

*He is the wisest who seeks God. He is the
most successful who has found God.*

—Sri Sri Paramahansa Yogananda

THE LAW OF SUCCESS

Is there a power that can reveal hidden veins of riches and uncover treasures of which we never dreamed? Is there a force that we can call upon to give health, happiness, and spiritual enlightenment? The saints and sages of India teach that there is such a power. They have demonstrated the efficacy of truth principles that will work for you, too, if you give them a fair trial.

Your success in life does not altogether depend on ability and training; it also depends on your determination to grasp opportunities that are presented to you. Opportunities in life come by creation, not by chance. You yourself, either now or in the past (including the past of former lives), have created all opportunities that arise in your path. Since you have earned them, use them to the best advantage.

If you use all available outward means, as well as your natural abilities, to overcome every obstacle in your path, you will thus develop the powers that God gave you — unlimited powers that flow from the innermost forces of your being. You possess the power of thought and the power of will. Utilize to the uttermost these divine gifts!

The Power of Thought

You demonstrate success or failure according to your habitual trend of thought. In you which is the stronger — success thoughts or failure thoughts? If your mind is ordinarily in a negative state, an occasional positive thought is not sufficient to attract success. But if you think rightly, you will find your goal even though you seem to be

enveloped in darkness.

You alone are responsible for yourself. No one else may answer for your deeds when the final reckoning comes. Your work in the world — in the sphere where your karma, your own past activity, has placed you — can be performed only by one person — yourself. And your work can be called a “success” only when in some way it serves your fellowman.

Don't mentally review any problem constantly. Let it rest at times and it may work itself out; but see that *you* do not rest so long that your discrimination is lost. Rather, use these rest periods to go deep within the calm region of your inner Self. Attuned with your soul, you will be able to think correctly regarding everything you do; and if your thoughts or actions have gone astray they can be realigned. This power of divine attunement can be achieved by practice and effort.

Will Is the Dynamo

Along with positive thinking, you should use will power and continuous activity in order to be successful. Every outward manifestation is the result of will, but this power is not always used consciously. There is mechanical will as well as conscious will. The dynamo of all your powers is volition, or will power. Without volition you cannot walk, talk, work, think, or feel. Therefore will power is the spring of all your actions. (In order not to use this energy, you would have to be completely inactive both physically and mentally. Even when you move your hand, you are using will power. It is impossible to live without using this force.)

Mechanical will is an unthinking use of will power. Conscious will is a vital force accompanying determination and effort, a dynamo that should be wisely directed. As you train yourself to use conscious, not mechanical, will, you should also be sure that your will power is being used constructively, not for harmful purposes nor for useless acquisitions.

To create dynamic will power, determine to do some of the things in life that you thought you could not do. Attempt simple tasks first. As your confidence strengthens and your will becomes more dynamic, you can aim for more difficult accomplishments. Be certain that you have made a good selection, then refuse to submit to failure. Devote your entire will power to mastering one thing at a time; do not scatter your energies, nor leave something half done to begin a new venture.

You Can Control Destiny

Mind is the creator of everything. You should therefore guide it to create only good. If you cling to a certain thought with dynamic will power, it finally assumes a tangible outward form. When you are able to employ your will always for constructive purposes, you become the *controller of your destiny*.

I have just mentioned three important ways to make your will dynamic: (1) choose a simple task or an accomplishment that you have never mastered and determine to succeed with it; (2) be sure you have chosen something constructive and feasible, then refuse to consider failure; (3) concentrate on a single purpose, using all abilities and opportunities to forward it.

But you should always be sure, within the calm region of your inner Self, that what you want is right for you to have, and in accord with God's purposes. You can then use all the force of your will to accomplish your object; keeping your mind, however, centred on the thought of God — the Source of all power and all accomplishment.

Fear Exhausts Life Energy

The human brain is a storehouse of life energy. This energy is constantly employed in muscular movements; in the working of the heart, lungs, and diaphragm; in cellular metabolism and chemicalization of blood; and in carrying on the work of the telephonic sensory motor system (the nerves). Besides this, a tremendous amount of life energy is required in all processes of thought, emotion, and will.

Fear exhausts life energy; it is one of the greatest enemies of dynamic will power. Fear causes the life force that ordinarily flows steadily through the nerves to be squeezed out, and the nerves themselves to become as though paralyzed; the vitality of the whole body is lowered. Fear doesn't help you to get away from the object of fear; it only weakens your will power. Fear causes the brain to send an inhibiting message to all bodily organs. It constricts the heart, checks the digestive functions, and causes many other physical disturbances. When the consciousness is kept on God, you will have no fears; every obstacle will then be overcome by courage and faith.

A "wish" is *desire without energy*. After a wish may come "intention" — the plan to do a thing, to fulfill a wish or desire. But "will" means: "I *act* until I get my wish." When