The human race has great curiosity and imagination, we dream of things both real and of fantasy. In every fragment of our essence we crave to be the masters of our own destinies and the creators of our future. Reaching into the depths of our individuality as well as out to the stars in an attempt to answer the questions of our existence and place in everything.

We are the only creatures I know who spend their entire lives documenting and recording themselves, in millions of forms and in millions of ways we say I am, was and have been, I must leave my mark, I creator, see what I have done. So Create! Take a photograph, draw a picture, write a line, sculpt, build, design, teach or communicate. Create, invent and imagine because that is what it means to be human and for all of us I might even speculate that this is the true meaning of life, and the answer to everything we are, to leave our mark, to be remembered.

Evolution is commonly described as a process of continuous change from a lower to a higher state. In human evolution it is often the genetic stages of change that are commonly thought of, such as the physical development from primitive to modern man. Perhaps our spiritual and intellectual evolution are also tied to the forward and ever changing progress of humanity as we journey from what we once were to what we will become. Most religious and spiritual ideals center on the belief of living our lives in a manner that allows us, on death, to transcend from the physical form to the ethereal. Perhaps like Humanity's genetic and intellectual development, our spiritual journey has also been an evolutionary process of several thousand years, a progression of lessons leading to the present day. As our genetic progress changes the physical body, and the sciences change mankind’s perceptions and understandings, so should our personal spirituality develop as well.

Some of the key principals that have helped me grow and become the individual I am today can be simple in their concept, but nearly impossible in their execution. To look deeply within ourselves with honesty, and face the best and worst aspects of one's self is never an easy endeavor.
The Keys

1. Honesty with self
2. Forgiveness of self
3. Evaluation of self
4. Strive to improve on self
5. Move on

1. Be Honest; only when you can be completely truthful with yourself can you remove obstacles from your Future Path. We often create false memories of experiences to justify actions or mask emotions. We may also re-arrange the events and experiences of our history to justify or avoid present day moral conflicts. Take responsibility for yourself in both thought and action. Accept that no one is perfect and that no person is always right or justified in the choices of their past. Eliminate the walls between the truth and the lies you can create to protect yourself from the emotions you fear to examine. Break down the barriers that block you from who you truly are.

2. Forgive yourself; allow the failures of your past to be the lessons which build your future. Learn from poor choices, allow yourself to let go of the things you cannot change. Remove the burden of guilt, regret and missed opportunities, by forgiving yourself for not meeting your own expectations. When you hold on to the mistakes and poor judgments of your past, you add obstacles to your future journey, and a larger load of unresolved emotions to the weight you bear. Clear away the inner conflicts of your history and approach the future without the prejudices and burdens that your life experiences have caused.

3. Evaluate Often; be willing to adapt and adjust to the continually changing landscape of life. As you grow, your perspectives and expectations will alter. A frequent assessment of where you stand with yourself makes it much easier to determine the next step in becoming who you wish to be. Take every opportunity to re-center yourself on your goals and the path ahead of you. The better you know who you are, the more successful you will be in achieving positive growth.

How will you leave your mark?
By; Robert E. Gebbie
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We spend our lives with too much self involvement, getting mired in the small details without ever viewing the larger great works being created right in front of us. When a person drops the veils and misconceptions that have been presented as a reality, and allow themselves to accept the things they know within to be true and right, a new awareness and vision emerge. For me, the path was open to find the answers I seek.

The purpose of life, in my opinion, is to continually strive to better ourselves and our understanding of the world around us. To be true to our purpose and move forward, ever growing and evolving in who we as a species have become. To one day evolve beyond the barriers of this world and move forward into an existence of spirit or energy beyond our current abilities.

As a species, we have been passing forward the sum of our learning and existence to the generations that come after us. Through the works left behind, from cave paintings to written word, we express our perspectives and understandings to anyone and everyone who will take notice. We are creatures of expression, needing to make our mark and be recognized. The human race has been on a long and difficult journey in understanding our place in creation. The messages created of our concepts and ideas have been recorded through history in art and writing and in our ever growing forms of expression. We seek with hope and faith while trying to understand with science and philosophy, and in everything we do we cry out to say “I am.”

With expression, we communicate and mix our experiences and perspectives to an overall greater truth and knowledge. Exploring life, we add our chapter to a larger and continually expanding manuscript of human existence. We crave acknowledgement for the things that have been accomplished, to be understood and leave a mark on history. As a race, we strive to become something better than we are as individuals. Creating, and becoming creators ourselves. Making an honorable, lasting impression on the universe, and perhaps time itself. Faith in a greater purpose gives people the desire to strive for better, while evolution and reason define the details of our learning along this journey.
Make a plan:

Now that you have an end desire, it is time to find the means to get there. Outline a plan and create a process with steps to follow and benchmarks to be accomplished. Write it down! Make note of the key factors involved, and the steps you must take to achieve your goal. With a defined path you can measure progress and make assessments or choices about how best to accomplish your goals.

