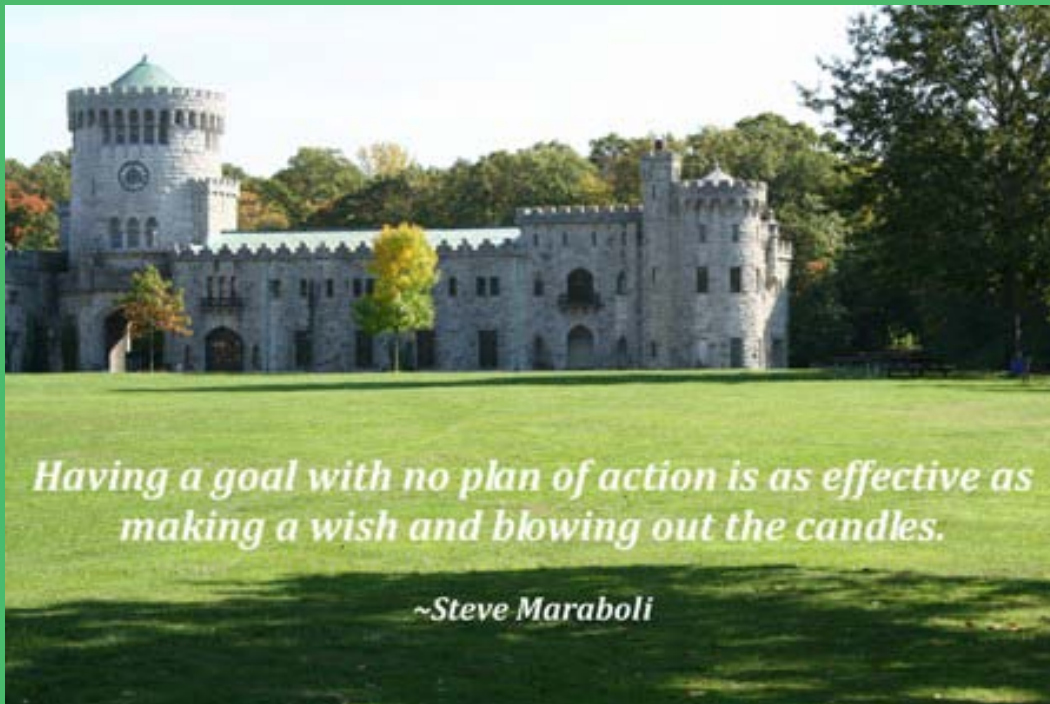




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A BETTER TODAY NEWSLETTER

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One Day At A Time

It seems everybody is really busy these days. I understand that the stresses of work and family, at times, make it easy to lose focus and make each day a blur. My life is not unlike yours. I too seem to have a mountain of work to move but only a spoon with which to dig. But I want to share with you a simple TRUTH that helps me accomplish what I need to do while at the same time never losing focus.

Although time seems to fly, it never travels faster than one day at a time. Each day is a new opportunity to live your life to the fullest. In each waking day, you will find scores of blessings and opportunities for positive change. Do not let your TODAY be stolen by the ghost of yesterday or the "To-Do" list of tomorrow!

Harness the power of today. Seize the blessings of today! Make something happen, enhance your life, make someone laugh, help a friend, love, love, love!

Choose to do it - TODAY!

Today is a new day!

© Steve Maraboli

Your Money - Your Power

Money Saving Ways to Take Control of your Finances

By: Brad Pine

Simple Tips:

1. Mortgage/Rent:

Refinance/Prepay

Make your best attempt to prepay 1 extra payment a year. This can drastically reduce your overall mortgage payments.

Renting

Renegotiate rent or look to move. Oftentimes Landlords would much more prefer to lower the rent then take the chance on not being able to rent for a couple of months.

2. Cable/Internet/Phone:

Look at bundling Cable internet and phone. Recently someone told me they saved \$40 a month by bundling and also saved \$35 a month by canceling premium movie channels for a total of \$900 a year.

If you think you're paying too much for phone, cable, internet or any other service, call them and ask what they can do for you. If it's nothing, then mention the rate their competitor has and how you're "thinking" of switching and see if they will give you any discounts. Often times they will.

