

90-Day Prosperity Experiment Lab Report

Day 69— *Survive, Save, Serve*

*“ I slept and dreamt that life was joy.
I awoke and found that life was service.
I acted and behold! Service became joy.”*

-- Rabindranath Tagore

Today's Message

Near the beginning of the book, *The Go-Giver*, readers are introduced to Rachel, a young woman who works for Pindar and has a talent for brewing an extraordinary cup of coffee. Rachel, we are told, grew up in a poor neighborhood and started working to help support her family at a very young age. By the time she reached adulthood, she had worked at everything from cleaning houses to working construction with a very diverse assortment of other jobs in between.

The reader learns that while there were, of course, some jobs she enjoyed more than others, Rachel succeeded in each of her jobs because of one contributing factor: she approached each job she had as if she loved it. She did this by reminding herself that the job gave her the opportunity to survive, save and serve.

As Pindar explains to Joe, surviving, saving and serving are the three universal reasons for working. Survive - we work to supply our basic needs. Save - we work to move past mere survival and expand our world. Serve - we work to make a contribution to the world around us.

“...most people spend their entire lives focusing on the first,” Pindar explains. “A smaller number focus on the second. But those rare few who are truly successful, not just financially, but genuinely successful in all aspects of their lives - keep their focus squarely on the third.”

Those who serve their fellow man are compensated accordingly. The more we give back to others, the more comes back into our lives. It is practically a law of nature.

Those who are truly wealthy, in every sense of the word, don't just give more because they have more but because they understand it is the way to continue having more. They understand how life works. They understand that those who give to help others in need -- by donating money, time, energy, or expertise -- live longer, happier, and wealthier lives. The more they help, the more they are given.

Winston Churchill once said, “We make a living by what we earn, but we make a life by what we give.” No matter how much you think money might improve your life, having more of it will not make you happier. You have to live a life of meaning to do that.

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And though you may not have realized this yet, having money is not a requirement of living a life of meaning. In the commencement address given to the graduating class at Villanova University in 1999, writer Anna Quindlen pointed this out as she recalled an encounter with a man she came to consider one of her greatest teachers. Here is a portion of what she said:

“It was December, and I was doing a story about how the homeless survive in the winter months. He and I sat on the edge of the wooden supports, dangling our feet over the side and he told me about his schedule, pan-handling on the boulevard when the summer crowds were gone, sleeping in a church when the temperature went below freezing, hiding from the police amidst the Tilt A Whirl and the Cyclone, and some of the other seasonal rides. But he told me that most of the time he stayed on the boardwalk, facing the water, just the way we were sitting now, even when it got cold and he had to wear his newspapers after he read them. And I asked him why. Why didn’t he go to one of the shelters? Why didn’t he check himself into the hospital for detox? And he just stared out at the ocean and said, ‘Look at the view, young lady. Look at the view.’ And everyday, in some little way, I try to do what he said. I try to look at the view. And that is the last thing I have to tell you today, words of wisdom from a man with not a dime in his pocket, no place to go, nowhere to be. Look at the view. You’ll never be disappointed. “

Creating a more prosperous life is an important and worthy goal, and money is part of the equation, but having a purpose greater than just acquiring money is critical to long-term happiness, joy, and personal fulfillment.

The stuff money can buy can’t hold a candle to the richness that living a life of meaning can give. Your life is meant to be lived with a much greater purpose than simply acquiring money -- and part of that purpose is to use the money you acquire to make a difference in the world.

It is easy, as we work through the prosperity experiment, to think more and more about what money and riches can do for us. Getting caught up in creating more money in our lives, however, is basically detrimental to a prosperous life. We would be better served by getting caught up, instead, in experiencing life and embracing it to the fullest and allowing ourselves to be vessels through which the goodness of life flows. In this way, not a moment of life is wasted and when it is completed, we can look back without regret, knowing we survived, saved and served our world in the very best way we could.

Today’s Affirmation

I embrace the richness of life around me

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Today's Action Steps

1. Re-read your Prosperity Business Plan and your **Eleven Things Gratitude List**.
2. Take a moment to stand firmly with one arm raised to the heavens, the fist clenched as firmly as if you were holding on to the hand of God. Now either mentally or vocally affirm:

As God as my witness, I am powerful today, I am brave today, I am strong today, I am fearless today, I prosper today. And I am living each moment of this day embracing my true nature and moving closer to becoming the person I am destined to be. For today and every day from this point forward this is my truth.

Note: If possible write this affirmation on a card that will fit in your wallet or purse and carry it with you so you can refer whenever you feel doubts or fears arising. And each time you repeat this affirmation, say the words with as much feeling and emotion as you possibly can, spending at least one full minute imagining every aspect of your life as you want it to be.

3. Place today's allotment of money in your container and read the affirmation on the container three times. Expect to receive in return.
4. Bless those around you, including your fellow participants in this experiment. See those you bless prospering and surrounded by good. Then bless yourself and see the same. You may also want to continue blessing those on the blessing request list. Reading the responses will give you an opportunity to see for yourself.
5. Return to the blessings requests and read the responses being posted by those who have been blessed. (you'll find a link at the bottom of this email, or simply go to bettertobless.com and click on "Request a Blessing") Your blessings are making a difference. Reading the responses will give you an opportunity to see for yourself.