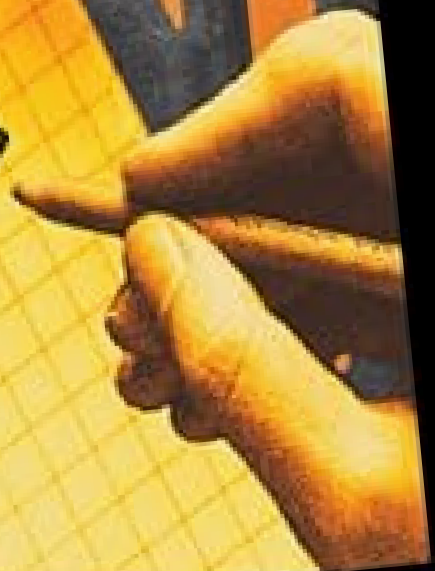


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TEACH

creating independently
responsible learners



Chapter 8:

Do What You Love To Do

I did an interview with some very successful people several years ago. I wanted to know what it was about them that allowed them to be people that discovered and achieved the kind of success they reached in their lives. Among them was an engineer, a real estate professional, and a car business owner.

I thought, surely there must be some secret that allowed them to be as successful as they were. I wondered, was it because they went to college? Or where they grew up? Or the culture of where they grew up? I thought maybe it was the kinds of friends they had or what they studied. I thought their “aha moment” may have been when they were in school or when they started in the work world. Did they just simply work their way up?

It turns out that they had nothing in common when it came to any of those things. Some went to college, and some did not. Some grew up in the United States, and some did not. Some came from very happy and loving families, but some did not. Some had lots of brothers and sisters, and some did not. So what was it that they did have in common?

I found only one thing that they had in common. They all loved to do what they were doing.

When it came to their career path, they were doing what they loved to do. My friend who works in real estate told me that the biggest thrill for him is putting together a real estate deal. It was interesting to him to see how he could bring a buyer and seller together. They could come to an agreement, and my real estate friend was able to put the deal together. He loved the deal!

For the car dealer, he already knew he wanted a customer to have that perfect car. But for him, it was not about the perfect car, because he knew that was already the end result. So what was his favorite thing to do? His favorite thing was going to car auctions and finding those amazing cars that no one else could see the value in. He was finding those great deals on cars that he could buy and resell to someone else. He was bringing his passion of finding amazing cars to his customers.

I looked at these people and saw that they were doing what they love to do. When I was growing up, one of the things that I knew was that I was going to go to college. It was something I always knew but not necessarily to go to college for what I love to do. I just knew the fact that I was going to go to college. In my generation, we did not get asked very often about what we love to do. In fact, most times what we loved to do was said to be something we should do as a hobby instead of a job. For example, if you love music, like I did, you probably were not going to be in a music career, you were probably going to be doing something else. Music could then be a hobby.

For me, it was all about going to college. What was I going to study? What was I going to be when I grew up? I did not get to practice doing what I loved to do in college. One of the things that I love to do is teach and create. I also loved music. I had already convinced myself that being a music teacher or a music major was not going to be my career path even though it was what I loved to do. One of the things that I also knew about college was that the career path for a teacher was not the best career path in terms of being able to be paid a decent wage. My first degree in college was not in education. It was in Business Administration. Right after college I went to work for a major corporation and quickly discovered I was not happy with this career path. It was not until a few years later that I discovered that teaching was my passion and then I had to go back to college to gain my teaching credentials. I later also earned a Master's Degree in Education.

I know now what I want to do is to be a performer. By teaching, I get a chance to perform. By being in music, I get a chance to perform. By creating this book, I get a chance to perform. I get a chance to then go out and share my talents by performing. I am a performer. If you would have told me when I was younger, “you are a performer”, then maybe I would have gone into the movie business and become an actor. But I did not, because at the time doing what I loved to do was going to be a hobby and not a career.

Let me tell you a story about me when I was a little boy. I used to carry around this little suitcase. Now I do not remember what was in the suitcase, but I do know it was brown. I carried around a brown suitcase with me all through the house. I was probably only three or four years old. I would carry that suitcase and take it wherever I went. I would go into the room, put the suitcase down, and stand on top of it. I would start to perform: “Introducing Mr. Denny! Introducing Mr. Mommy! Introducing Mr. Daddy! Introducing Mr. B!” My brother’s name is Steve and I couldn’t say Steve, so I said B.

Isn't that funny? I was performing. And it is what I love to do. I had such pleasure doing that. I look today, and one of my favorite things to do as a teacher is to perform. I also love to be up in front of people and share. Whether that is by playing music, either singing or playing an instrument, I love to perform! Being able to speak at a convention or conference to groups of people is another way to perform.

Whether it is being in front of a class and sharing with young people or creating podcasts, I love to perform. Even creating this book and recording the audio version is a way for me to perform—it is what I love to do. In fact, I think it is what I was born to do.



What is it that you love to do?

As I was doing the interviews my engineering friend told me what he loved to do. He told me he loved to design and create computer programs. He was really great at it. He worked on the initial software of one of the first voice over IP (VOiP) phone systems. The internet based phone is common now. During our interview he said something to me that was really interesting. I was a grown adult by the time I heard this and a frustrated classroom school teacher. He said, “if you do what you love, the money will find you.” I thought that was interesting. He was telling me if I was doing what I loved to do, I could make a career out of it. Oftentimes we are told that we cannot do what we love, but he was saying that we could. Not only was he saying that I could, but he was saying that by loving what I do, the money would find me. I was at a crossroads in my teaching career as I knew I could be more than a classroom teacher in a public school. I thought I would give up on my teaching career and have to do something else. It was shortly after that conversation with my engineering friend and my real estate friend that I began writing my own courses and being able to work with the amazing homeschool families I get to work with today. They both made a huge difference in allowing me to discover for myself to be someone who was doing what they love to do.