3. Cell Phone:

If you have a family, make sure you are all on the same plan and receive the family plan discount. Shop other carriers.... there are a lot of great deals being offered. Manage your Minutes so you don't go over. Most carriers have very easy ways to do this. You can call the carrier to restrict some services/functions on you or other family members to control costs.

4. Newspaper/Magazines:

If you don't read all the magazines and newspapers that you subscribe to, cancel them and consider reading them online.

5. Credit Card Interest:

1) Let's say on average people have a balance of around \$10,000 at an average rate of 12.5% percent annually and you paid off your credit card bills, you can save \$1,250 annually in interest cost, instead of paying it to the bank

If you don't have the savings here are some possible ideas:

There are credit cards that you can transfer your balances which gives a 0% interest rate on the amount transferred for one year and 0% for the first 6 months on new charges... check online to find the right CC for you. Be sure to READ ALL the terms and condition on each before applying! Knowledge is POWER!

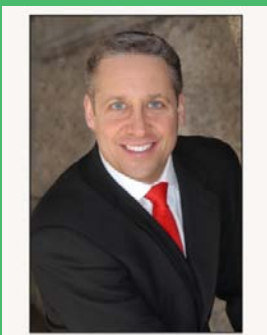
6. Go Wireless.

Do you really need to shell out the \$35 or so a month for your home phone line? You can spend an extra \$10 or so to get an extended-minutes plan for your cell phone and ditch the home line.

Painless savings: About \$300 a year

7. Impulse shopping

Never impulse shop! When you buy a big ticket item make sure you compare? Know the policy to see if it goes on sale within a period of time after the purchase will they honor it? You can save big \$



Check out Brad's Video!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6RwE-GwE-s>

A friend of A Better Today, Brad Pine continues to build a reputation of implementing sophisticated investment strategies and comprehensive portfolio management. He examines his client's financial situations, developing ways to protect their assets and continue to grow their wealth. Website:

www.bradfordpine.com

God Did Not Create Evil, Cold or Darkness

University Classroom Setting...

"LET ME EXPLAIN THE problem science has with Jesus Christ," The atheist professor of philosophy pauses before his class and then asks one of his new students to stand. "You're a Christian, aren't you, son?"

"Yes, sir."

"So you believe in God?"

"Absolutely."

"Is God good?"

"Sure! God's good."

"Is God all-powerful? Can God do anything?"

"Yes."

"Are you good or evil?"

"The Bible says I'm evil."

The professor grins knowingly. "Ahh! THE BIBLE!" He considers for a moment.

"Here's one for you. Let's say there's a sick person over here and you can cure him. You can do it. Would you help them?"

"Would you try?"

"Yes sir, I would."

"So you're good...!"

"I wouldn't say that."

"Why not say that? You would help a sick and maimed person if you could... in fact most of us would if we could... God doesn't."

[No answer.]

"He doesn't, does he? My brother was a Christian who died of cancer even though he prayed to Jesus to heal him. How is this Jesus good? Hmmm? Can you answer that one?"

[No answer]

The elderly man is sympathetic. "No, you can't, can you?" He takes a sip of water from a glass on his desk to give the student time to relax. In philosophy, you have to go easy with the new ones. "Let's start again, son."

"Is God good?"

"Er... Yes."

"Is Satan good?"

"No."

"Where does Satan come from?"

The student falters. "From... God..."

"That's right. God made Satan, didn't he?" The elderly man runs his bony fingers through his thinning hair and turns to the smirking, student audience. "I think we're going to have a lot of fun this semester, ladies and gentlemen." He turns back to the Christian. "Tell me, son. Is there evil in this world?"

"Yes, sir."

"Evil's everywhere, isn't it? Did God make everything?"

"Yes."

"Who created evil?"

[No answer]

"Is there sickness in this world? Immorality? Hatred? Ugliness? All those terrible things - do they exist in this world?"

The student squirms on his feet. "Yes."

"Who created them?"

[No answer]

The professor suddenly shouts at his student. "WHO CREATED THEM? TELL ME, PLEASE!" The professor closes in for the kill and climbs into the Christian's face. In a still small voice: "God created all evil, didn't He, son?"

[No answer]

The student tries to hold the steady, experienced gaze and fails. Suddenly the lecturer breaks away to pace the front of the classroom like an aging panther. The class is mesmerized.

