing someone could or would direct my life, and started taking specific action towards specific goals. The actual transformation took more than a year, but on the inside – where only I could see – it happened overnight. It's amazing what a simple shift in mindset can do for you personally, and how it can completely change your entire life as you know it. Right down to your bank account.

I know that you came here to learn how to make money, or make more money. And I hope that you have learned new skills and resources to help you achieve that. This particular piece was about “success” though – which I don't necessarily relate specifically to money.

To close, I'll share with you a few exercises that I have used to keep me on my success path since that light-bulb moment I had years ago. It changed my life, but it continues to obligate me to be true to it, and this is how I do that:

- Know your goals, without doubt. Keep your vision of those goals fresh in your mind at all times.
- For every decision, stop and ask yourself:
Does this take me closer to my goal, or distract me from it?
- Never respond or react blindly. Instead, *direct* and *create*.

My life is not perfect. I still get hit by tornadoes from time to time. But life is not meant to be easy, and the challenges and hurdles are put there to push you to greater strength and resolve. Take control, embrace life completely, and as for your fears and limitations... commit to proving them wrong.

Best,
Lynn Terry

p.s. Success is an incredible experience. Do *whatever it takes* to reach YOUR success!