William Poe

9/12/2022

IDS\*142

Professor Champion

A life of Significance

A life of significance can mean something different to anyone that is asked. It can mean that what you accomplished in life meant a lot to you or someone else. The impacts on one's life can be both big and small. It just means that someone has lived their life up to and beyond the expectation that they set for themselves. Living a life of significance can mean many different things, but there are four components that I find most important; hard work, impactfulness, sharing one's own experiences with others, and using interactions with others to learn more about yourself.

An important quality of a person living a life of significance is hard work. This means you always do your best. Whenever you run into a problem you will keep working to overcome the obstacle that you face. In the book, *The Sky is Not the Limit,* Neil DeGrasse Tyson s, “That excursion to Lexington, my seventh grade in school, happened to be the most successful academic year of my life. I earned straight As and won the school citizenship award” (Tyson 24). This shows he was able to become a straight-A student even after struggling and failing. If you were to ever encounter failure don’t be mad at yourself or be let down, learn from your mistakes and use those to help you going forward. Don’t be afraid to ask other people questions or for help with something. Failure is a great way to help you work harder, it makes you want to figure out why you did something wrong and keep working until you find a solution that will stick with you and can be used again. You should share your hard work with others to teach them something new or inspire them to work harder. The hard work you do can either be for your career or your community. Both would greatly benefit someone who is pushing themselves to live a life of significance.

Another important aspect of living a life of significance is to make sure you live an impactful life. In order to do so, you should always be willing to help other people or your community. Whenever there are chances to volunteer you should try and take those. In doing so, you could influence someone to help their community or volunteer themselves. You could also learn something that is important to you from these experiences that you could also share with others. To have an impact you do not need to be famous; anyone who wants to help other people or learn more about what people are going through to help them out can be impactful to someone. In the book, *The Sky is Not the Limit* Neil DeGrasse Tyson gives an example of a time someone else’s actions had an impact on him. He states, “By midyear, however, on her own time and initiative, Mrs. Kreindler clipped a small advertisement from the local newspaper announcing that year's offering of astronomy courses at the Hayden Planetarium. One of them was called Advanced Topics in Astronomy for Young People, intended for kids in upper junior high school and the first years of high school. Mrs. Kreindler knew of my growing interest in the universe” (Tyson 21). This is just one example of a small, but meaningful impact. The impact you make does not have to be big. It can be small and direct. The small and direct impact can have the most influence on a person and it could stick with them their entire life. Someone who wants to live an impactful life when interacting with others would share their experiences, give them wisdom, listen very carefully, and care about what someone is saying. Furthermore, they would be willing to guide that person to help them succeed and do their best. The work you do can be either for your career or your community there will always be a place you can impact someone’s life or impact your own. If you live an impactful life the relationships, you establish with other groups could bring you closer together and build a stronger connection between you.

Being able to bring your experience to the table can be beneficial to living a life of significance. Doing so can be when you are at work, school, on a vacation, at church, or in a tough situation. When you can bring something to the table you have the chance to be involved as much as possible. This allows you to grow your experience more because you could learn something new from someone else. Anyone’s experiences are important in situations. As everyone has different experiences, they could be small or big experiences, they can all mean something important to the situation at hand. The size of the experience is not what matters. It is what someone can learn from that experience that is important. Having that experience can be very beneficial to help you avoid failure but if you don’t have that experience, you will get it from that failure and you will always remember that because no one likes to fail, and if they do they want to stay away from it. Your experience can have a major impact on someone whether it be a skill you have or an experience you have gotten from life. They both can have an effect that changes someone’s life, or in school show them another path they can take in a career choice they like much more than the one they are in right now. In the book *Designing Your Life,* the authors say, “As teachers, we have always guaranteed our students “office hours for life.” This means that if you take a class from us, we are there for you, forever” (Evans and Burnett xxii). These teachers want to help you and see you succeed by giving you the ability to. A group that brings together all their experience can be a very strong, hardworking, and dedicated group.

A life where you join your experience with others to help grow yourself and find out about what you genuinely enjoy is one that you will be able to learn the most from. When you are able to share your experience with others and learn from them to help better yourself as a person, you can then take those experiences and find what you are interested in life and follow those dreams and make them become a reality. An example of this is someone who has talked and learned a lot from people who are pilots and decides to take that experience he has gotten from them and use it to better themselves and follow their dream of becoming a pilot. In the book *Designing Your Life,* the authors say, “Our focus is mainly on jobs and careers, because, let’s face it, we spend most of the hours of our days, and the days of our lives, at work. Work can be a daily source of enormous joy and meaning, or it can be an endless grind and waste of hours spent trying to white-knuckle our way through the misery of it all until the weekend comes” (Evans and Burnett xxv). This shows how important it is to do what you like. When you can relate and interact with others you can share your experiences and help one another to grow and change as people. The work you would do is what you have enjoyed and have gotten the most experience from. This experience could come from a job when you were in high school, or when you were volunteering for a community. The relationship you can establish with different groups could be one that is for a lifetime because you and the others might have helped one another to make a big decision in their life that they have truly enjoyed ever since. The relationship could be one that is a very good friendship where you all found out that you had the same interests in the end, and all took the same career path.

Living a life of significance can mean many different things, but there are four components that I find most important; hard work, impactfulness, sharing one's own experiences with others, and using interactions with others to learn more about yourself. Being a hardworking individual, someone who wants to live an impactful life, bringing your experiences to the table, and joining your experience with others to help grow yourself and find what you genuinely enjoy are what I believe are the most important to living a life of significance.

Work Cited

1. Burnett, Bill, and Dave Evans. *Designing Your Life: How to Build a Well-Lived, Joyful Life*. Alfred A. Knopf, 2021.
2. Tyson, Neil DeGrasse. *The Sky Is Not the Limit: Adventures of an Urban Astrophysicist*. Prometheus Books, 2004.