

Reflect
Reflect
Reflect

Reflect
Reflect
Reflect

Reflect
Reflect
Reflect

Reflect
Reflect
Reflect

Reflect
Reflect
Reflect

Reflect
Reflect
Reflect

CHAPTER

18

Be A Permanent Success

Reflect
Reflect
Reflect

Reflect
Reflect
Reflect

Reflect
Reflect
Reflect

Reflect
Reflect
Reflect

“Our Summary Sage Reflection”

We hope this last Sage Reflection will help to clarify any questions or concerns you might have.

You first exercised your agency to read this book in order to convert intelligence, which you possess, into new knowledge. You were then invited to reflect on this new knowledge and awaken your spirit, to discern its truth and determine its value to you in this life.

If you did this, you positioned yourself to enjoy your own revelatory experience – to be *moved* or *touched*, if you will, in that, you intellectually verified and spiritually certified that what you converted, or discovered, was indeed true and valuable to you.

Whenever a man or woman is *moved* in this way, great and marvelous works can occur; works that are permanent and positive, the kind that can literally *move the mountains of our lives*.

That’s what *permanent success* is – a state of being that is attained and maintained by living a life that is spirit driven, one that *moves* you to progress from one success to another, day in and day out.

For Sages, every experience is a success, regardless of the circumstances. It is clearly understood that every experience is a revealing experience because we can discover and learn who we really are through the actions of our lives.

The one and only skill that facilitates the creation of this *state of being* is faith. Faith is all about *moving* people; it is the projection of our spirit’s hope into this physical world.

There are varying degrees of faith. The first is having faith in ourselves, the second, faith in others, and the third and greatest degree, having faith in Deity, whatever you perceive that to be.

All things in this world evolve or grow; faith is no different. That’s why it is absolutely impossible to think that we can

effectively exercise the second and third degrees of faith if we can't even exercise the first.

By exercising faith in yourself, you acknowledge your *spirit* and allow it to be involved in every action of your day. You can then start the awesome experience of *mining* the limitless well of intelligence that you already possess.

I call this *the spiral of faith*. As a building force, your basic cycle of exercising faith in yourself moves you forward through the virtues you develop. As you do, you can begin to effectively and confidently exercise faith at the second and third levels.

This book is all about dealing with the foundations of this so deeply-misunderstood skill of faith – practical faith. I hope you can now see how it relates to *permanent success* – the two are synonymous. However, without an understanding of faith, one must think of *permanent success* as mere wishful thinking.

I am certain that that's what many of you thought when you picked up this book: *permanent success? Nothing's permanent in this life*. You're right, if you think of *permanence* in terms of the physical things of this world. However, think of it in terms of the spirit. *Permanence* then becomes a reality because once your spirit is *touched*, permanent changes occur.

As we briefly review the stories, please note how this principle applies. Let's begin with the story of Cameron.

Not only had his self-esteem taken a beating, but he thought he was facing an unsolvable problem. However, his mother knew that by guiding him to an understanding of the foundations of **organization, order** and **purpose**, both issues would be resolved.

Through the *FaithSkill* of **Stewardship**, Angela guided Cameron to recognize his need for the foundation of Organization. Water was the perfect teaching tool for illustrating her point.

Angela then impressed upon him the need for the *FaithSkill* of **Obedience** so that he could appreciate the Essential Foundation of

Order. Once Cameron understood this, he was prepared to begin to fill his need for **Acceptance**.

Angela's use of the *FaithSkill* of **Devotion** empowered her to help Cameron understand why he needed math in his life and how it could benefit him. This information satisfied Cameron's *fundamental need* for **Knowledge**.

Thus, instead of turning into an unpleasant lecture experience, the discussion became a growth experience for Cameron, as well as a bonding time for him and his mother. The spirit's needs were heard and fulfilled through an understanding of the Essential Foundations and associated *FaithSkills*: outward actions, such as discussion, directed questioning, and relating tangible items (water) to intangible subjects (math), fulfilled the inward, spiritual needs for acceptance and knowledge, thus the learning became permanent in his mind so he could apply the principles in future situations.

Cindy and James also learned about satisfying needs. Circumstances that could have supplied bricks for the house of divorce turned out to be memorable bonding experiences that acted as mortar in the palace of a happy marriage.

Cindy nurtured James to see his weaknesses by using the *FaithSkills* of **Cooperation** and **Fearlessness** to clarify his understanding of the Essential Foundations of **Balance** and **Opposition**. She could have been selfish in exposing these foundations, using them as weapons against James with the intention of making him feel foolish. Instead, she selflessly used the teaching moments resulting from the sunburn experience to satisfy both her own and her husband's *fundamental need* for **Harmony**. She also expanded on Ken's discussion of opposition and why it is necessary for achieving balance.

We then experienced the choice opportunity of hearing a Sage, William (Bill) Anderson, use the *FaithSkills* of **Reflection** and **Humility** to share pearls of wisdom about the benefits of another *FaithSkill* – that of **Discipline**. Without this talent, self-fulfillment,

or success, would have been impossible.

Bill also revealed to us that the greatest success we can ever have is to know who we really are – to know our **Identity** – an **Intelligence** formed into a **Spirit** that presently occupies a **Body**. Once we know this, we are able to effectively fulfill our *fundamental needs* through the actions of this life, as William so effectively demonstrated.

Without this understanding, we don't really satisfy our needs – we only think we do when we become entrapped in the never-ending circle of materialism which forms this physical life sphere we presently occupy. William demonstrated that fulfilling our spirit's *fundamental needs* yields bountiful fruits of success.

