

## WHERE ARE YOU NOW & WHY

Have you ever stopped to think about the kind of life you're living – and, more importantly, why?

There's a very important reason for looking at they 'whys' in your life. The answers to these questions mark the starting point on the road to your successful future. It would be an exercise in futility to try mapping a new path in life without understanding where you are right now. It's like trying to follow a road map without knowing what city you're in. (Or, as that old saying goes, if you don't know where you're going, any road will get you there.) You have to know where you are to get where you want to go. It's that simple.

Equally, if you want to build a great life, you must first start with a solid foundation. The stronger your foundation, the better your chance of constructing a great life or business.

Your philosophy of life is the foundation of who you are. It's the cornerstone for your behaviour, your daily actions, and your relationships with others, your habits – everything you do in life. Your philosophy determines what you ultimately will achieve in life.

Think about it this way: What you believe creates who you are. All of us interpret the world based on what we believe to be true. You are – literally – what you believe you are – and others are what you believe them to be. All of the opportunities and experiences of your life are funnelled through your personal philosophy – that is, what you believe about life.

What is your philosophy of life? Do you really know deep down, what ideas are guiding your life?

I didn't ask if you have a philosophy of life, because whether or not you realise it, you do have such a guiding set of principles firmly in place. Each of us, from our earliest days, has been acquiring – even though it may have been done unconsciously – a collection of material, social, and spiritual values that constitutes a philosophy of life. In short, everyone has a philosophy of life. The real question you eventually must answer is whether it's the right philosophy of life, based on your personal goals and aspirations.

The truth is, life never holds us back. Only we do that to ourselves. Unsuccessful people so often blame everyone but themselves for their misfortune. They believe that 'circumstances' or 'the breaks' are against them. The last thing they'll concede is that their problem really lies within themselves – that they have an attitude problem – toward their jobs and toward life in general.

Successful people, on the other hand, accept life for what it is – challenging – and believe that a way can be found to overcome any obstacle. They believe that every problem holds an opportunity for progress. They believe that the way to get ahead is to work harder and smarter today than they did yesterday.

In short, successful people believe in making their own opportunities – by inspiration, if possible, but by perspiration, if necessary. They know that the key to their success lies within themselves – not in the circumstances around them. Their belief system – again, their philosophy of life is geared for success.

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