

Principles of Success

By Lonny Heaton

“The will to win, the desire to succeed. The urge to reach your full potential – these are the keys that will unlock the door to personal excellence.” ~ Confucius.

Limitless is your potential. Magnificent is your future.” Gordon B. Hinckley

“Potential is what lies between what is and what could be. Success is measured by how well you close that gap! Discover your divine potential, and enjoy the process of trying to reach it!” ~Lonny Heaton

James Allen once said, “Dream lofty dreams, and as you dream so shall you achieve!” It is a fact that some people are more successful than others. In my view, a successful person is simply one who consistently achieves his or her goals. When those goals are worth-while, noble, and ambitious, it becomes “Noble Success!” Some have more talent, some have more natural ability, some have more money, and some have more influence than others, but we all have the freedom of choice and the same number of hours in a day. What we do with that time will determine who we are, what we become, and what level of success we achieve. When we die, the headstone on each of our graves will have two dates separated by a dash. It doesn’t really matter what the two dates are. What really matters most is what we do with the dash!

Many people view success as the attainment of wealth, prosperity, and/or fame. Don’t fall into the trap of living your life so that you are admired by others because of your wealth or fame (or lack thereof). True value comes from who you are, not who or what other people think you are. Always know and believe in your divine nature as a child of God, and do your best to make your heavenly parents proud! Jesus taught, “Where your treasure is, there shall your heart be also.” ~Matt. 6:21. True success starts with identifying and prioritizing your governing values and what is most important to you, and then it is achieved with every step you take to accomplish your goals and become the person you want to be!

The man at the top of the mountain didn’t fall there. The reality is that we all have mountains to climb, and when we get to the top of one mountain, we’ll realize we can go even higher and accomplish even more than we ever thought possible. The more traveling we do (assuming it’s in the right direction) physically, spiritually, intellectually, socially, financially, emotionally, occupationally, health-wise, and in the improvement of our talents and hobbies, etc. the more successful we become. Success is not a single destination at which we arrive, but rather it is the manner in which we travel. Gal. 6:7 reads, “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.” Ralph Waldo Emerson said, “Do the thing, and you’ll have the power.” Just as the farmer must understand the law of the harvest to reap his reward, we must understand the principles of success in order to be successful. The better we understand and apply these principles, the more successful we will become! In short, it’s about planning and doing! “The successful person is willing to do that which the unsuccessful person is not.” ~Hyrum Smith.

10 Tried & True Principles of Success:

1. Develop a personal constitution (Identify your core values).
 - a. Write a life mission statement (Your purpose in life! Your philosophy about life. What is most important to you)
 - b. Identify your core values. A core value can be a person, idea, principle, standard, ideal, or highest priority. What do you value most? What would you risk your life for or sacrifice your life for? Examples: health, children, religion, financial security, financial wealth, adventure, ambition, integrity, accountability, diligence, talents, hobbies, hunting, perseverance, discipline, charity, salvation, closeness with God, family, and friends.
 - c. Prioritize your core values. Core values then become your governing values.
 - d. Make a written list of your prioritized governing core values. Define them in a way that is meaningful to you.
 - e. Regularly review, read, ponderize, and modify your personal constitution and core values.
2. Set goals (long term, mid-range, and short term).
 - a. Set long term (life) goals, mid range (1-5 years) goals, annual (yearly) goals, and monthly goals.
 - b. Set goals in-line with your core values in such areas as: Physical/Health, Financial/Occupational, Spiritual, Social/Relationships, Intellectual, Talents/Hobbies, Spouse/Family.
 - c. Prioritize Goals. Focus on the ones that are most important, but pay attention to the ones that are most urgent.
 - d. Must be: specific, achievable, realistic, and in writing.
 - e. Review your goals often and regularly (every day, every week, every month, every year)
 - f. Sharing goals with others can make you accountable, but never share them with anyone who will cause you to doubt yourself or discourage you from accomplishing your goals.

