

CHAPTER 49

HOW TO CREATE THE DESIRE TO ACHIEVE

- I. Did you realize that you possess a power that can revolutionize your life and transform you into a more likable, popular and successful person?**
- A. That it can make you more self-assured and confident
 - B. That it can enable you to improve your grades, make you a better athlete and upgrade the general quality of your life!
 - C. That it can help you achieve just about any goal you want as long as it's realistic and within the realm of God's law!
- II. Stop and think for a moment about the fellows and girls you secretly admirer.**
- A. Did you ever wonder what makes them tick and why they seem so lucky?
 - B. Why they are so well-adjusted and have many friends?
 - C. Why they seem to have such untiring drive and energy to get things done?
- III. It's simply because they've learned how to tap this inner resource with which every human being is born.**
- A. They've discovered the simple, little secret that all achievers have found.
 - B. An inner power so real and dynamic that if earnestly applied can turn your life around!
- IV. What is this power?**
- A. It's a gift that God has given and it's a power you've had from birth.
 - B. It's a power you use-every day — but probably were unaware of it.
 - C. As a matter of fact, you've already used this power a number of times since you awoke this morning.
 - D. God gave you this power in order to be useful, productive and a fulfilled human being.
- V. Exactly what is it?**
- A. Put in its simplest form — it's the power to choose.
 - B. That's right — it's the power to make decisions affecting the way you live your life.
 - C. It's the power to decide how you'll use your time.
 - D. Or how you'll react to pressure and face disappointment.
 - E. In essence, it's the power to decide whether you'll succeed or fail.
- VI. Of course, I'm not implying that you are free to make any decision you please.**
- A. As long as you're under age and supported by your parents, you'll always be under their authority.
 - B. Because of your youth and inexperience some decisions they must make for you.
 - C. Yet, within your limited boundaries you have the responsibility of making dozens if not hundreds of choices in your day-to-day life.
- VII. Before explaining how you can use this power, let's first notice a number of scriptures explaining God's views on the subject.**
- A. Deut. 30:19 — 'I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live.'
 - B. Josh. 24:14-15 — 'Now therefore fear the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the Lord. (15) And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.'
 - C. Prov. 1:29, 31 — 'For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord: (31) Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices.'
 - D. Prov. 3:31 — 'Envy thou not the oppressor, and choose none of his ways.'
 - E. Isa. 7:14-15 — 'Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. (15) Butter and honey shall he eat, that he may know to refuse the evil, and choose the good.'

VIII. How then can we harness this power and apply it in everyday life?

- A. Before giving you the answer, first let me tell you about a unique law that most people have little knowledge of.
- B. Yet, it has a profound effect on the way you think, live and act.
- C. It's called the 'pleasure-pain principle.'

IX. Just what is this strange-sounding law and how does it work?

- A. We human beings are always seeking ways or things that will bring us pleasure.
 - 1. We might say that life is a constant 'want.'
 - 2. We are constantly wanting things that will give us comfort, satisfy our needs and please our senses.
 - 3. This might include such matters as:
 - a. *Eating when we're hungry.*
 - b. *Drinking when we're thirsty.*
 - c. *Sleeping when we're tired.*
 - d. *Buying things we want.*
 - e. *Listening to music.*
 - f. *Watching TV.*
- B. At the same time we're seeking things to bring pleasure, we're also avoiding circumstances that bring pain.
 - 1. We attempt to shield ourselves from situations that hurt us or cause discomfort.
 - 2. This might involve such examples as:
 - a. *Coming in out of the rain or cold weather.*
 - b. *Avoiding embarrassing situations.*
 - c. *Putting off chores and assignments that require mental effort or hard work.*
 - d. *Getting up early.*
 - e. *Doing yard work or housecleaning.*
- C. Whichever of these two drives — pleasure or pain — dominates is the one you're most likely to choose.

X. This now brings us to a most surprising and vital truth.

- A. True success cannot be attained simply by seeking pleasure.
- B. To attain success, you must also experience pain.
- C. It takes both pleasure and pain to achieve the goals you want in life.
- D. But the amazing truth is that to attain success you must reverse the process — pain first, then pleasure.
- E. This is a great law of life the average teenager does not realize — that to enjoy the true pleasure of success he must first work, toil and experience pain.

XI. Let's notice how this important truth is revealed in God's Word.

- A. Scriptures:
 - 1. Gal. 6:7-9 — *'Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. (8) For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. (9) And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.'*
 - 2. James 5:7 — *'Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.'*
 - 3. II Tim. 2:12 — *'If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us.'*
 - 4. Acts 20:35 — *'I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.'*
 - 5. Luke 6:38 — *'Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give unto your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.'*
- D. The significant key to focus on is that according to God's Word, work precedes reward; seed planting precedes harvest; practice precedes perfection — or pain before pleasure.
 - 1. This has always been the law of life.
 - 2. And it always will be.

XII. But what will also come as a surprise is that even though you experience pain in the pursuit of success, it will eventually become a source of pleasure.

- A. You'll know your efforts will pay off.

