

HOW TO BE SUCCESSFUL AND HAPPY IN LIFE
Develop the Habits of Happiness

I. HABIT NUMBER ONE: DEVELOP THE HABIT OF BEING GRATEFUL FOR THE PEOPLE WHO ARE IN YOUR LIFE.

II. HABIT NUMBER TWO: PRAY WITH JOY FOR THE PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE.

Phil 1:1-4, "Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy,"(NKJV)

III. HABIT NUMBER THREE: BELIEVE THE PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE CAN AND WILL DO BETTER.

Phil 1:6, "Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;" (NKJV)

A. Three things that you CAN DO to bring out the best in people.

1. BELIEVE IN PEOPLE.

2. GIVE PEOPLE A VISION.

a. The vision Paul gave the people was that you're going to keep growing because God will help you.

b. We tend to become what we believe the most important people in our lives think about us.

3. BE PATIENT WITH PEOPLE'S PROGRESS.

a. If you insist on perfection in people you're going to be miserable the rest of your life.

b. If you're always expecting perfection in people before you can enjoy them, then you're never going to be happy because nobody's perfect.

c. Celebrate how far people have come rather than judging them for how much they still have to go.

d. God doesn't wait until you're mature for Him to start loving you.

B. What is the key to patience?

1. The key to patience is love.

Phil 1:7, "How natural it is that I should feel as I do about you, for you have a very special place in my heart. We have shared together the blessings of God, both when I was in prison and when I was out, defending the truth and telling others about Christ." (TLB)

C. If People aren't in your heart, they're on your nerves.

IV. HABIT NUMBER FOUR: LOVE PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE LIKE JESUS DOES.

A. Why is it hard to do this? We tend to be self-centered.

Phil 1:8, "Only God knows how deep is my love and longing for you--with the tenderness of Jesus Christ." (TLB)

Desire will get you started toward happiness, but the habits will produce the happiness.