***"Priorities in Life"***

The University of California studied successful people, and they chose CEO’s from the Fortune 500 companies.

They were looking for a common thread that they could share and mimic.

What they found was quite interesting.

**First**, they all believed in a higher power, the creator "God". So there was purpose and meaning in life. (more than a bug in the rug).

**Second,** all were married (long-term commitment)

**Third,** all were involved in some sort of music as an avocation, i.e., played in an orchestra, band, or sang in a group (discipline and relaxation)

One of the CEO's they interviewed was the CEO of Coca-Cola (he was from Cuba).

They asked him what he attributed his success to....

He said, "***It's the Priorities in my Life.***"

1. Faith

2. Family

3. Fitness

4. Friends

5. Finance

He said not that Finance isn't important, but that's where it fits..

What does that mean?

Well, from a practical sense, "How do you prioritize your time and make decisions?"

**Faith** is the foundation. It's right and wrong .. I think about Martin Luther King's " I had a Dream" to be judged by the CONTENT of my Character (Virtues).

**Family** is the continuation of life itself. It's where your character is developed and nourished to become "The best version of yourself."

**Fitness,** both physically and mentally. You have to take good care of yourself so your family and friends can count on you for support and mentoring

**Friends** shared values, interests, companionship, and trusted counsel

**Finances** the resources to support the above

Keep a journal on these and you will shape your success.....

There is a cute and profound saying..

***The purpose in life is to find your gift..***

***and***

***The meaning in life is to give it away****..*

God made you unique with special gifts..

**So, the first thing to write in your journey is what your gifts are.**

(What makes you tick, excited, and motivated?) example for me I'm a fixer.. Ever since I can remember, I loved to fix things ..cars.. computers... problems....

You can also look at the VIRTUES (<http://www.virtuesforlife.com/virtues-list/>) and see what comes naturally to you. Those are your gifts, too

 ( optimistic, calm, and patient ) These are gifts to me from God.

He expects us to hone and use them to make a difference in life. (Like the Starfish story ). <http://www.cityyear.org/about-us/culture-values/founding-stories/starfish-story>

God's plan is for all of us to realize our gifts and to use them for the good of His kingdom...

**Second, for each one of the priorities (FFFFF), do a self-assessment** of where you are now (use a 1 to 10 scale) and where you want to be; from that, you develop a plan with goals of how to get there.

As an example, how would you rate yourself in terms of your character?

My wife posted these weekly on the refrigerator as the kids were growing up, and still quizzed us (<http://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc_css/archive/catechism/p3s1c1a7.htm> )

**Theological Virtues** = Faith, Hope, Charity

**Cardinal Virtues** = Justice, Fortitude, Temperance, Prudence

**Human Virtues** = Obedience, Perseverance, Moderation, Humility, Sincerity, Patience, Modesty, Optimism, Orderliness, Industriousness, Respect for others, Loyalty

In all, there are many, but about 52 + virtues you can consider. BTW, the opposite of a virtue is a vice, so you want a low or zero score on those guys. ( temptations )...

Third is to make a plan based on SMART goal setting, keep it simple and fun, cause GOD loves ya and so does your FAMILY

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