

How to Get Rich Quick!

by Dr. David H. McKinley

People often view life from different perspectives as seen in the following bumper stickers:

Top 10 Bumper Stickers

- I can handle any crisis—I have children.
- Husband and dog missing—reward for dog.
- I am woman—I am invincible—I am tried.
- Forty isn't old if you're a tree.
- Life is uncertain, eat dessert first.
- PMS allows a woman to act once a month like man does every day.
- I've been dieting for a week and all I've lost is seven days.
- I still miss my ex-husband, but my aim is getting better.
- I've used up all my sick days, so I'm calling in dead.
- If at first you don't succeed, do it the way your wife told you to do it.

"The whole world is on a mad quest for security and happiness." —FRENCH PHILOSOPHER

HOW CAN I BE HAPPY?

Misconceptions about happiness:

- **Acquiring things will make me happy.**
Do not wear yourself out to get rich; have the wisdom to show restraint. Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone, for they will surely sprout wings and fly off to the sky like an eagle. PROVERBS 23:4-5
- **Achieving things will give me meaning.**
So now I hate life because everything done here under the sun is so irrational. Everything is meaningless, like chasing the wind. I am disgusted that I must leave the fruits of my hard work to others. And who can tell whether my successors will be wise or foolish? And yet they will control everything I have gained by my skill and hard work. How meaningless! ECCLESIASTES 2:17-19 (NLT)
- **Doing things will provide me with satisfaction.**
I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. JOHN 10:10

"Happiness is not about the right circumstances. Happiness is about the right attitudes and values in life."

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. MATTHEW 5:3

I. Acknowledge the Reality of Your Spiritual Poverty

We pay too much attention to surface issues in life. Most of our energy goes to things that are external—above the "water line."

Level 1: Physical & Material (above the surface)

Level 2: Internal & Spiritual (below the surface)

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"There is a god-shaped vacuum in every human soul that only God can fill." —BLAISE PASCAL

II. Highlight the Necessity of Your Personal Humility

What is the value of humility?

Humility . . .

- Broadens my focus
- Reduces my stress
- Improves my relationships
- Increases my gratitude
- Honors God

God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble. JAMES 4:6

"Make me an instrument of Thy peace."

—ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

III. Embrace the Reality of Your Eternal Reward

What a God we have! And how fortunate we are to have Him, this Father of our Master Jesus! Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we've been given a brand new life and have everything to live for, including a future in heaven—and the future starts now! God is keeping careful watch over us and the future. The Day is coming when you'll have it all—life healed and whole. 1 PETER 1:3-5

By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches and honor and life. PROVERBS 22:4

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How to Profit From Your Problems

by Dr. David H. McKinley

Life is often like a roller-coaster with up and down days. It's easy to feel overloaded and under resourced.

"Due to heavy workloads around here, the light at the end of the tunnel has been turned off until further notice."

People find themselves in one of three categories:

- Those in a crisis
- Those coming out of a crisis
- Those going into a crisis

When you find yourself in the "down days" of the roller coaster of life, you need to know how to deal with the pains and problems.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

MATTHEW 5:4

"... those who mourn" does not mean those who moan, complain, or are sullen.

Do not be like hypocrites with a sad countenance. MATT. 6:16

These words I speak to you are not incidental additions to your life, homeowner improvements to your standard of living. They are foundational words, words to build a life on. If you work these words into your life, you are like a smart carpenter who built his house on solid rock. Rain poured down, the river flooded, a tornado hit—but nothing moved that house. It was fixed to the rock. But if you just use my words in Bible studies and don't work them into your life, you are like a stupid carpenter who built his house on the sandy beach. When a storm rolled in and the wave came up, it collapsed like a house of cards. MATTHEW 7:24-27 (The Message)

The values of mourning (M-O-U-R-N):

Mobilize Your Sorrows

I walked a mile with Pleasure
She chattered all the way,
But there was nothing I could learn
From all she had to say.
I walked a mile with Sorrow
And never a word said she;
But, oh, all the things I learned
When Sorrow walked with me.

Open Your Heart

"I am sorry for the man who cannot feel the whip when it is laid on the other man's back." —ABRAHAM LINCOLN

"O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love; for it is in giving that we receive, it

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is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life!" —ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Understand Your Vulnerability

"I think that knowing what you cannot do is more important than knowing what you can do. In fact, that's good taste." —LUCILLE BALL

O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps. JEREMIAH 10:23

Repent of Your Sins

Repent means to change direction.

...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...
ROMANS 3:23

Narrow Your Focus

"Suffering and success go together. If you are succeeding without suffering, it is because others before you have suffered; if you are suffering without succeeding, it is that others after you may succeed." —DR. EDWARD JOHNSON

How to Be a Powerful Person

by Dr. David H. McKinley

10 Characteristics of a N.D.O. (North Dallas Over-achiever):

1. You live at Mach 2 with your hair on fire.
2. Perfection is your goal.
3. You never take time out for lunch—you'll eat whilst you work, whilst driving, whilst standing or walking.
4. You always feel driven, but aren't sure by what.
5. You speak too quickly.
6. Your mind is always racing, especially when you try to sleep.
7. You never have any "me" time.
8. You are only vaguely aware of speed limits, and have probably been caught speeding.
9. You are an excellent starter and poor finisher.
10. The thought of "doing absolutely nothing" is alien to you, especially when a cell phone is near.

"meekness"

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

MATTHEW 5:5

I. What Does Meekness Mean?

- Considerate Response
- Controlled Reaction

Meekness is strength under control.

