

NEVER STOP GROWING!



Series Introduction

Success in Life:

- Knowing my purpose in life
 - Growing to my potential in life
 - Sowing seeds to benefit others in life
- John Maxwell

“The key to progress and success in 2007 is not based on the goals you establish, but on the growth you achieve.”

I. Why Study the Subject of Growth?

A. Growth is essential for life.

“A useless life is only an early death.”
—Goethe

B. Growth provides energy in life.

Growth:

- Fuels my dreams
- Shapes my decisions
- Renews my discipline
- Deepens my determination

C. Growth is not easy, but the rewards are great.

II. What are Signs of “Stunted” Growth in Life?

- A. replays (life tape is a re-run)
- B. Regrets (woulda, coulda, shoulda)

- C. Rottenness (spoiled fruit)
- D. Ruts (stuck, “same o’, same o’”)

“A rut is just a grave with both ends kicked out.” —Zig Ziglar

III. How Can I Renew Growth in My Life?

“Top Ten” Laws for Lifetime Growth

Excerpt from *The Laws of Lifetime Growth*
by Dan Sullivan and Catherine Nomura

1. Always make your future bigger than your past.
2. Always make your learning greater than your experience.
3. Always make your contribution greater than your reward.
4. Always make your performance greater than your applause.
5. Always make your gratitude greater than your success.
6. Always make your enjoyment greater than your effort.
7. Always make your cooperation greater than your status.
8. Always make your confidence greater than your comfort.
9. Always make your purpose greater than money.
10. Always make your questions bigger than your answers.

“But GROW in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.” —2 Peter 3:18

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Harvest Your Horizons

LAW 1: Always make your future bigger than your past. — *The Laws of Lifetime Growth* by Dan Sullivan and Catherine Nomura

Many people face the future with apprehension.

"I'm just glad it will be Clark Gable who's falling on his face and not Gary Cooper." —Gary Cooper's comment after he declined the role of Rhett Butler in *Gone With the Wind*

Others face the future with anticipation.

"My interest is in the future because I am going to spend the rest of my life there." —Charles Kettering

"A bigger future is essential for lifetime growth. The past is useful because it is rich with experiences that are worth thinking about in new ways—and all of these valuable experiences can become raw material for creating an even bigger future. Approach your past with this attitude, and you will have an insatiable desire for even better, more enjoyable experiences. Use your past to continually create a bigger future, and you will separate yourself from situations, relationships, and activities that can trap you there." —*The Laws of Lifetime Growth*

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. ¹⁶Only let us hold true to what we have attained.
—Philippians 3:12-16 ESV

As humans, we have five lives:

1) Life "Yesterday"

"Everybody knows that experiences from the past influence how we live, work, think, cope with stress, and

get along with others in the present... Most of us can think of past events, fears, losses, embarrassments, expectations, or comments that influenced our lives permanently and did damage... But events from the past can be (and often are) positive." —Dr. Gary R. Collins

2) Life "Today"

3) Life "Within"

4) Life "Ahead"

5) Life "Beyond"

"A continual looking forward to the eternal world is not a form of escapism or wishful thinking, but one of the things a Christian is meant to do. It does not mean that we are to leave the present world as it is. If you read history, you will find that Christians who did the most for the present world were just those who thought most about the next." —C.S. Lewis

How to move F-O-R-W-A-R-D into the future:

Face the need for change. (Philippians 3:12)

Order one (1) change today. (Philippians 3:13)

"The best thing about the future is that it comes only one day at a time." —Abraham Lincoln

Release your yesterdays. (Philippians 3:13)

"On Friday, January 6, 1961, 1st day of the L.A. Open, Arnold Palmer, voted *Golfer of the Year* and *Pro-Athlete of the Year*, took a 12 on this hole."
—Sign at Rancho Park Golf Course

Win new victories tomorrow by stretching yourself today. (Philippians 3:13)

"The future is when you'll wish you had done what you aren't doing." —John Maxwell

Aim high and don't underestimate what God can do in your life. (Philippians 3:14)

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for wholeness and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." —Jeremiah 29:11 ESV

Recover your failures through faith and fortitude. (Philippians 3:15)

Determine to keep chasing the daylight. (Phil. 3:16)

"Though you cannot go back and make a brand new start, my friend, anyone can start from now, and make a brand new end."