- B. You'll receive a reward down range.
- C. You'll eventually reach your goal — if you're patient and endure.

XIII. What this all boils down to is that the power of choice finds its motivation in the pleasure-pain principle.

- A. Or, to use another word with which we're all familiar — desire.
- B. That's correct — a deep, inner burning desire.
- C. If the desire is strong enough you will have the driving determination to overcome obstacles that cause pain to reach your ultimate goal of pleasure (success).

XIV. And how do you generate this desire?

- A. I'd like to share a short little article with you that explains how two teenagers — a boy and a girl — created the desire to achieve some noteworthy goals.
- B. How they developed the drive to discipline themselves.
- B. Notice as we go through this article the inevitable connection between the power of choice and its relationship to the pleasure-pain principle.

HERE'S HOW TO BECOME AN ACHIEVER

Jim is an ordinary teenager in many respects. Yet he's achieved extraordinary success. One glance into his room will tell you he's uniquely different. Plaques, medals and blue ribbons neatly line the walls. Trophies and high achievement awards are displayed throughout the room. There's no doubt that Jim is an achiever.

If you flip through his junior high school yearbook, you'd notice on page 93 that Jim was selected by his class as being the most likely to succeed.

Mary is also a high achiever. She's received a number of decorations and awards from school, clubs and sporting activities. Yet, like Jim, Mary has an average I.Q. and ability.

What makes these two young people so outstanding? What is this inner driving force that motivates and pushes them on? Where do they get their energy, determination and stamina?

All these questions can be answered with one simple word — desire. That's right — a plain, simple burning desire! It's this whole-hearted desire to achieve and excel that stirs them with enthusiasm and determination to succeed.

If you'd observe their day-to-day lives you would be impressed by the zeal with which they attack each new challenge and drive themselves.

Where did they get this burning desire? Was it something inherited, or did they develop it on their own?

As we will see shortly, the motivation to succeed stems largely from their own initiative and positive way of thinking.

Here's how the process works.

Thought is the basis of desire. If you hold a thought in your mind long enough, it will enhance and stimulate imagination. Imagination produces a vivid picture of the goal you would like to attain. The more you think about and envision its reality, the desire to achieve becomes sharper and stronger. One thought leads to another. Ideas and concepts start flooding into your mind. You also become attuned to useful information from things you read and what people say. As thoughts increase, your desire will intensify and propel you forward like a surfer riding the crest of a wave. Success is virtually assured as long as you keep your goal in mind and sustain your drive and desire.

This is the way Jim and Mary accomplished the many goals in their lives. An original thought for something they wanted to achieve entered their mind. They nurtured it with determined concentration until it caught fire. The momentum pushed them on. Success was just a matter of time.

You can also achieve what you want out of life if you follow the same process with dogged tenacity. It will mean, however, strict discipline and self-denial. It will mean forsaking some activities you may enjoy for the sake of a greater goal.

As a reminder, there are two cautions to keep in mind: 1) Don't try to achieve too many goals at the same time. In other words, don't spread yourself too thin. Trying to accomplish too much at once will dilute your drive, energy and desire. 2) Be sure that your goals are honorable and worthy. Don't compromise your conscience or principles on interests and things that will hurt you or harm others. Always let God's Word and His will be your guide and He will bless your efforts (Prov. 3:5-6).

Why not start today on a new adventure? Begin with something small that you can easily handle. Concentrate on it until you build a burning desire. Drive yourself to reach your goal. Then set a new one. You'll be truly amazed at what you can do!

VI. Let's briefly review the procedures that Jim and Mary followed in creating desire and attaining their goals.

A. We'll put them in numerical order for easy reference.

B. Steps:

1. The true basis of success is desire.
2. The basis of desire is thought.
3. Thought stirs the imagination.
4. Imagination forms and creates a vivid mental picture of the thing desired.
5. A vivid mental picture inspires concentration.
6. Concentration produces ideas, answers and solutions on how to attain the object of your desire.
7. The reality of attainment intensifies courage and determination.
8. Courage and determination motivate to action.
9. Action builds confidence with each step you take.
10. Momentum will push you forward until you reach your goal.

VII. Getting back to our original question: Do you realize that how you use the power of choice will determine the outcome of your future?

A. That, in a sense, your destiny lies in your own hands.

B. For example, you can choose to:

1. Look to God for help in guiding your life and making right decisions. OR: Do your own thing and ignore God completely.
2. Build Godly character and become a leader. OR: Live a wild and carefree life and suffer the consequences of being mediocre.
3. Set high personal standards and build a good reputation. OR: Go along with the crowd and allow peers to drag you down.
4. Discover and develop your hidden talents. OR: Waste your time on meaningless pursuits, such as TV, video games and fictional reading.
5. Control your moods and feelings. OR: Whine, pout and become a cry-baby.
6. Be diligent, resourceful and form good work habits. OR: Do as little as you can get by with and destroy your chances of earning a good living.
7. Determine how happy you'll be, how successful, how prosperous. OR: Blame others for your bad breaks and make excuses for your failures.
8. Determine whether you'll study hard, make good grades and get a good education. OR: Goof off, daydream and cheat yourself out of a future.
9. Choose a career and prepare yourself for it. OR: Take life easy and be willing to settle for anything that comes along.
10. Protect your health by watching your diet and getting sufficient exercise. OR: Stuff yourself with junk food and suffer from life-long illnesses and disease.
11. Learn the art of caring about others and building friendships. OR: Turn others off by being rude and inconsiderate.
12. Be responsible, dependable and trustworthy. OR: Get a reputation of being unreliable and not caring how your reactions affect others.
13. Willingly obey and respect your parents. OR: Treat them with contempt and fall under a curse from God.
14. Obey the laws and respect those in authority. OR: Defy law and order and carry the shame of a police record for the rest of your life.

