Chapter 4: achieve your goal

Charlie and Michael are sitting in Mark’s Diner and catching up with each other. In their conversation Michael speaks of his marriage and compares it with gardening. In the sense that you must put time and resources into the marriage for it to bloom. The conversation then transitioned into the talking about setting goals, without them, Michael feels as if he isn’t living up to his potential. They speak of Mr. Davis someone who is good at setting goals. Charlie then gives Michael some tips he learned from Mr. Davis.

The first step being to write it down. Write all your goals down as there is power to writing it down. The second, ‘the major reason for setting goals is for what it makes of you’. As what it makes of you will be far greater than the value of the goal you achieve. Charlie continues to speak about setting five- or ten-year goals. In the middle of those goals, you would set up mid-range goals and then a short-range goal for a year or two. The key is that each leads you up to the final goal.

From this I have realized that it is time for me to set more goals. Previously in life I would set goals and feel discouraged when I couldn’t achieve them. Afterwards if I set other goals, I wouldn’t put in 100% effort to achieve said goals, doubting my ability to get the result or lose motivation halfway through. This has made me give up on some of my goals as I had regarded them as something I can’t possibly do at this time. From this passage, I have learned that it is not only about achieving the goal but also about how improving myself or setting up towards those goals could greatly benefit me.

Chapter 5: The Proper Use of Time

Michael speaks of not having the time to achieve his goals, as he is preoccupied with work, home, a wife, and kids. Charlie responds once again with another piece of advice from Mr. Davis. ‘We must all suffer from one of two pains: The pain of discipline or the pain of regret. The difference is discipline weighs ounces while regret weighs tons.’ He goes on about the importance of completing your dreams during your lifetime, if not you will have deep regrets on your death bed. So, spend each day wisely doing the best opportunities. He speaks of the importance of time management. Most people spend their time doing the urgent rather than the important. They focus on doing work so that they can pay bills as opposed to being the master of your own time.

“The urgent is a tyrant of a master that enslaves you if you let it. It is better to be the master of time rather than vice-versa.” This part of Charlie’s advice resonates with me. I have worked in the working field for a very short period, while going to school, and I have experienced first-hand how draining it feels to have little to balance between work, school, and play. From Charlie’s advice to Michael, I could tell that learning to balance my time with time management techniques comes with great benefits. I have not implemented these techniques, but I will in the future.

Chapter 6: Surround Yourself with the best people

‘What effect do my friends have on me?’ Is the most important question of this chapter. In this chapter Charlie and Michael talk about the importance of friends who will help you grow. “Where do they have me going, what are we spending our time doing?’ If you spend every Friday night out drinking with your friends, griping about how you hate your jobs, bosses and how broke you all are, what kind of influence is that? When you leave do you feel inspired to be more and do more, to pursue your goals with a greater passion, or does it leave you feeling negative, dreading the next workday when you must get up to spend another day at the office with that boss, you’re not too fond of anyway? Influence is so subtle; it’s like a little nudge and each time you get together there is one more nudge in the wrong direction, toward the wrong attitudes down the path you don’t want to be on. Michael, I know this is a touchy subject, and so many of us have friends who are nice people, often who intend well, but if the effect they have on us is negative, then it is up to us to make those tough choices to protect ourselves from the wrong influences.” Is what Charlie saying to Michael in this chapter.

I cannot relate to this chapter as I do not have a lot of friends. The ones that have and I have developed a relationship in which we can help each other even with the simplest of tasks. Whether it be through advice, physical assistance, or just emotional support. In the past however I had people who calls themselves ‘friends’ only befriend me so that I could help them but not the other way around. I have since distanced myself from them and found more supportive friends.

Chapter 7: be a life-long learner

As a student studying programming it is fundamental of me be a life-long learner as it is highly beneficial to stay up to date in the coding world. However, the life-long learner does not only speak of educational learning but learning from experiences. I have come to realize that the best knowledge comes in the form of experience and learning from your mistakes and the mistakes of others. In this chapter Charlie speaks of Formal education will make you a living. Self-education will make you a fortune.’

And I agree, yes, a formal education will get you a job but it what you learn with yourself that will bring you further. I have seen situations where people will study one thing in college but end up in a completely different work field. There are several online classes that teach people different skills which they can do in their free time. These self-learned classes later help them to develop in life. An example would be entrepreneurship which doesn’t require a college degree to learn.

References

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