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The Pattern

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At an early age, I recognized the powerful influence of patterns upon my quality of life. I wasn't fully aware that they were called patterns, but I knew their effects. They often consumed people to the point that their lives and the lives of others were deeply influenced - often in a negative way.

I think of my mom. She used to regularly sit down at the table in the early afternoon with her glass of tomato or orange juice (spiked with beer or vodka) and slowly drift off into lala land thinking we didn't know what was going on. When dinner time came, she boiled hamburger and served it to us in the *spirit* of healthy eating. Amazingly, I still like hamburger! Or, every fall and spring, as regular as clockwork, she would withdraw more and more into herself, responding to voices that only she could hear. As children, we were innocently witnessing the ravaging patterns of mental illness.

These and many other patterns influenced every aspect of my life - even the times that should have been happy, weren't. Take Christmas, for instance. Family feuds were typical. They erupted into grudges that were held for the remainder of the year - until the next round of *pleasurable drinking*. Not surprisingly, I've developed a deep disdain for alcohol.

Now, as I reflect, I can clearly see that it wasn't the alcohol itself that was the problem; it was ignorance of its natural pattern as well as a lack of self-discipline that allowed it to consume my family. Fortunately, both age and time help to change feelings. Our family, like many others, is wisely working on repairing the damaged relationships we have endured for most of our lives.

Yes, at an early age I learned to hope for better days, and quickly determined that I needed more than hope if I was to become a different person from the one that my surroundings dictated.

That's when I began searching for the so-called *secrets of success*. My brother in the city had become a millionaire; if he could do it, so could I.

So began my search for success, or money - they meant the same thing to me. What a ride. Made a fortune, lost a fortune. By age 29, I'd made a million all right - a million mistakes! I'd been bankrupt. My wife was gone. My 2 daughters and I were on our own. I was involved in a new business venture but didn't have a clue what I was doing. Even when I did get what I wanted, I realized that it wasn't really what I wanted. It seemed like I was continually completing the circle of stupidity through the skill of trial and error.

I had heard about and tried many programs that promised success, yet none of them focused on anything more than their own methods or particular points of view. There was nothing that explained how, and more importantly, why I needed to form successes. They all told me how to *think right* but rarely mentioned or considered how to *be right*.

Yet, I knew deep within myself that there had to be keys, constants that applied to anyone and everything. Why? Because I knew of so many different people with different approaches that were achieving enormous amounts of success. It wasn't until I filtered my knowledge through the analogy of baseball that I realized the nature of patterns and their relationship to the process of success.

Think for a moment.

We both know that in order for a run to count, a player has to touch the bases in a specific order - no exceptions. Now, there are different ways to accomplish this. You can hit a line drive and progress through the bases, or you can hit the ball off the center field wall. You most certainly don't have to bat it out of the park. As a matter of fact, you can even steal the bases, even home plate if you're good enough. But, regardless of your method, the same pattern still applies. You've got to touch all three bases in an order before you touch home plate so that a run can be a run.

Patterns are the game, but don't govern the game. Bases are what the game is all about. No bases, no game. On the other hand, rules - such as you can't go to 3rd without touching 2nd - govern how we play the game. All those courses I took talked about the rules but not the patterns of success.

I further reflected on how Mother Nature provides the example of a perfect, self-governing pattern. As we try to understand its perfect pattern, we form rules that help us to relate it, and thus get the most out of it.

That's when I realized that real success, enduring success, must have a pattern, one as immovable and unchanging as the one found in Mother Nature. I now know that it does, and if it's used effectively, this pattern can empower anyone to act upon the certainties of life and so, form real and enduring successes. However, I have also discovered that if it is ignored, it will deliver the harsh reality of failure that ignorance so bountifully provides to the masses. I know - I used to belong to the masses.

The bottom line about patterns is this - master the pattern and you can master the laws. Master the laws and you can master the success you want – forever!

This chapter will explain the pattern used in this book that presents the pattern of permanent success. As you will see, it must be diligently followed so that your efforts (your runs) *count*.

I will also reveal to you the foundations, abilities, skills and talents that you need to apply in order to effectively utilize this pattern, but *please note*: it is very important for you to understand that I cannot tell you how to make this application; you must decide that for yourself.

That's what makes it so powerful.

Even though the pattern is the same for everyone, and can empower absolutely anyone, each person must create their own Personal Operating System within that pattern. It must be formed individually, for your unique life, so that it is worthwhile today and

forever.

In the list below, we have explained the *key understandings* of this book's pattern. As you can see, these *understandings* are progressive in nature; they build one upon the other as do all things in the world of sage individuals.

- We have 7 *fundamental needs* that originate in our spirits, our inner beings, and can be fully satisfied through use of The Essential Foundations.
- The Essential Foundations are the missing links that act as *doorways* to connect our physical actions to our spirits.
- *FaithSkills* are talents developed through our understanding and use of the Essential Foundations.
- Develop *FaithSkills* and you begin to develop and exercise the skill of practical faith.
- Practical faith is discovered and enhanced through the skill of reflection, which helps you to experience and thus reveal these profound *understandings* or *foundations*.
- Everyone can adapt the pattern of a *FaithSkills* way of life and become empowered to build a life of *permanent success*.