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Leverage Your Limitations

LAW 2: Always make your learning greater than your experience. — *The Laws of Lifetime Growth* by Dan Sullivan and Catherine Nomura

“Experience enables you to recognize a mistake every time you repeat it.”

“Experience is what enables you to make a different mistake next time.”

“Continual learning is essential for lifetime growth. You can have a great deal of experience and be no smarter for all the things you’ve done, seen, and heard. Experience alone is no guarantee of lifetime growth. But if you regularly transform your experiences into new lessons, you will make each day of your life a source of growth. The smartest people are those who can transform even the smallest events or situations into breakthroughs in thinking and action. Look at all of life as a school and every experience as a lesson, and your learning will always be greater than your experience.” — *The Laws of Lifetime Growth* by Dan Sullivan and Catherine Nomura

- A stupid person makes mistakes and learns nothing.
- A smart person makes mistakes and learns from them.
- A wise person observes the mistakes of others and learns from their experience.

Whoever heeds instruction is on the path to life, but he who rejects reproof leads others astray.
—Proverbs 10:17

Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid. —Proverbs 12:1

Poverty and disgrace come to him who ignores instruction, but whoever heeds reproof is honored.
—Proverbs 13:18

At a minimum, experience can teach us what works and doesn’t work in life. The following is a list of questions for evaluating and learning from experience:

Can you list one or more lessons from your vast life experiences?

Recall experiences—both good and bad—that can teach you valuable lessons.

Have you separated your emotions from experiences in order to recognize the benefits of hard experiences in life?

Most life experiences are tethered with a 3-fold cord: the good, the bad, and the ugly. Many times we isolate the bad and ugly without identifying the good.

Have you become accustomed to controlling and manipulating outcomes in your life rather than listening and interacting with others to help you succeed?

Where there is no counsel, the people fall; but in the multitude of counselors there is safety.
—Proverbs 11:14 NKJV

Do you read, reflect, and refocus your time and energies in order to maximize the meaning of experiences in your life?

“As long as you live, keep learning how to live.”
—Seneca

Do you allow experience to inflate your confidence and increase your potential for future slips?

“The most valuable thing you can learn from experience is not to rely on it.”

Have you asked God to help you see beyond your past experiences to new opportunities He has planned for your life?

“Every experience that God gives us, every person He puts in our lives is the perfect preparation for the future that only he can see.” —Corrie Ten Boom

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Increase Your Investments

LAW 3: Always make your contribution bigger than your reward. — *The Laws of Lifetime Growth* by Dan Sullivan and Catherine Nomura

“Increased contribution to others is essential for life-time growth. As you become more successful, numerous rewards will come your way: greater income, praise, recognition, reputation, status, capabilities, resources, and opportunities. These are all desirable things, but they can be growth stoppers. They may tempt you to become fixated on just the rewards, rather than focus on making still greater contributions. The only way to guarantee that rewards will continually increase is to not think too much about them. Instead, continue making an even more significant contribution—by helping others to eliminate their dangers, capture their opportunities, and maximize their strengths. Greater rewards will automatically result from this, and your future will continue to be filled with increasingly rewarding ways to contribute. Always focus on creating new kinds of value for larger numbers of people, and you will ensure that your contribution is always greater than your reward.” — *The Laws of Lifetime Growth* by Dan Sullivan and Catherine Nomura

“A life not lived for others is not a life.”
—Mother Teresa

How to Live a “Value-Added” Life

V-A-L-U-E

View everything you have as something you have been given

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.”
—James 1:17

Adopt a “No-Entitlement” attitude

Too often we try to establish the value of who we are and what we do without ever communicating value and respect for others.

Learn the “Laws of the Harvest”

“Laws of the Harvest”

- You reap what you sow.
- You reap later than you sow.
- You reap more than you sow.

