**What Motivates Me**

My name is Raymond Shiner. My life’s motivation has changed over time. But I am motivated by 2 simple things. My life is motivated by the desire to never stop growing and searching for truth, and the desire to have loving relationships and spend time with my family and those that I care about.

I am motivated by a desire to grow and seek truth. A desire to continually better myself by improving my mind daily as I continue to ponder life’s most difficult questions. I want my life to constantly be in a state of both growth and change, challenge and triumph, and a search for the truths that make the world go around. For me, growth represents life. In fact, humanity and science, which in it of itself is a search for truth, defines life on this planet by the ability to grow. If something grows, we deem it to be a living organism. We also define the process of dying as the rate of decay being faster than the rate of growth. It is for this reason that if I ever become stagnant in my existence and reach a point where I am not changing, growing, and learning, I feel that my life will lose meaning. If I’m not learning and changing, then I am decaying in my stasis. If I’m not growing, then I’m not living. This is one of the primary forces that drives me to study, learn, and think every day of my life. I must grow as long as I live, for growth is what defines life.

My life is also motivated by a desire to hold and cherish those people I hold dear to my heart, attempting to strengthen my relationship with people important to me as much as is possible with the short time I have in this life. It has occurred to me that relationships and love are the very things that make life worth living. I want my life itself to be defined by growth and a search for truth, but I have come to realize that all the personal growth and cosmic truth that I can discover in my life time if I was alone in my success. The loving relationships I have in my life matter more to me than anything. People such as my Wife, my brother, my family, and my friends close to me have given my lonesome and perhaps futile search for truth and growth meaning and purpose. The people I love bring me joy, and I want to spend my life showing them that I love them in an attempt to bring them the same kind of joy they have given me.