**What Motivates Me**

My name is Raymond Shiner. My life is motivated by two very simple goals. These goals are connected in one ultimate search to find fulfillment and contentment in my life.

I am motivated by a desire to grow. A desire to continually better myself by improving my mind on a daily basis. I want my life to constantly be in a state of both growth and change, challenge and triumph. For me, growth represents life. In fact, humanity and science 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 and growing, I feel that my life will lose meaning. 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.

I am motivated by my search for purpose. If growth is what defines life, then purpose it what makes life worth living. For me I define purpose as something that gives a single individual joy, peace, and a reason to live their life better and treat other people better. I have seen many different people find this “purpose” through various ways of life. Some people may find it in stoicism, some may find it inside of a career or in a relationship with a spouse. Some people find it through religions like Buddhism or Christianity. I personally have not found this purpose in my life yet. I have direction in my life yes, direction and desire, but I feel that I am lacking in purpose in this stage of my life. I am constantly searching for my purpose, however, and this is what motivates me. I believe that there is something out there in this world that will give me peace, joy, and a reason to live my life better. This desperate search I have to locate the hidden treasure that is my contentment is what motivates me more than anything else to get out of bed in the morning and give 100% effort in everything that I do. These are the things that motivate me, and, by extension, make me who I am.