The purpose of this book is to help *re-educate* you by demystifying the practical skill of faith, as I learned to do. You will learn how to actually use the elements of your innate success pattern. As you do, you'll ensure that your physical successes actually satisfy your spirit's fundamental needs, your *real* needs - the needs of your heart that actually drive every aspect of your

life towards our common need to achieve. You will then be able to create *concrete, tangible* successes that have great worth to you. The result will be deep, personal fulfillment - success that not only creates, but perpetuates a life of constant fulfillment and joy.

How is this success pattern effectively implemented? Through the practical skill of faith.

Yes! Faith!

I know this may sound a bit bizarre to you but that's because we have effectively alienated ourselves from the discipline of faith. The common ways of the world have conditioned us to avoid the conscious exercise of faith's empowering and energizing skills.

However, if you think about it, you'll recognize that we unconsciously use it every day for simple tasks. For instance, when you got up this morning, didn't you exercise your spirit's will to alert your mind to act upon your body to *rise* to the day?

Absolutely!

That is the simplest, yet most critical use of faith. And for some, this real use of faith can be considered a miracle, considering the level of negativity that all too many allow themselves to live in. The fact is, we unknowingly and unconsciously use faith in every aspect of our lives.

Faith is like a candle. It can pierce the deepest and darkest parts of our lives. It is the very essence of self-esteem and the core of permanent success. If effectively used, it can allow us to rediscover, recognize and effectively apply our spiritual beings to our daily lives. We then can learn to have faith in ourselves and become empowered to satisfy the deep and powerful fundamental needs of our spirits and thus improve our quality of life forever.

You see, faith is absolutely required for any success to occur. Without it, *our will*, which comes from our spirit, cannot be manifested in this life and thus any attempt to respond to that *will*, or satisfy it, is impossible. Without basic faith, or even the unconscious use of it, we cannot satisfy any physical or spiritual need. Thus, we

are unable to succeed. Just ask businesspeople or parents if they need to have faith in themselves in order for any sort of success to occur in their lives. More than others, they must have faith in themselves in order to even attempt to be what they've chosen to be.

However, because we've allowed religion to commandeer the word faith, and thus the discipline, we've unknowingly gone *underground* and thus become physically alienated from the invigorating force that is created from its conscious practical use. But slowly, we're becoming more aware of the influence our spirit can have on our own personal growth process. It's this prevalent self-awareness that is preparing so many to discover the immense power of faith and its relationship to our spirits and success - even *permanent success* - Here - Today - not in some other realm that many can't comprehend.

This book will act as a *road map* in helping you learn to navigate through this discovery process, which is why it is often referred to as *the owner's manual for success*.

We will use a story format to present this material. The stories are designed to cause you to reflect - to stimulate the relationship between your mind and spirit so you can reveal to yourself your innate skill of proactive reflection. You will see how you can empower yourself to change the circumstances of your life, may they be the culture of your business or the environment in your home.

Each story will be followed by a chapter that discusses the fundamental needs described in it and how each one was satisfied through applying one or more of The Essential Foundations through the talents of *FaithSkills*. These amazing talents will be introduced gradually throughout the book until you have studied all 13 of them and learned how they relate to The Essential Foundations.

Why this gradual introduction? *Because we want you to identify the clear association between the FaithSkills and their related*

foundations and how they must be combined to fill their associated fundamental need. It's the individual, fundamental, needs-filling process that you must *first* learn to relate to. We will then guide you through the process required to individually develop these life changing *FaithSkills* talents so you, and those who surround you, can realize the amazing benefits of the powerful virtues they produce.

There are two chapters entitled *Sage Reflections*. These are meant to both summarize and clarify information discussed previously - "*you know, plan, do and review*".

We've also placed "*focus boxes*" throughout the book, which are designed to stimulate unique, thought-provoking insights that help you understand how the principles apply in *real life* situations.

Time Out sections are also included throughout the chapters. Each one will be introduced by a *compass* symbol that looks like this:



These are meant to encourage you to proactively reflect and discover new insights from the information we've presented you. As you do, you will form segways, or bridges, from understanding to understanding, that will reveal to your mind that you, too, are able to become sage about your life, as Webster defines it: "one who is wise from reflection and experience."

Is it time to awaken yourself and experience the quality of life that your inner being has been prompting you to create?

Is now the time for you to put *self* back into self-esteem and *be right*? In other words, to strive to become what your spirit knows it's meant to be?

If you answered *yes* to these questions, please accept my invitation to introduce you to the Essential Foundations of *permanent success* and the *FaithSkills* way of life. You will positively awaken yourself to personally *become* what your spirit's promptings and intuitions tell you is possible, and thus discover why you purchased

this book.

Add color to the picture of your life by discovering what your heart really wants. Enrich your life with practical *understandings* and talents. Become what you're really meant to be!

A Permanent Success!