



**DAD'S ADVICE TO HIS CHILDREN
ON FINDING A PURPOSE IN LIFE AND ON
BEING HAPPY**
by Tom Corley

For those who have kids who are getting older, getting ready to graduate from college or just entering the workforce I would like to share with you an email I sent to my oldest child when he moved out of our home to begin the next phase of his life.



Dear Kids:

You have all grown up so fast. I'm struggling with the fact that in a few short years you will all be out of the house and on your own. You will learn that life has its ups and downs. The ups will make you happy and the downs, unhappy. Some things that create these ups and downs are outside your control but, thankfully, most things are within your control. I've often told you that how you live your life determines your success and happiness. You've heard me say many times that your daily habits are the key to a great life. If you have more good daily habits than you have bad daily habits life will be good, you'll be successful and you won't have to worry about money. I think you all got that message. But there's one more message I want to share with all of you before you set out on your own. It has to do with finding your main purpose in life and happiness. One of the things I've learned over the years is that when

any one of you are unhappy your Mom and I are also unhappy. So I am being selfish here. I want all of you to be happy so your Mom and I can be happy as well.

Happiness is elusive to so many. Most people are, in fact, unhappy. Henry David Thoreau said it best when he wrote: "Most men lead lives of quiet desperation...". Most people who are unhappy are unhappy because they are struggling financially. They are struggling financially because either they are living beyond their means or their job simply does not provide them with a sufficient income. Odds are, when you are not making a sufficient income at your job, it is because you are doing something you do not particularly like. When you can earn a sufficient income doing something you enjoy you have found your main purpose in life and you will be happy. But how do you find your main purpose in life? Believe it or not finding your main purpose in life is within your control. Here's the process:

1. Make a list of everything you can ever remember that made you happy in life. Hopefully, this will be a long list.
2. Now highlight those items on your list which involve a skill.
3. Assign a job-type designation to each of the highlighted items.
4. Next rank each of the highlighted items in terms of happiness with #1 being the greatest happiness and #2 the next greatest happiness and so on.
5. Now rank each of the highlighted items in terms of income potential with #1 being the highest income and #2 being the next highest and so on.
6. Total the two columns. The lowest scores represent your main purpose in life.

Happy Description	Job Categories	Happy	\$	Total
When I ran the campaign for class president	Politician, campaign manager, professional speaker	1	3	4
When I organized the ski trip for our high school class	Event planning	2	2	4
When I coached basketball part-time in college	Coaching basketball	3	4	7
When I worked part-time in college selling cars	New car salesman, new car dealer	6	1	7
When I wrote for the school newspaper	Journalist, author	4	5	9
ROTC	Military career	5	6	11

This is a guide for selecting that job which will give you the greatest chance for happiness. Pilot each job for six months. You will know that you found your main purpose in life when your job does not feel like a job at all. You will know when time flies by and before you

know it the day is over. You will know when you keep making more and more money at your job. You will know when you are happy.

I love you very much,
Dad



Tom Corley understands the difference between being rich and poor. At age 9 his family went from being multimillionaires to broke in just one night. He understands the challenges adversity can present but is here to share the good news that we have more control over our luck than we may think!

For five years, Tom studied the daily activities of 233 wealthy people and 128 people living in poverty. He discovered there is a difference the size of the Grand Canyon between the daily habits of the wealthy and

poor. During his research he identified over 200 daily activities that separated the "haves" from the "have nots". The culmination of his research can be found in his #1 bestselling book, Rich Habits – The Daily Success Habits of Wealthy Individuals.

Tom is a CPA, CFP and holds a Master's Degree in Taxation. He is also President of Cerefice and Company, CPAs, one of the top financial firms in New Jersey.

Tom has shared his insights on The Dave Ramsey Show, WABC, WCCO, KOA, KDKA, and KKOB and more than 1,000 other radio stations, a host of print media publications and many TV shows including CBS Nightly News and Yahoo! Finance's #1 show, Financially Fit with award-winning host Farnoosh Torabi (Today Show, Kelly and Michael, The View).

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