"Tell me," he continues, "How is it that this God is good if He created all evil throughout all time?" The professor swishes his arms around to encompass the wickedness of the world. "All the hatred, the brutality, all the pain, all the torture, all the death and ugliness and all the suffering created by this good God is all over the world, isn't it, young man?"

[No answer]

"Don't you see it all over the place? Huh?" Pause.

"Don't you?" The professor leans into the student's face again and whispers, "Is God good?"

[No answer]

"Do you believe in Jesus Christ, son?"

The student's voice betrays him and cracks. "Yes, professor. I do."

The old man shakes his head sadly. "Science says you have five senses you use to identify and observe the world around you. Have you seen Him? "

"No, sir. I've never seen Him."

"Then tell us if you've ever heard your Jesus?"

"No, sir. I have not."

"Have you ever felt your Jesus, tasted your Jesus or smelled your Jesus... in fact, do you have any sensory perception of your God whatsoever?"

[No answer]

"Answer me, please."

"No, sir, I'm afraid I haven't."

"You're AFRAID... you haven't?"

"No, sir."

"Yet you still believe in him?"

"... yes ..."

"That takes FAITH!" The professor smiles sagely at the underling.

"According to the rules of empirical, testable, demonstrable protocol, science says your God doesn't exist. What do you say to that, son? Where is your God now?"

[The student doesn't answer]

"Sit down, please."

The Christian sits... Defeated(?).

Another Christian raises his hand. "Professor, may I address the class?"

The professor turns and smiles. "Ah, another Christian in the vanguard!

Come, come, young man. Speak some proper wisdom to the gathering."

The Christian looks around the room. "Some interesting points you are making sir.

Now I've got a question for you if that's okay. Is there such thing as heat?"

"Yes," the professor replies, frowning. "There's heat."

"Is there such a thing as cold?"

"Yes, son, there's cold too."

"No, sir, there isn't."

The professor's grin freezes.

The room suddenly goes very cold. The second Christian continues.

"You can have lots of heat, even more heat, super-heat, mega-heat, white heat, a little heat or no heat but we don't have anything called 'cold'.

We can hit 458 degrees below zero, which is no heat, but we can't go any further after that. There is no such thing as cold, otherwise we would be able to go colder than 458 -- You see, sir, cold is only a word we use to describe the absence of heat.

We cannot measure cold. Heat we can measure in thermal units because heat is energy.

Cold is not the opposite of heat, sir, just the absence of it." Silence. A pin drops somewhere in the classroom.

"Is there such a thing as darkness, professor?" "That's a dumb question, son.

What is night if it isn't darkness? What are you getting at...?"

"So you say there is such a thing as darkness?"

"Yes..."

"You're wrong again, sir. Darkness is not something, it is the absence of something. You can have low light, normal light, bright light, flashing light but if you have no light constantly you have nothing and it's called darkness, isn't it? That's the meaning we use to define the word. In reality, Darkness isn't.

If it were, you would be able to make darkness darker and give me a jar of it. Can you...give me a jar of darker darkness, professor?"

Despite himself, the professor smiles at the young effrontery before him.

This will indeed be a good semester. "Would you mind telling us what your point is, young man?"

"Yes, professor. My point is, your philosophical premise is flawed to start with and so your conclusion must be in error..."

The professor goes toxic. "Flawed...? How dare you...!"

"Sir, may I explain what I mean?"

The class is all ears.

"Explain... oh, explain..." The professor makes an admirable effort to regain control. Suddenly he is affability itself. He waves his hand to silence the class, for the student to continue.

"You are working on the premise of duality," the Christian explains; "that for example there is life and then there's death; a good God and a bad God. You are viewing the concept of God as something finite, something we can measure. Sir, science cannot even explain a thought. It uses electricity and magnetism but has never seen, much less fully understood them. To view death as the opposite of life is to be ignorant of the fact that death cannot exist as a substantive thing. Death is not the opposite of life, merely the absence of it."

The young man holds up a newspaper he takes from the desk of a neighbor who has been reading it. "Here is one of the most disgusting tabloids you can buy, professor. Is there such a thing as immorality?"

"Of course there is, now look..."