Don’t be misled: No one makes a fool of God. What a person plants, he will harvest. The person who plants selfishness, ignoring the needs of others—ignoring God!—harvests a crop of weeds. All he’ll have to show for his life is weeds! But the one who plants in response to God, letting God’s Spirit do the growth work in him, harvests a crop of real life, eternal life. So let’s not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good. At the right time we will harvest a good crop if we don’t give up, or quit. Right now, therefore, every time we get the chance, let us work for the benefit of all, starting with the people closest to us in the community of faith. —Galatians 6:7-9 MSG

Utilize what you have today and you will benefit from what others have tomorrow

“One of the greatest rewards of adding value to people is that it comes back to you multiplied.”
—John Maxwell

“Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.” —Luke 6:38

“You can get everything you want in life if you will just help enough people get what they want.”
—Zig Ziglar

Elevate the importance of “the best,” even if it is not what brings “the most”

“Self-worth and net-worth are not the same thing.”
—Rick Warren

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Performance > Applause

LAW 4: Always make your performance greater than your applause! — *The Laws of Lifetime Growth* by Dan Sullivan and Catherine Nomura

“To receive applause for works which do not demand all our powers hinders our advance towards a perfecting of our spirit. It usually means that thereafter we will stand still.” —George C. Lichtenberg

“Increased performance is essential for lifetime growth. If you become more skillful and useful, you will receive greater applause from an expanding audience. This can be intoxicating, and the temptation will be to start organizing your life around other people’s recognition and praise—to keep repeating what got you the applause in the first place—rather than moving on to something new, better, and different. When this happens, the danger is that applause will become more important to you than your improved performance. The greatest performers in all fields are those who always strive to get better. No matter how much acclaim they receive, they keep working to improve their performance. Continually work to surpass everything you’ve done so far, and your performance will always be greater than your applause.” — *The Laws of Lifetime Growth* by Dan Sullivan and Catherine Nomura

How to Maximize Your Personal Life Performance

Always Prepare

“Preparation can be defined in three words: Leave Nothing Undone.” —George Allen

“For who has despised the day of small things?” —Zechariah 4:10

Value Process Over Events

“O, popular applause! What heart of man is proof against thy sweet, seducing charms?”
—Williams Cowper

Promise Less, Deliver More

“Hold yourself responsible for a higher standard than anybody expects of you. Never excuse yourself. Never pity yourself. Be a hard master to yourself—and be lenient to everybody else.”
—Henry Ward Beecher

“He who is faithful in what is least is faithful in what is much; and he who is unjust in what is least, is unjust in what is much.” —Luke 16:10

“Refresh” Yourself

It has been said that before each performance, famed actor Sir Laurence Olivier would peer at the audience backstage through the theater curtain and whisper, “This is not last night’s audience. This is not last night’s show. These are not last night’s actors. This is not last night’s play. These are not last night’s lines...” —Sir Laurence Olivier

Expect Some “Jeers”

Critics help us to:

- Live Up
- Lighten Up
- Look Up

“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.” —James 1:5

“Pray is one four-letter word you can use anywhere.”

Please the Right Audience

“Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.” —Colossians 3:23-24

“Do your best. Work from the heart for your real Master, for God, confident that you’ll get paid in full when you come into your inheritance. Keep in mind always that the ultimate Master you’re serving is Christ. The sullen servant who does shoddy work will be held responsible. Being a follower of Jesus doesn’t cover up bad work.” —Colossians 3:23-24 MSG

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Guard Your Gratitude

LAW 5: Always make your gratitude greater than your success. — *The Laws of Lifetime Growth*

by Dan Sullivan and Catherine Nomura

“...give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

—1 Thessalonians 5:18
(underline added for emphasis)

“Increased gratitude is essential for lifetime growth. Only a small percentage of people are continually successful over the long run. These outstanding few recognize that every success comes through the assistance of many other people—and they are continually grateful for this support. Conversely, many people whose success stops at some point are in that position because they have cut themselves off from everyone who has helped them. They view themselves as the sole source of their achievements. As they become more self-centered and isolated, they lose their creativity and ability to succeed. Continually acknowledge others’ contributions, and you will automatically create room in your mind and in the world for much greater success. You will be motivated to achieve even more for those who have helped you. Focus on appreciating and thanking others, and the conditions will always grow to support your increasing success.” — *The Laws of Lifetime Growth* by Dan Sullivan and Catherine Nomura

“Gratitude is not only the greatest of all virtues, but the parent of all others.” —Cicero

Gratitude Begins With My Attitude

The Good Samaritan, Luke 10:30-37

What’s yours is mine and I’ll take it.
What’s mine is mine and I’ll keep it.
What’s mine is yours and I’ll share it.