Three ways to handle your reactions:

1. Release (express yourself)
2. Restrain (deny yourself)
3. Redirect (surrender yourself)

Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

MATTHEW 11:29

Two people in the Bible who exhibited meekness:
Moses and Jesus.

II. How is Meekness Measured?

Questions to answer:

When someone serves you, are you understanding or demanding?

When someone disappoints you, are you meek or judgmental?

"One who is meek will not attempt to push others around or arrogantly impose one's own will on subordinates or peers."

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When someone disagrees with you, are you tender without surrender?

1 Peter 3:1-4

In essentials, unity

In non-essentials, diversity

In all things, charity. —AUGUSTINE

When someone hurts you, do you retaliate or refrain?

Romans 12:17-21

"I will never allow another man to control me by my hating him." —BOOKER T. WASHINGTON

When someone corrects you, are you teachable or unreachable?

The primary condition for spiritual growth is to be meek before God

James 1:19-22: TEACHABILITY

III. Why Does Meekness Matter?

- It pleases God, 1 PETER 3:4
- It produces peace, MATTHEW 5:5
- It purifies witness. 1 PETER 3:15-16

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How to Want What You Get

by Dr. David H. McKinley

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled. MATTHEW 5:6

I. Investigate Your Inner Cravings

Five Fallacies of Fulfillment:

1. It is possible to experience everything and enjoy nothing.
2. It is possible to have a commended life—not a completed life.
3. It is possible to become successful, but find no satisfaction.
4. It is possible to assume quantity in life will assure quality of life.

He who loves silver will not be satisfied with silver; nor he who loves abundance, with increase. This also is vanity.

ECCLESIASTES 5:10

5. It is possible to be sincere and be sincerely wrong.

He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end. ECCLESIASTES 3:11

Delight yourself also in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of your heart. PSALM 37:4

"There is a God-shaped vacuum inside of every man only God can fill." —BLAISE PASCAL

So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD. DEUTERONOMY 8:3

II. Cultivate the Right Appetite

Why do you spend money for what is not bread, and your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, and let your soul delight itself in abundance.

ISAIAH 55:2

RIGHTEOUSNESS

Mental Focus: *Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good*

report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praise-worthy—meditate on these things. PHILIPPIANS 4:8

Relationship Interaction: *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.*

GALATIANS 5:22-23

Moral Purity: *Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality*

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sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's. 1 CORINTHIANS 6:18-20

III. Dedicate Your Life to Jesus Christ

And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst." JOHN 6:35

Bread and Water

On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." JOHN 7:37-38

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. MATTHEW 6:33

Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him! Oh, fear the LORD, you His saints! There is no want to those who fear Him. PSALM 34:8-9

"My most cherished possession I wish I could give to you is my faith in Jesus Christ, for with Him and nothing else, you can be happy, but without Him and everything else, you will never be happy." —PATRICK HENRY

How to Get Some Respect

by Dr. David H. McKinley

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

MATTHEW 5:7

If You Want Respect in Life . . .

• You Must Experience Mercy

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life . . . PSALM 23:6

A great way to feel valued and comforted is to reflect upon the mercy of God.

What is mercy? Kindness, tenderheartedness applied to my greatest need where justice would demand a sentence.

Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23

You cannot exhaust the mercy of God.

• You Must Express Mercy

Mercy makes me compassionate, not critical.

"Never judge a man until you have walked in his shoes."

"Don't find fault with a man who limps or stumbles along the road, unless you've worn the shoes he wears or struggled beneath his load. There may be tacks in his shoes that hurt though hidden far from view, or the burden he bears placed on your back might cause you to stumble too."

Mercy causes me to serve those who suffer.

"Into every life some weirdos must fall."

. . . warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all. 1 THESSALONIANS 5:14

Mercy extends forgiveness to those who are fallen.

Dear brothers and sisters, if another Christian is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself. GALATIANS 6:1 (NLT)

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Mercy challenges me to confront rather than overlook (conceal) sin in others.

. . . with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth. 2TIMOTHY 2:25

Mercy allows me to encourage my enemies.

And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful. LUKE 6:33, 36

• You Can Expect Mercy

Matthew 5:7 expresses a proportionate principle: you get what you give.

"Do all the good you can by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, for as long as you ever can!" —JOHN WESLEY

How to Maintain Good Motives in a Mixed Up World

by Dr. David H. McKinley

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

MATTHEW 5:8

What motivates you?

Examine the Meaning of a Pure Heart

Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life. PROVERBS 4:23

“Heart” = “reflection”—thinking
 “emotion”—feeling
 “decisions”—choosing

What makes a pure heart?

Purged of Impurity
Unmixed in Motive
Resolved in Commitment
Excellent in Quality

Elevate the Marks of a Pure Heart

A pure heart makes me ...

• authentic in worship

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. MATTHEW 23:27

• transparent in relationships

Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. JAMES 3:13-17

• diligent in my work

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. COLOSSIANS 3:16, 23-24

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• grateful in my circumstances

... in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 THESSALONIANS 5:18

You can increase your GQ (gratitude quotient)

1. Maintain a “top ten” list of things for which you are thankful.
2. Mark the achievements and accomplishments of others and commend them.
3. Make it your habit to write, call, or say something to people of value in your life to remind you and them of your gratitude for them.
4. Memorize scriptures on the importance of giving thanks.
5. Move your mindset from pity to praise.

Explore the Means to a Pure Heart

Who can say I have cleansed my heart, I am pure from my sins? PROVERBS 20:9

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.

EZEKIEL 36:26-27

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