"Wrong again, sir. You see, immorality is merely the absence of morality. Is there such thing as injustice? No. Injustice is the absence of justice. Is there such a thing as evil?" The Christian pauses.

"Isn't evil the absence of good?"

The professor's face has turned an alarming color. He is so angry he is temporarily speechless.

The Christian continues. "If there is evil in the world, professor, and we all agree there is, then God, if he exists, must be accomplishing a work through the agency of evil. What is that work God is accomplishing?"

The Bible tells us it is to see if each one of us will, of our own free will, choose good over evil."

The professor bristles. "As a philosophical scientist, I don't view this matter as having anything to do with any choice; as a realist, I absolutely do not recognize the concept of God or any other theological factor as being part of the world equation because God is not observable."

"I would have thought that the absence of God's moral code in this world is probably one of the most observable phenomena going," the Christian replies.

"Newspapers make billions of dollars reporting it every week! Tell me, professor. Do you believe that we have evolved from a monkey?"

"If you are referring to the natural evolutionary process, young man, yes, of course I do."

"Have you ever observed evolution with your own eyes, sir?" The professor makes a sucking sound with his teeth and gives his student a silent, stony stare.

"Professor. All previous attempts to explain how the process works have failed. Since no-one has ever observed the process of evolution at work and cannot even prove that this process is an on-going endeavor, are you not teaching your opinion, sir? Are you now not a scientist, but a priest?"

"I'll overlook your impudence in the light of our philosophical discussion. Now, have you quite finished?" the professor hisses.

"So you don't accept God's moral code to do what is righteous?"

"I believe in what is - that's observable science!"

"Ahh! SCIENCE!" the student's face splits into a grin. "Sir, you rightly state that science is the study of observed phenomena. What you call "science" too is a premise which is flawed..."

"SCIENCE IS FLAWED..?" the professor splutters. The class is in uproar.

The Christian remains standing until the commotion has subsided.

"To continue the point you were making earlier to the other student, may I give you an example of what I mean?"

The professor wisely keeps silent.

The Christian looks around the room. "Sir, the basic law of physics says matter can neither be created nor destroyed, and yet you in spite of that believe in "spontaneous generation" of the entire physical universe! Spontaneous generation of vermin was disproved centuries ago. Talk about straining out the gnat and swallowing the camel! Sir, biogenesis is "observable science" as you say--life has only been observed to come from other life of like kind--and yet you apparently still believe that that is exactly what happened--in spite of science--that life somehow came from non-life."

"Young man", the professor began tersely, "I believe that science will eventually..."

"That science will eventually prove that matter can be created, that life can come from non-life?" interrupted the young Christian. "Sir, that's not science--that's

Faith! What you believe is the exact opposite of "observable science! Your faith is in what you are calling "science", my faith is in God who created science."

"Make no mistake, Professor, we're both operating from faith."

There follows a long pause as the Professor stares the young Christian down without a word.

"Is there anyone in the class who has ever seen the professor's mind?" The class breaks out in laughter.

The Christian points towards his elderly, crumbling tutor. "Is there anyone here who has ever heard the professor's mind... felt the professor's mind, touched or smelled the professor's mind?"

No one appears to have done so. The Christian shakes his head sadly. "It appears no-one here has had any sensory perception of the professor's mind whatsoever. Well, according to the rules of empirical, stable, demonstrable protocol and science, I DECLARE that the professor has no mind."

The class is in chaos. The Christian sits... Because that is what a chair is for, and begins filling out a drop slip.

*I asked for Strength, and God gave
me difficulties to make me strong.*

-Steve Maraboli

This Month's Featured Author

A Dream Is A Wish You Hear

by Mary Anne Radmacher



It's too easy to look at someone else's life and sigh with, "That's what I wish I was doing."

Walt Disney's movie, CINDERELLA, featured a song titled, "A DREAM IS A WISH YOUR HEART MAKES."

I took the liberty of editing that music score just a little and attaching it to the journal I am writing in.

Each day I look at this edited version of that song, A Dream Is A Wish You Hear.

Learning to listen to the longings of your heart, your soul, your deepest self...takes a little practice at first.

Your wishes can start out expressing themselves like envy, or jealousy or even discontent. When you learn to listen to yourself and HEAR those little wishful whispers...you can begin paying better attention to the dreams that are jumping up and down inside of you - waving and flailing their arms trying to get your attention.