Gratitude Increases the Appreciation Factor

“What we appreciate, appreciates.”

“If you learn to appreciate more of what you already have, you’ll find yourself having more to appreciate.”

—Michael Angier

“proactive gratitude”

Gratitude Diffuses My Arrogance

“A proud man is seldom a grateful man, for he never thinks he gets what he deserves.”

—Henry Ward Beecher

“Gratitude eliminates three mental characteristics that undermine our success: isolation, egotism, and arrogance.” —Dan Sullivan and Catherine Nomura

Pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall. —Proverbs 16:18

First pride, then the crash—the bigger the ego, the harder the fall. —Proverbs 16:18 MSG

“If you pick up a starving dog, feed him, and make him prosperous, he will not bite you; that is the principal difference between a dog and a man.”

—Mark Twain

Gratitude Moves Me to Action

“Gratitude is more than just a feeling; it is a life response. When I am truly grateful, I want to give it expression.”

Gratitude Leads Me to Abundance

“If you concentrate on what you don’t have, you will never have enough.”

“How happy a person is depends on the depth of his gratitude.” —John Miller

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Pursue Your Passions

LAW 6: Always make your enjoyment greater than your effort. — *The Laws of Lifetime Growth* by Dan Sullivan and Catherine Nomura

“Enjoyment is essential for lifetime growth. Some people believe that success has to be hard earned to be real... They continue to toil away at things that give them no pleasure, suppressing any hints of enjoyment that may creep through, lest these be interpreted as signs that they are not ‘serious’ or ‘professional’ and deserving of success. In the process, they cut themselves off from a major source of energy, creativity, and motivation. Finding ways to get more and more enjoyment from your activities is one way to ensure continued growth. Creativity in all fields of activity is intimately linked to playfulness—the constant desire to do new things just for the fun of it. Approach everything you do with this sense of play, and you will ensure that, even though you still get as good or better results, your enjoyment is always greater than your effort.” — *The Laws of Lifetime Growth* by Dan Sullivan and Catherine Nomura

...the joy of the Lord is your strength.
—Nehemiah 8:10

“In order that people may be happy in their work, these three things are needed: they must be fit for it, they must not do too much of it, and they must have a sense of success in it.” —John Rustin

Principles to Increase Your Job Satisfaction

Absorption

“Nothing is really work unless you would rather be doing something else.” —J.M. Barrie

“Your job is not a game. But when you approach it like a game, you’ll enjoy it more and you’re more likely to be successful at it.”

—Research/University of Chicago

“Games produce a condition called ‘flow,’ characterized by absorption in the activity (not thinking about anything else), a feeling of control and enjoyment. And one of the most common characteristics of flow is that time seems to fly.”

—Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi

“There is an important clue as to whether one is carrying out good work. Doing good work feels good. Few things in life are as enjoyable as when we concentrate on a difficult task, using all our skills, knowing what had to be done.” —Howard Gardner, Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi, and William Damon

Adjustment

“One of the symptoms of an approaching nervous breakdown is the belief that one’s work is terribly important.” —Bertrand Russell

Appreciation/Association

Three things all workers want and need for job satisfaction:

- 1) Recognition—I am valued
- 2) Respect—I am important
- 3) Reward—You did good!

Adaptation

“The best cure for a sluggish mind is to disturb the routine.” —William Danforth

“Life is not a static thing. The only people who do not change their minds are incompetents in asylums, who can’t, and those in cemeteries.”

—Everett M. Dirksen

Accomplishment

“I loathe drudgery as much as any man; but I have learned the only way to conquer drudgery is to get through it as neatly, as efficiently, as one can... A dull job slackly done becomes twice as dull, whereas a dull job which you try to do just as well as you can becomes half as dull.” —Harold Nicolson

Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might... Ecclesiastes 9:10a

Alignment

But they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. —Isaiah 40:31

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Spread Your Service

LAW 7: Always make your cooperation greater than your status. — *The Laws of Lifetime Growth* by Dan Sullivan and Catherine Nomura

