

7 Ds to Unlock Your Path to Success

By Mark Gorman

Do you ever look at someone who is amazingly successful and wonder what it is they're doing that you're not? What is the "X" factor that is causing them to excel while you may feel like you're floundering, and how come no one ever let you in on this little secret to success?

Well, today's your day. I am about to give you seven keys that, when used in order, will unlock your path to success.

Destination. Life decisions can be intimidating, and making choices between this or that thing can be confusing and exasperating. Are you fretting over which step should be your next? Listen, there is no need to worry about your path if you haven't first determined your destination. Once you have an end destination in sight, the path you need to take will become remarkably clear.

Dream. Next, turn that fantastic destination into a dream. Until you can see yourself on the sunny beaches of Hawaii, that spectacular destination hasn't yet become your dream. Pluck that destination from the realm of the hypothetical and attach it to the reality of your future. There, now you're dreaming.

Deadline. Beware you don't allow your dreams to become merely a "happy place" for you to escape to when life has you down. Give your dream a deadline, and you've just created a goal. Write down your goals. In this way you will motivate yourself to turn your dream into something more than an escapist's retreat from reality.

Decision. You need to make a decision to set sail for your goals. There will be many important moments of decision along the way, but none are more important than the first decision to stop being a spectator and get involved in your own life.

Drive. With so much negativity flying around in the world today, it is crucial that you learn how to encourage yourself. Some people stick with a decision only as long as that decision continues to provide them with happiness. The problem with happiness is that it will always come and go, because it is controlled by immediate circumstances. If

you're going to fulfill your dreams, you will need something much stronger than happiness, and that substance is joy. Unlike happiness, which is determined by where you are, joy is fueled by where you are going. And this is exactly what you will need to weather the stormy seas that are between you and your dream.

Discipline. The Bible states, "Without vision the people cast off restraint." Indeed, dreams are the fuel of discipline. Discipline is doing what you don't necessarily feel like doing, because you love the results. Football players don't enjoy practice, but they love winning, and so they develop the daily discipline of practice. Successful people are only average people who will do what other people are not willing to do so they can be where other people will never be.

Determination. Don't give up, no matter how long it takes. The Bible is clear, "in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." Stand on God's promise and keep fighting for your dream!

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