3. Develop and maintain a high level of desire & faith.
 - a. Desire is at the heart of all success. **You gotta want it!**
 - b. "What the mind can conceive and believe, it can achieve." ~Napoleon Hill
 - c. Pray for greater desire and faith, and believe in yourself!
 - d. Look yourself in the mirror every day and say, "You got this! I can do it! I know I can!"
4. Create a plan of action.
 - a. Plan your work and work your plan.
 - b. Figure out what you want to accomplish most... then figure out what needs to be done to get it accomplished!
 - c. Break it down and put it in writing: Goals, Action Plans, Habits, Calendaring, ToDo List.
5. Practice effective time management.
 - a. Be realistic. Understand how to manage time. Learn to estimate by past experience.
 - b. Start by blocking out: time to plan every day, diet, exercise, and sleep. Then add things like time for spouse, family home evening, scriptures, and prayer. What's left is called discretionary time.. Use it wisely.
 - c. Avoid Time Wasters: (TV, Social Media, Video Games, Netflix, email, certain relationships, etc.???)
 - d. Learn to: plan, calendar, use a ToDo list, and update it daily. (Make it part of your routine!@)
 - e. Managing Prioritized Daily Tasks is the #1 key to long term success!!!
 - f. Take time to smell the roses. Don't be so driven for success that you miss the most beautiful things in life.
6. Draw upon the powers of heaven
 - a. "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened." ~Matt 7:7-8
 - b. "I, the Lord, am bound when ye do what I say; but when ye do not what I say, ye have no promise." ~D&C 82:10
 - c. "And whoso receiveth you, there I will be also, for I will go before your face. I will be on your right hand and on your left, and my Spirit shall be in your hearts, and mine angels round about you, to bear you up." ~D&C 84:88
 - d. Pray with faith for specific help and for gifts of the spirit and for angels. Pray for guidance, pray for help!
 - e. Be worthy of the spirit by living gospel principles:
 - Avoid pornography like the plague. Set rules and stick to them! (Movies/shows, music, games, entertainment)
 - Live the law of chastity and the word of wisdom.
 - Repent daily! Keep trying, never give up!
 - He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; Who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, And righteousness from the God of his salvation. ~Psalm 24:4-5
 - f. Team up with the Lord. "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." ~Matt 11:29-30
7. Work Hard.
 - a. Be willing to Sacrifice: Giving up something of value for something of greater value.
 - b. Have Character: The ability to carry out a worthy decision after the emotion of making that decision has past.
 - c. Be Committed: The successful person is will to do that which the unsuccessful person is not willing to do.
 - d. Be Persistent: "That which we persist in doing becomes easier, not that the nature of the thing has changed but that our power to do has increased." ~Ralph Waldo Emerson
" Nothing in this world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not: nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not: the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent." ~Calvin Coolidge
 - e. Reject Excuses: Make stumbling blocks into stepping stones. Focus on how you will do it, not why you can't do it.
8. Work smart.
 - a. Keep the big picture, but focus on the little things. (Long term goals & daily tasks).
 - b. Carefully choose the "vehicles" that will best help you get from where you are to where you want to go. Take care of the vehicle you choose (Change the oil).
 - c. Focus on the Goose that lays the golden eggs, more than the golden eggs themselves... and you will have riches.
 - d. Know your break-even point (BEP), and regularly evaluate your return on investment (ROI).
 - e. Leverage: "I'd rather have 1% of the effort of 100 men than 100% of my own effort." ~John Paul Getty
 - f. Stop Losses: Know when to cut your losses and be willing to walk away if/when you have to.
 - g. Develop Good Habits: The chains of habit are too small to be felt until they are too big too be broken.
 - h. Sharpen the Saw: Take time to do things that will make you more productive (education, breaks, evaluation).
 - i. Good Friends and Mentors: Follow a successful person and you will become successful. You don't need to reinvent the wheel.
 - j. Synergy: Find partners to help you create more than you could as two separate entities.

9. Develop A Positive Mental Attitude
 - a. Create a list of positive affirmations (as if they are already true) and read them regularly. I am ... I always ...
 - b. Believe in yourself: 10 Greatest 2 letter words: IF IT IS TO BE, IT IS UP TO ME!
 - c. Don't doubt yourself. "Doubt kills more dreams than failure eveyr will." ~Suzy Kassem
 - d. Don't be afraid to fail: "You can try and fail, try and fail, and try and fail again; but the only time your really fail, is when you fail to try again." ~Author unknown
 - e. Attitude Determines Altitude. Life is 20% what happens to you and 80% how you feel about it and what you do about it.
 - f. Expect to Win: "Winners never quit. And quitters never win." ~Vince Lombardi
 - g. Deal with Adversity. You will have setbacks. No problem, that's all it is. Learn from it.
 - h. Take time to smell the roses (and go hunting n fishing)
 - i. Dont stress.. "Smile, fresh air is good for your teeth!"

10. Become a person of great character and integrity (Develop Christlike characteristics)
 - a. At the end of the day, relationships and loved ones are more important than all the money in the world.
 - b. Remember who you are and what you stand for.
 - c. Always be humble and kind. Live to Learn, Learn to Love, Love to Live! (The circle of life!)
 - d. Keep a journal, so you can see your failures, successes, and growth (and priceless memories)!
 - e. Be grateful! "And in nothing doth man offend God, or against none is his wrath kindled, save those who confess not his hand in all things, and obey not his commandments." ~D&C 59:21. Always show genuine gratitude to others (phone calls, text messages, emails, thank you cards, gifts of love).
 - f. Be A good example!
 - g. Give back! Find joy in loving and serving others.
 - h. Help others learn the principles of success.

Keep Going

~Author unknown

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,
 When the road you're trudging seems all up hill,
 When the funds are low and the debts are high,
 And you want to smile, but you have to sigh,
 When care is pressing you down a bit,
 Rest if you must—but don't you quit.

Life is queer with its twists and turns,
 As every one of us sometimes learns,
 And many a failure turns about
 When he might have won had he stuck it out;
 Don't give up, though the pace seems slow—
 You may succeed with another blow.

Often the goal is nearer than
 It seems to a faint and faltering man,
 Often the struggler has given up
 When he might have captured the victor's cup,
 And he learned too late, when the night slipped down,
 How close he was to the golden crown.

Success is failure turned inside out—
 The silver tint of the clouds of doubt,
 And you never can tell how close you are,
 It may be near when it seems afar;
 So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit—
 It's when things seem worst that you mustn't quit.

"Don't you quit. You keep walking. You keep trying. There is help and happiness ahead. Some blessings come soon, some come late, and some don't come until heaven; but for those who embrace the gospel of Jesus Christ, they come. It will be all right in the end. Trust God and believe in good things to come." ~Jeffrey R. Holland

If you are **DEPRESSED**,
 you are living in the **PAST**
 If you are **ANXIOUS**, you are
 living in the **FUTURE**
 If you are at **PEACE**, you are
 living in the **PRESENT**

Past is **experience**,
 Present is **experiment**
 Future is **expectation**

Use your **experience**
 in your **experiments**
 to **achieve** your
expectations

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. ~Philippians 4:13

"History will be kind to me, for I intend to write it!" ~Winston Churchill