“Cooperation is essential for lifetime growth. When people come together around a common purpose, they can achieve results that no individual could accomplish alone. Working with others and creating opportunities for increased cooperation makes greater things possible in our lives and in the world. Yet some people mistakenly assume that if they work with others or treat coworkers as equally valuable contributors, people will somehow think less of them, or it will diminish or obscure the value of their own contribution. These people’s attachment to their status keeps them from cooperating with others and puts a ceiling on their growth. Always make your cooperation greater than your status, and you will find unlimited possibilities and synergies in combining your talents and opportunities with those of others.” — *The Laws of Lifetime Growth* by Dan Sullivan and Catherine Nomura

“Cooperation is about focusing on a common objective and allowing everyone to make his or her best contribution... When people put their need for status ahead of the desire for cooperation, their personal agendas become obstacles to progress.” —Sullivan and Nomura

One person’s definition of cooperation: “My idea of a team is a whole lot of people doing what I tell them to do.”

Identify Stumbling Blocks of Status-Seekers

- Attention
- Isolation
- Perfection
- Consolidation

Magnify the Stepping Stones of Service

How to be a “highly cooperative” person: S-E-R-V-E

“Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus...”

—Philippians 2:3-5 NASV

Sift your motives

“If a team is to reach its potential, each player must be willing to subordinate his personal goals to the good of the team.” —Bud Wilkinson

Embrace humility

“God sends no one away but those who are full of themselves.” —D.L. Moody

“For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.”

—John 13:15-17 NASB

Renew your heart of service

“The first responsibility of a leader is to define reality. The last is to say, ‘Thank you,’ and in between, the leader is a servant.” —Max DePree

“You can’t live a perfect day without doing something for someone who will never be able to repay you.” —John Wooden

Value conversation

Elevate the status of others around you

Philippians 2:3-11

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Agitate Your Achievements

LAW 8: Always make your confidence greater than your comfort. — *The Laws of Lifetime Growth* by Dan Sullivan and Catherine Nomura

“Many successful people start off life as dreamers and risk takers, but the moment they become successful, they begin to seek greater security and comfort over everything else. This attitude puts them to sleep motivationally, and they lose the confidence that made them so successful. Security and comfort are desirable by-products of goal achievement, but when they become the goal itself, they quickly stop lifetime growth. Treat any increase of comfort in your life as only a temporary stage for establishing bigger goals. Continually strive for higher goals and achievements, and your confidence will always be greater than your comfort.” — *The Laws of Lifetime Growth* by Dan Sullivan and Catherine Nomura

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. —James 1:2-3

“Confidence is the ability to transform fear into focused thinking and action.”

How to Build Your Confidence: S-T-R-I-V-E

Start Small

Too often we want to be seen as brilliant from the start. The first and most important step is to try a new challenge that requires something from you. Each time you succeed, you build both competence and confidence.

Take Risks

“If the Creator had a purpose in equipping us with a neck, He surely meant us to stick it out.”
—Arthur Koestler

“Risk must be evaluated, not by the fear it generates in you or the probability of your success, but by the value of the goal.” —John Maxwell

“Don’t let the fear of striking out hold you back.”
—Babe Ruth

Reap from Failure

“Failure is the opportunity to begin again more intelligently.” —Henry Ford

Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong. —2 Corinthians 12:8-10

“In God’s economy, nothing is wasted. Through failure, we learn a lesson in humility which is probably needed, painful though it is.” —Bill Wilson

Improvise When Necessary

Life isn’t lived by formulas and rituals; life is governed by purposes and principles. If we are not careful, we will lose our desire and our dream for growth. Confidence grows as we break the routine and regain the joy and challenge of something new.

Value Input

“We are born helpless. As soon as we are fully conscious, we discover loneliness. We need others physically, emotionally, intellectually; we need them if we are to know anything, even ourselves.”
—C.S. Lewis

Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety.
—Proverbs 11:14

Embrace Tomorrow, Today

“Where there is no faith in the future, there is no power in the present.”