Many times dreams are dismissed at TOO (fill in the blank for you)silly, big, complex. But - if you train yourself to listen...to really understand the wishes that are at the back of the dream...you can see the small parts that make up the larger whole.

Writing out such small insights and whimsical whispers that I hear myself saying - helps me remain close to the truth of my own dreams. I am the first person to celebrate that I am long living my dream in that I am a professional author, artist and "inspirator." But that isn't the end of my dreams and wishes. There are new impulses and longings firing within me all the time.

If you are feeling dissatisfied or frustrated with what you are doing right now - it's likely a very good time for you to pick up your pen and begin writing what you notice. In effect, listening more attentively to yourself and hearing the real truth of your own wishes that your heart is making. When you listen well to

yourself you can filter out the parts that sound like envy and such and (pardon the pun) get to the heart of the matter.

You don't have to be a professional writer to put your pen to work on listening to your dreams. You simply have to be willing to start to listen to yourself in a more captive way and truly pay attention to the message behind the longings you are expressing. Experts say that writing as a way of noticing or observing does increase your clarity and your ability to remember.

So - in the day when you experience the roll of irritation or the push of disappointment...listen to yourself. Try and hear what is at the core of that and understand what you might REALLY be wishing for.

You really do know what you need to know to make your dreams come true - and writing is a way to help.

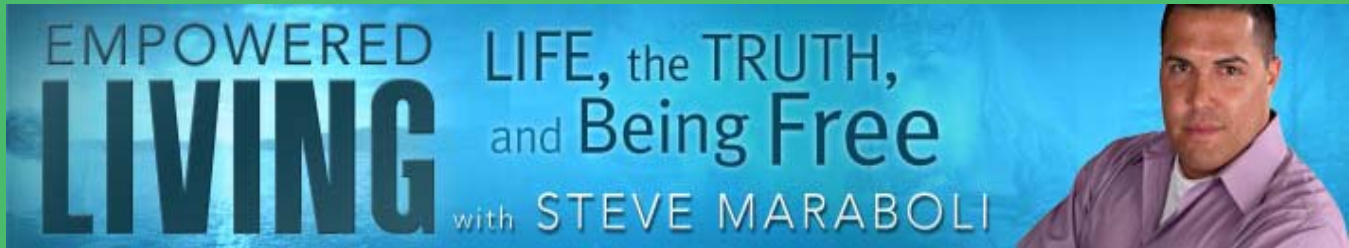
You learn to listen harder. Uncover your dreams....in learning to HEAR the true wishes of your heart!

Mary Anne Radmacher is a writer and an artist. She has been writing since she was a child, and she uses her writing to explore symbols and find meaning. She is the author of *Lean Forward into Your Life*, *Live Boldly*, *Courage Doesn't Always Roar*, and *May Your Walls Know Joy*. She is co-author of *Simply an Inspired Life* which was just release in September 2009. Check out her coauthor's site at www.SimplyAnInspiredLife.com. She lives with her husband near Seattle, Washington. Visit her online at www.maryanneradmacher.com or www.maryanneradmacher.net.

Mary Anne conducts regular online guided writing processes. Write her at maryanneradmacher@yahoo.com for schedule information. Follow Mary Anne's blog on her author site at www.maryanneradmacher.net. Enjoy many of her products at www.maryanneradmacher.com. Seek a location near you for her BOLD INSPIRATIONS though demdaco.com using their "store locator" or ask your favorite retailer to begin carrying her products.

You don't have to try to be what you already are.

-Steve Maraboli



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Identify the things and people that make you feel unhappy and eliminate them from your life. Nothing good can come from them.

-Steve Maraboli

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"We are all on the same team and in this together"

- Steve Maraboli

A Better Today charities are self-funded. We believe in sharing, teamwork, and the greatest display of love; giving. If you would like to help by giving your time or helping with resources, [please contact us.](#)

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We all have the gift and talent we've been given, in order to fulfill the purpose we've been blessed with.

-Steve Maraboli

You need to see clearly in order to maneuver effectively.

-Steve Maraboli

Taking control of your life takes time and requires decisions. The rewards make the efforts worth it.

-Steve Maraboli

Life is the definition you give to events that occur.

-Steve Maraboli

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