

## 1. Evolving Success Premise(s)

Every success begins with an assertion. My favorites are: “I am going to...” and I wonder what will happen if I...” Both have played important roles in my life. Another approach is having both mission and vision statements, goals to be achieved and pay offs.

Convinced everything in the cosmos has a place and purpose, we humans enjoy bonuses, mainly cognition and choosing. Using these we seek success (the accomplishment of aims and purposes) through changing situations. As originals, we are called to identify, then actualize our[true]selves through actions and behaviors which flow from a healthy worldview.

Success begins with a core premise, a statement of intention, which identifies what we see we are called to do, what we really want to achieve, while being the who we really want to be, behaving as who we are, both flowing from seeing ourselves, others and the rest of it as clearly as possible with a fundamental goal of being more helpful than not.

Easy to say; hard to achieve as we change some with every outcome; therefore, success means adjusting premises as needed.

A brief history: At thirteen I thought I would marry Carolyn and live happily ever after. It didn't happen. At seventeen I wanted to marry Frances and live happily ever after. It happened, for more than sixty three years. Each, a failure and a success, was beneficial.

Today, seventy years since Carolyn dumped me for the jerk I was, my changing premises a little after every success and failure has rendered a commitment to take what comes and make the best of it, no matter what, a core resolve. I believe it's more important to have clear premises than not lest we find ourselves adrift.

Now in stage seven of living, advocacy, my focus is living as the original I keep becoming with a goal of encouraging others to actualize theirs with a single proviso: Being more helpful to self, others and the rest of it than not.

Living as the original is my preference because an original is more valuable than a copy.

## 6. The Success Process

The premise – Success is simple, but it's not easy – is based on a definition – success is achieving an aim or purpose – and an assumption: Each of us is gifted with more talents and desires than our time, resources and constraints will allow us to actualize. We are confined to develop the originality we prefer beyond others.

As an engineer by mindset and education, I see success as a looping process: Pay attention; Focus on the important; Assess the situation; Consider alternative actions; Choose what seems better; Pay attention to all outcome(s)... continue looping.

Of all the senses, the sixth, that inner voice, my muse, is the catalyst. Her unending flow of ideas are the clues I consider, not edicts to follow. Since every action causes a small change in one's success, one challenge is accepting whatever comes next while continuing undeterred, always forward. Easy to say; hard to do.

One popular success theme is, “Be yourself.” It's the core message of serious originals. Great idea, but difficult to achieve other than in glimpses as originality is elusive. We have peers, not equals. Which goals are worth seeking without being hurtful?

The epitome of originality is doing what we really want to do while being who we really want to be as we see ourselves, others and the rest of it clearly with a keen focus on being more helpful than not which seems simple enough, yet is difficult to achieve except in those epiphanic moments when awareness dissolves into timeless actualization.

My solution is staying focused on activities, behavior and perception. It begins when I awake then prepare for the day with a writing meditation, my on ramp to the new day, actualizing my participation. Yours will differ. Go for it.

Finally, it takes courage to live as our[true]self, not the bravery needed in mortal combat, but a resolve to participate as the original we can be for the good of self, others and the rest of it. Finally: It's that simple, but it's not easy, yet it is possible when we persist, especially as we encourage others to live their originality.