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Measure Your Motives

LAW 9: Always make your purpose greater than your money. — *The Laws of Lifetime Growth* by Dan Sullivan and Catherine Nomura

“Many people start off their careers thinking that money is the goal. Money can be a useful measure of success or progress in certain circumstances, and it’s a resource we can use to realize greater possibilities, but at some point money without purpose loses its meaning. Money as an end becomes a growth stopper. Having a purpose that is greater than yourself will give you a constant impetus to strive. Purpose gives life meaning and helps us to direct and focus our talents and efforts. It also attracts the talents and energies of others whose purposes align with our own. Think of money only as a means of achieving a greater purpose, and you’ll attract *all* the resources and rewards that make up a rich life, not just money.” — *The Laws of Lifetime Growth* by Dan Sullivan and Catherine Nomura

“We spend the first half of our lives wasting our health to get wealth and the last half of our lives spending wealth to get back our health.”

Money is an article which may be used as a universal passport to everywhere except heaven and as a universal provider of everything except happiness.

Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. —1 Timothy 6:6-10

Success in life is...

- Knowing my purpose in life.
- Growing to my maximum potential.
- Sowing seeds to benefit others.

—John Maxwell

Your Life Purpose is...

Personal

Only you can define your purpose, just like success. Self worth and net worth are not the same thing.

Motivational

When life is driven by mission, then your mission inspires you to serve, sacrifice and achieve. Clear purpose fuels your passions, but lack of purpose (and focus) drains your energies.

Beneficial

- My purpose drives my values.

“An ethic of service is at war with a craving for gain.” —Gregg Easterbrook

- My purpose simplifies my life.

- My purpose increases my focus.

“One of the greatest reasons people cannot mobilize themselves is that they try to accomplish great things. Most worthwhile achievements are the result of many little things done in a single direction.” —Nido Quebin

Essential

“The greatest tragedy is not death; it is life without purpose.” —Rick Warren

Life’s Five Greatest Questions:

1. What will be the *center* of my life?
2. What will be the *character* of my life?
3. What will be the *contribution* of my life?
4. What will be the *communication* of my life?
5. What will be the *community* of my life?

—Rick Warren

“You’ll see how rich you are when you add up everything you have that money cannot buy and death cannot take away.”

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Cultivate Your Curiosity

LAW 10: Always make your questions bigger than your answers. — *The Laws of Lifetime Growth* by Dan Sullivan and Catherine Nomura

“As children, when we’re all growing at a rapid rate, we ask lots of questions. As we get older, we gradually begin to think we have a lot of the answers. For some people, their entire sense of security and self-image depends on having all the answers—on never being wrong. As a result, these people try to understand everything in terms of what they know. But all growth lies in the territory of the unknown. What we already know is in the past. What we have yet to discover is the future. Always make your questions bigger than your answers, and you’ll keep drawing yourself into a bigger future with new possibilities.”
— *The Laws of Lifetime Growth* by Dan Sullivan and Catherine Nomura

“The key to progress and success in 2007 is not the goals you establish, but the growth you achieve.”

Jesus Christ, the Master Teacher, often answered a question with a question. Examples:

- What did Moses command?
- Why do you call Me good?
- Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?
- Which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his life span?
- Why do you see the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your eye?
- Which one of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone?
- What do you want me to do for you?
- Whose likeness is on this coin?
- Who do men say I am?
- Who do you say I am?

There is nothing more powerful than a question. Why? The mind cannot ignore it.

Seven Benefits of Making Your Questions Bigger Than Your Answers:

1. Increases Your Clarity

What you fail to question will fail to be clear in your mind.

2. Fuels Your Creativity

“The uncreative mind can spot wrong answers, but it takes a creative mind to spot wrong questions.”

—Anthony Jay

“Imagination is more important than knowledge.”

—Albert Einstein

“Discovery consists of looking at the same thing as everyone else and thinking something different.”

—Albert Szent-Gyorgi

3. Confirms Your Integrity

Questions keep us from false assumptions that lead to poor actions. You can get into trouble making assumptions.

4. Establishes Your Priority

Questions provide a means of “mental whittling” to get down to what really matters. Mental clutter can keep us from focusing on what is important.

5. Expands Your productivity

“Never tell people how to do things; tell them what to do and they will surprise you with their ingenuity.”

—George S. Patton

6. Strengthens Your Certainty

Good questions lead to qualitative answers.

7. Expresses Your Vulnerability

We all live in a world of expanding knowledge and limited understanding. There are times when questions need to be expressed, but the answers can prove to be unsatisfactory.

I know, O LORD, that the way of man is not in himself, that it is not in man who walks to direct his steps. —Jeremiah 10:23