

Success Mini-Course

Lesson Six

“Clear Intention”

By Terry Drew Karanen

We've covered a lot of territory in the past five weeks. As a review, we started with acknowledging the **Possibility** of success, recognizing how to best direct our **Power** in achieving that success, and redefining how to generate the **Passion** necessary to fuel our quest. To that we committed to the daily **Practice** of doing what is required of us to manifest our idea of success, all the while remember the true **Purpose** for why we do whatever it is we do.

The final key in our quest for success in all areas of our life is **Clear Intention**. Most people do not have a clue when it comes to true intention in life. A routine in life easily becomes a rut when day-after-day, year-after-year we stay in the same nowhere job that allows us to just get by. The workweek looks dismal at best for the 9-to-5 crowd.

Monday is dreaded because we must go back “there.” We go about our duties with only 5pm on Friday as our goal. The weekend becomes a feeble attempt at recreation and pleasure. Excesses of what will result in hopelessness, depression, and financial burden often accompany the attempts to have fun. Sadly, when some are asked about their weekends, they reply, “I must have had a good time. I don't remember a thing!”

Doing what we have always done or living life the way we think we should is not clear intention. It could be, if we were happy about that life, but most people are not. A great number of people do not like their jobs or careers. If this describes you, your life might reflect survival and resignation, but not intention. Unfortunately, this situation feels like a no-win, dead-end situation, with a total inability to see any change as possible.

Jesus gave us the keys to the kingdom of heaven. He did this by showing us through the miracles that it is done unto us as we believe. Ernest Holmes, the founder of the Science of Mind® philosophy and Religious Science movement, wrote that to change our lives we must change our thinking. The belief that Jesus demonstrated and the thinking about which Dr. Holmes taught are the very same thing. They are not what we *wish* would happen. They are not what we *hope* will happen. Our beliefs are the foundations by which we develop the basis for living, individually and as a people. If the foundations upon which we attempt to build our successful life are shifting sand, then we must affect change ... now.

If we take apart the word *intention* we get: *in – tension*. Tension is something we have naturally but are taught to avoid in everyday life. A certain amount of tension is required in life. If our muscles did not tense and flex we would be a blob of flesh and bones. The gravity that keeps us on the planet could be likened to a form of tension.

When we become clear in our intention in life we have our situation under control, much the same way we control a pet on a retractable leash. We let the leash out sometimes, allowing the pet to roam. At other times we reel the pet in to avoid a conflict or to protect the animal. If we let the pet off the leash we run the risk of it wandering off for a period of time. It might even get injured or killed. Because we accept the responsibility that comes with pet ownership, we protect our pets by keeping them on a leash or confining them to a small area when outside. If we allow them to run free it is only when we are confident the area is safe for them. We must care just as much about whatever we are doing in the other parts of our daily lives.

If we know what we want and believe in ourselves, making decisions is much simpler. Again, simple frequently does not mean easy. It is far easier to discuss what we do *not* want than what we *do* want. This is because what we focus our attention on multiplies in our life. It becomes our intention. If we are low on cash, we may begin concentrating on our financial lack. The more we think about what we do not have the more concerned about our situation we become. We forget about any possible solution and focus on the problem. We do not want to be penniless. But how much money will be enough? How soon do we need it? These questions become unanswerable because we have become so entangled in the problem that our lack chokes off all possible release.

Answering the questions means we must make a decision. Will our choice be the right one? Do we have the information we need to make an intelligent determination? We are taking responsibility. A familiar old character may re-enter the stage in the play we call "Life." That character is *Fear*.

We have already met Fear in Lesson Three. It is once again interfering (*enter + fearing*) with our ability to decide. It is time to throw fear out of our lives and build on the firm foundation that we have laid.

This does not mean we ignore difficult situations, refuse to count the costs, or move forth blindly. By applying the principles taught in this course and by working through the exercises presented, fear can be eliminated as a cause for failure or stagnation. It is not going to happen overnight for most of us. There are very few "overnight successes." When we are suddenly aware of a popular performer it may appear that he or she is an overnight success. We are not usually privy to the years of preparation, the lean times this person has had to endure, nor the sacrifices they have made. Regardless of the facts, they made something of themselves. We can, too.

If we are spiritually and mentally alert, and our situation does not turn out the way we expect it to, do we then assign blame to ourselves? No. We take *responsibility*, not blame, for the outcome. The joy in this recognition is that the clearer we become about what we want to put into life and get out of life, the easier it is to have the life we want to live, a life of bliss and happiness. Along with this clarity comes, not blame for a life that is a hot mess, but credit for having a life worth living.

If the power of clear intention is acting on our desire, then the key is faith. It is faith in ourselves and faith in a power greater than ourselves, even though we understand that it is a power of which we are a part of or an expression of in human form. Faith is that assurance we feel deep within our gut – no matter what the appearance may be – that our success is secure.

We must develop not faith *in* God/Goddess (or Spirit, or Higher Power), but more accurately the faith *of* that presence. No one who believes in a universal intelligence or absolute power would ever consider that it has problems or issues with making decisions. It has been said of Jesus of Nazareth that he was able to make use of the healing power of God because he expected to be able to do so. Jesus was not surprised when the blind saw, the lame walked, or the dead rose from the tomb. He might have been surprised if his spoken word and prayers were *not* made manifest immediately, but he was never surprised at the outcome. He spoke his word and expected results. We must be that sure of the same power at our disposal.

That kind of confidence cannot come from outside sources. If we are constantly waiting for mom, dad or that special someone to shower us with approval at the turn of every corner then we are destined to remain perpetually stuck. Of course, it is gratifying to receive the approval and support of others, but we can only expect to have our path clear if we believe in our decisions and ourselves.

Discovering and walking upon a path of success is an inside job. We must each individually and unique uncover our gift for the planet. You already have all that it takes within you to succeed. By now you have most likely discovered what it is in life you want to, need to, and must do. If not, perhaps you are not yet ready to accept your magnificence. If that is the case, be at peace with where you are. If you have discovered your bliss, then begin today to live it by committing to your vision and acting on your mission.

Take a deep breath – a *very* deep breath. If you have read and studied these lessons you have completed a course in changing your consciousness. That is no small feat. Just by reaching out to better yourself and your situations in life you have already begun the road to more happiness, prosperity and satisfaction.

There will be times that you may doubt yourself. If or when that time comes when you lack what you consider to be sufficient faith, would you be willing to borrow some of mine? It is my prayer treatment that you are experiencing a life-changing transformation that expressed a level of magnificence unknown to you up until now. Step out of your own way. Walk with confidence into a new and more successful life – a life truly worth living!

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