VIII. I'd now like to describe a few true-to-life circumstances you might face and ask: how would you handle them and what choices would you make:

A. Examples:

1. Your parents are leaving for an evening out. They remind you to clean up the kitchen before turning on the TV or starting a game of Monopoly.

2. There's a big test scheduled in Algebra today. You don't think you'll do very well on it. Your mom will probably let you stay home if you tell her you aren't feeling well.
3. Your gym instructor is asking for volunteers to help several weaker students with dribbling and passing fundamentals. You are asked to work with the 'class klutz.'
4. [For the girls] One of the 'ordinary' guys in your class asks you to the Thanksgiving Dance. You are expecting 'Mr. Popular' to ask you, but he hasn't yet.
5. You want to go to the beach with friends on Sunday. You dad expects you to mow the lawn, wash the car, and weed the front flower bed. You could probably get all three jobs done in time to join the group going to the beach, but it would require going to bed early Saturday night, getting an early start Sunday morning, and working at top speed for several hours. Do you 'go for it' or complain and try to get out of the work?
6. Your diligence and hard work are earning you a reputation as a 'goodie-two-shoes' or 'teacher's pet.' You really want to be more popular and accepted by your classmates.
7. Whenever there is work to be done by your Y.O.U. group, are you eager to help or do you make excuses for not showing up?
8. You NEED several additional articles of clothing for the upcoming school year, but you know things have been really difficult for your family financially over the past six or eight months. Do you selfishly insist on Dad buying them, or get a summer job to pay for them yourself?
9. When the alarm rings in the morning, do you get right out of bed, or roll over for a 'short' snooze?
10. You break one of the rules in a game, but no one sees you. What do you do?
11. Your best friend asks you to tell a 'small' lie, or 'shade the truth' for him to keep him out of trouble.
12. One of your friends has just started taking drugs and is trying to get you to start. He keeps saying it's fun but you're scared of your parents.

IX. In concluding our topic, I'd like to read an interesting little paper written by two former Imperial teachers: Mr. Larry Van Landuyt and Mr. Tom Lombardo.

- A. It summarizes very powerfully the subject we've been talking about today.
- B. It's entitled: 'Choices — As You Make Them, They Make You.'

Good character is a victory — not a gift! The many decisions you make each day are shaping your character now — and your success later. You may not realize it, but each day you make hundreds, even thousands of important decisions.

The question is, are you making right, or wrong decisions? Your popularity, your abilities, your happiness, your success, your reputation, your wealth, even your 'talents' are all greatly determined by the choices you make in life.

In most cases life is a matter of CHOICE rather than chance. True, time and chance happen to all. But making proper and timely choices beginning in one's youth greatly reduces the instances and the effect of 'time and chance' or 'bad luck,' as it is often called. Most 'bad luck' isn't the result of luck at all, but of wrong or unwise choices.

Believe it or not, you can mold yourself, over a period of time, to become the following:

<i>popular or unpopular</i>	<i>educated or ignorant</i>
<i>contented or frustrated</i>	<i>organized or chaotic</i>
<i>happy or depressed</i>	<i>brave or cowardly</i>
<i>wise or foolish</i>	<i>decisive or indecisive</i>
<i>successful or a failure</i>	<i>obedient or rebellious</i>
<i>compassionate or hardhearted</i>	<i>financially stable or in debt</i>
<i>physically fit or weak and flabby</i>	<i>diligent or slothful</i>
<i>confident or fearful</i>	<i>trustworthy or deceitful</i>
<i>neat and clean or dirty</i>	<i>reliable or unreliable</i>

To a great extent, your future is in your hands. Right now, the decisions you are making can result in your future success — or failure! The choice is yours. Are you willing to fight, like a salmon struggles upstream to reach its goal, or are you content to float downstream like a dead fish?

As Thomas Edison used to say, '*Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration.*'

You are not caught in a series of uncontrollable circumstances. YOU can determine the way you think, the way you act, the way you react, the WAY YOU ARE. Your choices, big and small, go together to make up you. As you make choices day in and day out, THEY MAKE YOU!

X. In summary, God has given you a marvelous gift: THE POWER TO CHOOSE.

- A. Will you use it to work hard and make something of your life?
- B. Or will you choose the easy, lazy painless route and fail?
- C. What you'll become tomorrow is determined by your choices today!

— END —