

Living a Life of Significance

Having standards in one's life is a beneficial thing, they keep you goal oriented and make you better yourself. The standards you set for yourself to go by in your day to day life are there to help you live a life of significance. The meaning of life of significance has many interpretations but personally living a life of significance is being the best person you can be to yourself while benefiting others in your community and having an impact. Living a life of significance is like an equation, you can't live a life of significance if you don't have the variables. The variables include qualities, characteristics and attitude. There are many qualities everybody can strive for to embody living a life of significance. Elizabeth Gilbert was an "unpublished diner waitress" handed numerous rejection letters. Although in one of her most recent tellings "Eat, Prey, Love" she found herself identifying strongly with her former self. Elizabeth Gilbert reflected on why failure can breed success. Depending on how bad you want something and your will to work for it nobody can tell you no. She kept getting rejected by labels but she was resilient enough to proceed with her dreams getting closer to her life of significance. With Elizabeth being as resilient as she was she can inspire other future authors who have aspirations of making it big and are facing rejection letters to embrace the failure, learn from it and better yourself. A key component to living a life of significance is commitment. When you commit to something a standard or a goal your mind has a certain drive and determination to stay committed to it. From a personal experience I'm on the football team at Birmingham Southern and I'm bought into this program and I'm committed. If i were to skip a rep or be lackadaisical on a play i would feel as if i gave up on the team and my coaches because they put their trust in me to be here and be on the field competing i owe it to them just as much as i owe to me to give my

all and be committed to this program. Recently at Birmingham Southern we had our first academic bootcamp (L&A) . We had four alumni come and speak to us about their experience here, what they do now and what it means to them to live a life of significance. One of the alumni (Scott) was a business major and was on the baseball team. Every sunday he and a group of his friends would go by the lake on campus and on the open field of grass they would play football, soccer, ultimate frisbee or whatever for hours every sunday. They kept doing it for so long that at some point parents of kids would start taking notice of it and started dropping their kids off with Scott and his group of friends free of charge just playing all day with them. Once Scott had graduated he started to work at a bank and kept a little so-called hobby as a side gig. After he would get finished with his shift at work he would drive to a nearby park in proximity to BSC campus. Still free of charge just hanging out the youth in the community spreading positivity. He had mentioned to us that one day one of the kids that frequently comes to the park had been killed. Scott took it upon himself to quit his job and helped kids in the community that taught him how to live a life of significance. Scott and a group of guys decided to build a shelter home for the youth in the community that are less fortunate than the kids who are living good quality lives. Scott was passionate enough to quit his job to come back here to help the kids in the community to put a roof over their heads and have a place where they can just hang out and bond together to form relationships and help each other in life. Scott also shared with us that recently he and his team finished building their second building for other kids who just need a place to share their thoughts or need a mentor in their life to guide them down living a better life. To Scott living a life of significance was not about just him living one but helping the youth live on as well. If you're passionate about living a life of significance you'll be sure that you're living one and helping others in your community to live one as well. Giving back to someone is the

kindest gesture you can do for someone. Living a life of significance is only something you only know that you're doing. Outsiders or critics won't know but you will. Personally for me I'm just now learning how to live a life of significance. I have certain standards that I live by to ensure that I live a life of significance. Like going to class, I know that if I don't go to class I'm not living a life of significance. I'm not only putting a bad image on myself but I'm also putting one on parents and everyone who represents me and I don't want that for them nor me. There is no certain criteria to judge if someone is living a life of significance. I mean you look at LeBron James or Tom Brady. They are the pinnacle of their respective sports and both have had great careers. Yet there are people who say they still have more to do in order to better themselves and the people around them. However from their point of view they have lived a life of significance with everything they have accomplished and how they have given back to their community. LeBron James built a whole institution for the youth back in Akron, Ohio where he grew up. He has kids looking up to him because he has standards, is passionate and is committed to living a life of significance. Everyone has their opinions but no one can tell you you're living a life of significance except you. As long as you're passionate, committed and have standards you are living a life of significance. To me it is about standing out from others, having them look at you as an outcast. Everyone starts out in a shell but once you get out of yours then they follow you and get out theirs, start leading by example everyone starts to follow you. They see you living a life of significance next thing you know the whole community is living a life of significance. It's always a good thing to have a mentor or read about someone who has or is living a life of significance. For example, in my LOS class we are reading "The Sky is Not the Limit" by Neil De Grasse Tyson and he gives great examples of how to live a life of significance. His impact on others has helped him live a life of significance and he shares his idea of what it means to live a

life of significance. The quote “Living a Life of Significance” has many meanings but as long as you feel like you are bettering yourself day by day and having a beneficial impact on others you are living a life of significance.