Personal or career pursuits find a much smoother means to success when there is a strong strategy providing the materials to build with. Small achievements rapidly develop into greater accomplishments when they are part of a larger whole. Similar to building a wall, each brick set in place becomes part of a bigger structure.

Take action:

Little has ever been achieved without taking action. Action is the force that creates results. Desires become reachable ambitions when a person makes the choice to direct their own course in following their dreams. Individuals have the ability to create opportunity in their lives when they take charge and become the masters of their destiny.

Often it is the manner that people approach their lives, which creates the fulfillment or disappointment of their wants and wishes. Everyone has the power to accomplish change in his or her life. With patience and perseverance, individuals can make great progress at achieving their goals. Every day presents an opportunity to grow and expand your understanding of yourself and of the world around you. Impossible dreams become reachable achievements when people take charge of the direction their lives lead.

4. Strive to improve; make a true and honest effort to grow and evolve. The reason for personal development is to become a greater you tomorrow than you are today. Be open to new ideas and concepts, you can spend a great amount of time and effort maintaining outdated ideas. Evolution itself means change in a positive manner, and to effect growth you must be open to accept and adapt to new information. Make a sincere commitment and take personal action in following a course that leads to a greater you.

5. Move on; build on both the positive and negative experiences that will occur in your journey forward. Allow every moment to be a chance to make positive change in you. You can make the decision, at any moment in your life, to be a greater and better Human in your future than you have been in your past. Leave your history behind and move on in your journey forward. Continue striving to become the Human you aspire to be.

After many years of applying this process again and again, constantly placing the burden of accountability and responsibility upon my own shoulders for the direction of my life, I had an epiphany. In my attempt to simply be a better individual and live up to my own personal expectations and truth, I accidently opened a doorway that changed everything I thought I knew or believed. I now have a peace and happiness in my life that I have never known before. Because of my personal revelations, my wife and I now lead our lives by the philosophies and understandings that we gained from this experience.
Focus on Your Future
By; Robert E. Gebbie
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Every process, including life, has three stages; a beginning, a middle, and an ending. Relative to the journey of life, these steps might represent our past, present and future. Yesterday is behind us, today is here, but tomorrow presents endless possibilities.

Experience – The Past
The road of life can be an interesting journey, our experiences become tools for learning, or roadblocks stalling our progress. Events and people influence our lives, everyday. The impact of a negative situation can take years to overcome, or an instant to move past. Strive to understand the effect the past has, are there issues of pride, confidence, or emotion that remain unresolved and slow your growth?

Action – The Present
Decisions made today define the direction we travel tomorrow. Take action now; make the decision to move forward in yourself and your life. The destination is yours to choose. Steps made toward personal growth today may yield the rewards you see tomorrow.

Result – The Future
Ahead can be a landscape of possibilities, or a narrow path obstructed with many obstacles. When we define ourselves and grow from our experiences, the future can present a world of possibilities.

Learn from the past, use that knowledge today and it will lead to the accomplishments ahead. History may dictate who we are by experiences we have had, but it does not command the person we may become. Each new day can be approached as an adventure awaiting our discovery, or a chore we would rather avoid. The journey of growth can be a long and personal one, but when striven for and not labored after, the results can be amazing.

Controlling Your Future
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We are the result of our experiences both good and bad. There are numerous factors that create the people we become in life. Some of these events we have direct influence on or control over, while others are a matter of timing and fate. Everyone, each person in this world, has an individual perspective and their own unique story to tell. From the lucky and successful, to the disaster ridden and unfortunate, every path has a personal amount of choice and its own measure of the unexpected.

The degree of influence an individual takes over the direction of his or her own life is a choice in itself. There will always be an element of the unknown, but many times the outcome and results can be changed with some effort. Take the lead in deciding which path your journey will follow. Participate in the decisions that determine your destiny. With drive and persistence, an individual can accomplish their dreams and be the architect and builder of their own future.

Know what you want:
Have a destination for your vision, know what it is you wish to accomplish. When a person defines their dreams, they create goals and clarify the directions in which they want their efforts to lead. Every journey has a desired end and provides an objective for the individual to strive for.

From long term career ambitions to a short-term desire for lunch, when you know what you want, it is much easier to find a means of making the wish become a reality. The clearer and more defined you make your vision, the simpler it is to find a path to those dreams. Having a target to aim for, an individual can then focus their talent, passion and drive to achieve accomplishments that would otherwise seem impossible.