Does this understanding give you a new perspective regarding the accumulation of this life's *toys*?

We then met Cyrus and Robert, our cranberry experts – two sincere individuals with two different strategies and styles for solving the same problem. We can all relate to that. It translates to *trying to get the most out of life*.

Cyrus used his **Agency** to determine the best **Action** to take in making his property productive. His neighbor, Robert, was highly impressed with this impact and wanted to know how to experience similar results.

Robert demonstrated **Humility**, which enabled Cyrus to **Honestly** explain to him his understanding of the *governing* laws of his circumstances. Cyrus then used the *FaithSkills* of **Valiance** and **Authenticity** to have a profound impact upon his circumstances, rather than have them act upon him.

This new understanding allowed Robert to satisfy his *fundamental needs* for **Direction** and **Empowerment**. He now had a new direction – Humility had moved him forward to gain what he knew he deserved – Success.

It was after this story that we introduced you to Garry. He had already worn a path on a journey of learning, but thanks to his sage mentor, he was steered to the *FaithSkill* of **Reflection**.

We witnessed him trying to apply his understandings of the Essential Foundations and *FaithSkills* to a new situation. He didn't do it perfectly – none of us would – but he didn't give up.

We watched him catch himself as he realized he was missing a key step on his ladder of success – the basic *FaithSkill* of **Reflection**. It was then that he remembered the valuable ally he had in Joan. Through use of the *FaithSkill* of **Cultivation**, he had encouraged her loyalty over a period of time and knew that he could count on her.

Gary wasn't embarrassed by his past failed attempts at achieving success – he thought of them as learning experiences and shared them with his family, so they too could learn. By doing so, he gained the strength that comes from Humility.

He could then activate the Essential Foundation of **The Law of The Harvest** to satisfy a portion of his *fundamental need* for Fulfillment.

From this platform, we introduced you to the culminating story of *The Best Legacy*. It was Phil's story that demonstrated how a *FaithSkills* based life could be one of permanent successes. His profound understanding of the *FaithSkill* of **Faithfulness** empowered him to fully commit himself to what he *knew*, through his spirit, was true. He also understood that The Essential Foundation of **Commitment** could completely and permanently satisfy his *fundamental need* for **Fulfillment**, or in other words – Success. The result? An incredible legacy.

Don't many of us wish to leave a similar, honorable legacy?

We mentioned earlier that in order for you to think of success as *permanent*, you need to consider it in terms of the spirit. Reflect for a moment on how one or more of the characters in each story exercised practical faith – faith in themselves – because they recognized the influence of the spirit in their lives – their actions *felt right*.

Hopefully, the range of situations shown in the stories gives you an idea of the myriad of different ways that practical faith can be

applied to lead to success. However, there may be some of you that are thinking, *so how can all of this help me in my daily activities?*

Let's translate this information into practical terms.

Let's say you're in a leadership position – you own a business. You have 5 employees. They do their work, but they don't have any sense of *team spirit*, nor do they feel any particular loyalty to you or your cause.

Through reflection on the situation, you wonder if that's because they don't feel like they belong in your workplace, nor do they understand exactly what you're trying to accomplish with your business, or what role they play in it.

So, what have you accomplished so far? You've determined that two of the *fundamental needs*, namely acceptance, or belonging, as well as knowledge, are not being met. You know that you need to use the Essential Foundations of organization, order and purpose to meet these needs.

What will you organize? Work stations? Tasks? Staff meetings? Flow of paperwork? Reporting system? People?

In what order will you organize the items needing attention? Will you prioritize in terms of time? Will the staff meeting come first? Will you rearrange the work stations?

What do you want to accomplish with your organization and order – in other words, what is your purpose? What knowledge do you want to share? How can you best do this?

As you organize the important items, and put them into an order, you'll want to do it with consideration for the common good, so you'll encourage your employees to ask questions and offer suggestions, both of which foster a greater sense of belonging and team spirit. You'll use a *coaching* style, rather than a preaching or dictatorial approach as you work with them. This is the essence of the skill of stewardship, the skill that relates to the Essential Foundation of organization.

With this approach, employees will be more willing to

follow or conform to the established order, not only because they've had some input into the plan, but also because they understand the reasons for it and how it can benefit them as a group. This knowledge then paves the way for their devotion to the cause.

Don't forget that you're also developing virtues as you implement the foundations. When you have to sit down and determine what needs to be organized and how, you sharpen your ability to discern – to figure out what's important and what isn't; what will influence and what won't; who can do a certain task and who can't, and so on. You then become more *self-reliant* because you have faith in yourself and your knowledge of the game plan for success.

I'm sure that what we've just discussed is familiar to you. You've likely used some of these foundations before. You've probably also developed several of the skills and virtues; you see, you've already started your success building process!

This world we live in is a point of intersection – a point of transition – where spiritual and physical meet. The results of this life are determined by which side dominates – the physical or the spiritual – as is the new form that is created through the melding of these two dimensions.

We're here to fulfill a progressive and permanent cycle of learning: one where we learn how to give the spirit power over the physical in order to achieve the permanent successes we desire.

A state of *permanent success* starts here, in this life you're living today. And it can only occur through the use of practical faith, or *FaithSkills*.

The next chapter will provide a detailed explanation of *FaithSkills* and how their use can empower you to achieve the state of being known as *permanent success*.

Pro-Active Reflection

