

Words of Wisdom

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“Self Reliance is a Virtue”

Seven Powerful Principles for Personal Growth

1. **Accept that all men are created equal:** A constitution should grant equal rights but not guarantee equal outcomes.
2. **Do unto others as you would do unto yourself:** Treat people with respect. Accept their choices in life even if they differ from your own.
3. **Recognize that possibilities for the human experience are many:** Improvements in personal performance are possible over a wide range if one works at learning, growing and improving every day. Focus on growth in spiritual awareness, knowledge accumulation and physical attributes that fit you passion and are valued by the society of your choice.
4. **Choose your commitments carefully:** Realize that a person is only as good as his word. Keep all commitments and consider that they can only be changed by mutual agreement. Remember that what goes around comes around. The person you blow off today may be in a position to impact you in the future.

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5. **Accept change as the only constant in a successful life:** We find ourselves in environments that may be unpredictable and full of risk. Be willing to change if your needs are not met. Be prepared to turn over many rocks until you find a nugget. Do not become a victim expecting a handout. Earn success by showing a willingness to persevere and support yourself and your family.

6. **Practice egoism by being responsible in your society:** Act in your own and your family's self interest. Share your experience with others if they show a willingness to learn. Remember the parable of the fisherman who said; "if you give a person a fish, you feed him for a day. If you teach a person to fish, you feed him for a lifetime".

7. **Practice altruism only with your own time and money:** If a person decides it's in his own best interest to practice altruism, then he should do so with his own time and assets. Do not be altruistic with other people's money, as a politician does when he confiscates wealth from some through taxation to give to others to garner votes. A good example of appropriate altruism is a well-known entrepreneur, who made a fortune as a company founder and now spends his time applying venture capital principles to philanthropic endeavors of his own choice and his own money.

Ayn Rand in her book, *Atlas Shrugged* said it best when she wrote that egoism is a better philosophy than altruism to develop the heart of a nation.