Now you may say “money is not important to me”. Well, maybe it is not. So what is important to you? If you are doing what you love to do, what is important to you will find you. As I was getting my new education business started money was something that was important to me. Why? Because I wanted to take care of my family. I discovered that by doing what I love to do, the money did find me and I am able to do what I love to do. Once I really let myself focus on doing what I love to do, the opportunities kept finding me. Ultimately when you are doing what you love, you have a different kind of day.

I know there are many people out there that did not start their career by doing what they love. How do I know? If they went to college, they are probably not doing today what they went to college for. They are doing something different. They have moved from doing something they thought they were supposed to do by going to college to doing something that they love to do now. Unfortunately, there are still people who are not doing what they love to do as their career in their lives now.

The really amazing thing that I have discovered about education today is that young people are finally being asked by educators about what they love to do. Adults are now thinking about this idea as they enter the business world. They are being asked how they can turn doing what they love to do into a lifestyle and a career. If you are into gaming, get into the gaming industry. If you are an actor or performer like I am, get into the performance industry. Be willing to dream, be willing to dare, and do what you love to do.

You will find that doing what you love to do will open doors for the right opportunities to become available. Does it take practice? Yes, it does. Are there going to be times it does not look like it is going to turn out? You bet. So what do you do? Well, how do we achieve any goal at all? Let's take a look at goal setting.

You are going to learn about a method of goal setting as a bonus chapter in this book. I want to tell you now about the number one way to achieve any goal and then give more details about how to set goals in the bonus chapter.

What goal do you have? How do you achieve it? What is the number one way to achieve any goal? It is as simple as this. Do not quit. Keep going. Keep playing. Keep practicing. Keep trying. Keep looking. Keep discovering.



What is going to allow you to have that goal? You will have to make your goal a burning desire. What does that mean? That means whatever you love to do becomes your passion. It becomes the thing that gets you up in the morning. How can you do what you love to do? Keep looking. Discover for yourself what can become available for you. By doing what you love to do, you will have what is important for you, and what is important for your life. You will find you.

Now, are you going to have to continue to look? Absolutely. Are you going to ask for support? Absolutely. Should you be talking to other people that are doing what you love to do? Should you find out what they do and how they have brought it into their life? Yes, you should. Are you able to go out and ask those kinds of questions? Yes, you can.

There are many different opportunities to do what you love. If you are in the gaming industry, what could you do? Wouldn't that be cool to find out? If you are in the music industry? What do you love about the music industry? In the music industry, there are so many different things available. There are people who do the performance, there are people who do the writing, people who do the recording, people who do the production of the recording, and people who help promote the new musicians. The gaming industry is also full of so many different kinds of opportunities.

Are you into sports? How many different opportunities are there for sports? You could be the athlete, the coach, the person who is working behind the scenes, or the sports broadcaster. How many different ways are available so that you can be doing what you love to do? How many different ways can you find what different things become possible for you and what becomes available by doing what you love to do?



Stop now and make a list of the top five things that you love to do. Then figure out in your day, how you can make sure you are doing these things every day. By doing these things every day, you are going to get very good at them. You are also going to start to discover what is possible for you, and what is important to you. You are going to discover what is important to you and what you love to do every day. It then becomes your lifestyle. It becomes what I call, your self-expression, in the world. It becomes who people know you as and what people know you for.

Do what you love to do. Now, if you are saying that you do not know what you love to do, there is a simple solution. Stop and take a look at five things you did today. What are the things that you did? Is there a theme? Is there something that you do over and over again? Maybe that is the thing you love to do.

I have had students tell me they don't know what they love to do. I ask them what they did that day. They start to tell me what it was they did, and the next thing they knew, it was like a piece of popcorn popping in a popcorn maker! Their kernels started popping.

They discovered what it is they love to do by just looking at what they did during the day. You also can look and see what it is that you love to do and how you can get started doing what you love to do. Be able to allow yourself to do what is important to you, and what is important to you will find you. If you are doing what you love to do, do not stop. Keep going and keep playing. Stay in the game, no matter what. Do not stop! Do what you love to do. Allow what you love to do to find you.

If you are looking to create a career so that you can support your family, know that doing what you love to do, will allow the money to find you. The career path will find you and you will be able to accomplish taking care of your family in the best way you know how. As a bonus, you will find that happy people attract happy people! As a parent, what you want more than anything for your child is for them to be happy and successful in their lives. If you are a young person, and you are looking at your parents, and notice that maybe they are not doing what they love to do, ask them what they love to do.

Parents, if you are reading this, it is okay for you to do what you love to do. Why? Because you then give permission for your child to do what they love to do. By discovering for yourself what you love to do, you unknowingly give permission for everyone around you to be able to do what they love to do as well.

It is okay. Do not hold back. Be out in the world. Be amazing. Why? Because you are amazing! It is okay to let people know that you are amazing. Why? Because then you are giving other people permission to be amazing as well. Doing what you love to do gives other people the ability, opportunity, and the permission to do what they love to do as well.

What would it be like if every time you went into a room with people, they were people who were doing what they loved to do? What if you could start to share with them what you love to do? Then people could talk about that! Your conversations would be much different than they would be if you were talking with people who were not doing what they love to do.

Do what you love to do and share with others what that looks like. Keep doing what you love to do! Doing what you love to do becomes a lifestyle for you, your own unique self-expression.