

LIFE IS A GOLD MINE: CAN YOU DIG IT?

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Life is a Gold Mine was written with one thought in mind: to help you get the resources out of your heart and mind and into your everyday life. The 20th anniversary edition features one major change and that is the introduction of creativity as one of the five Gold Mine Principles, replacing organization. Some of the organization material is included in the Time Management section. The five revised Gold Mine Principles contained in *Life is a Gold Mine: Can You Dig It?* are:

1. **Purpose** – You have a **purpose**: something to do that only you can do, something for you to be that only you can be. You will only be truly you when you find what it is. If God wants you to do and be this one thing, then He must reveal what that one thing is. Your purpose is generally summarized in one short, concise statement that speaks to the essence of who you are. It is a short phrase of simple words that have a profound meaning for you and you alone.
2. **Creativity** – You were created to be **creative** by your Creator. You have many creative expressions that you probably take for granted, activities like talking, problem-solving, planning your day, and raising your children, along with things you may do as a hobby, such as painting, playing the guitar, cooking, gardening, or sewing. When you overcome your fear that shrouds your creativity, you will address the world's needs in a way that is consistent with your life's purpose.
3. **Goal Setting** – **Goal setting** is what I call the highway to excellence. There are so many things you can do that you must determine what it is that you should do. Goals help you focus and keep you on track. Once you know your purpose and determine to express your creativity, then you set goals that enable you to accomplish those highest priority events that will bring you the greatest joy and productivity return.
4. **Time Management** – **Time management** is really a misnomer, for you can't manage time. You can only manage and schedule the events in your life that can be done in the time you have. What's more, you have all the time in the world—24 hours every day that you are alive, just like every other person. You will mine real gold, not fool's gold, when you learn how to go after what you really want and not simply stay busy.
5. **Faith** – “Without faith, it is impossible to please God” (see Hebrews 11:6). If you want to clarify your purpose, achieve your goals and stay on top of your “lode” of gold, you must *trust* that God is with you and will help you. You must also learn to have faith for time to do the most important. Faith is often the missing element as people set off to be more productive, often trying to achieve that in their own strength and understanding. Faith helps you move from what is possible to the realm of the impossible.

Life is a Gold Mine further explains these principles and gives you practical guidelines for how to use these principles to mine the gold that is in your life and heart. To further help as you learn to apply the Gold Mine Principles, *Life is a Gold Mine* also includes some “gold nuggets” to encourage you as you dig in search for the larger vein of wisdom and purpose, the mother lode of gold. These nuggets are all drawn from the book of Proverbs, one of the world’s oldest and more reliable wisdom books. As you apply the Gold Mine Principles in your search for purpose and creative productivity, you also want to look for ways to apply these nuggets of truth.

Gold Mine Principle One – Purpose: Know Where to Stake Your Claim

*“He who works his land will have an abundant supply of food,
but he who cases fantasies will have his fill of poverty” (Proverbs 28:19).*

- **Nugget One:** *“Let your eyes look straight ahead, fix your gaze directly before you. Make level paths for your feet and take only ways that are firm. Do not swerve to the right or the left; keep your foot from evil” (Proverbs 4:25-27).* Stay focused as you search for purpose.
- **Nugget Two:** *“The Lord works out everything for his own ends—even the wicked for a day of disaster” (Proverbs 16:4).* God is a God of purpose; He wants you to fulfill your purpose more than you do.
- **Nugget Three:** *“My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God” (Proverbs 2:1-5).* If you keep searching for purpose, you will find it.
- **Nugget Four:** *“It is the glory of God to conceal a matter; to search out a matter is the glory of kings” (Proverbs 25:2).* Don’t give up; keep asking until your purpose is clear.
- **Nugget Five:** *“He who separates himself seeks his own desire, he quarrels against all sound wisdom” (Proverbs 18:1 NAS).* Other people can help you search.

Gold Mine Principle Two – Creativity: Digging in New Places

“I was there when he set the heavens in place, when he marked out the horizon on the face of the deep, when he established the clouds above and fixed securely the fountains of the deep, when he gave the sea its boundary so the waters would not overstep his command, and when he marked out the foundations of the earth” (Proverbs 8:28-29).

- **Nugget Six:** *“By wisdom the Lord laid the earth’s foundations, by understanding he set the heavens in place; by his knowledge the watery depths were divided, and*

the clouds let drop the dew” (Proverbs 3:19-20). You have access to God’s creative wisdom to help you express your creativity.

- **Nugget Seven:** *“The wise woman builds her house, but with her own hands the foolish one tears hers down” (Proverbs 14:1). You can use your creativity for good, or waste it on selfish or foolish endeavors.*
- **Nugget Eight:** *“Let your eyes look straight ahead, fix your gaze directly before you. Make level paths for your feet and take only ways that are firm. Do not swerve to the right or the left” (Proverbs 4:25-27). Set your focus on being creative as part of your ministry, not as a sideshow or for personal pleasure.*
- **Nugget Nine:** *“By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures” (Proverbs 24:3-4). Use your creative wisdom to build beauty into your life, family, work and ministry.*
- **Nugget Ten:** *“She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies the merchants with sashes” (Proverbs 31:24). Your creativity can be a source of income if you take it seriously and apply yourself to produce excellence.*

Gold Mine Principle Three – Goal-Setting: Be Careful Where You Dig.

*“Even a child is known by his actions,
by whether his conduct is pure and right” (Proverbs 20:11).*

- **Nugget Eleven:** *“Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will serve before kings; he will not serve before obscure men” (Proverbs 22:29). God does not promote potential, but promotes skill and excellence in people who have paid the price to develop their potential.*
- **Nugget Twelve:** *“All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty” (Proverbs 14:23). Don’t talk about what you will do; start doing it!*
- **Nugget Thirteen:** *“For the Lord will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being snared” (Proverbs 3:26). Don’t worry about failure!*
- **Nugget Fourteen:** *“The lazy man does not roast his game, but the diligent man prizes his possessions” (Proverbs 12:27). Learn to finish what you start, but only if it’s a high priority!*

Gold Mine Principle Four – Time Management: Don’t Settle for Fool’s Gold.

“One who is slack in his work is brother to one who destroys” (Proverbs 18:9).

- **Nugget Fifteen:** *“He who gathers crops in summer is a wise son, but he who sleeps during harvest is a disgraceful son” (Proverbs 10:5).* You must know where to invest your time.
- **Nugget Sixteen:** *“For through me your days will be many, and years will be added to your life” (Proverbs 9:11).* Wisdom helps you get more done in less time.
- **Nugget Seventeen:** *“By wisdom the Lord laid the earth's foundations, by understanding he set the heavens in place” (Proverbs 3:19).* God will help you get things done by giving you His wisdom.
- **Nugget Eighteen:** *“Like a bad tooth or a lame foot is reliance on the unfaithful in times of trouble” (Proverbs 25:19).* If you are unfaithful in your follow through, you are a “pain” to have around!
- **Nugget Nineteen:** *“How long will you lie there, you sluggard? When will you get up from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest-and poverty will come on you like a bandit and scarcity like an armed man” (Proverbs 6:9-11).* If you waste time, you are wasting your life!

**Gold Mine Principle Five – Faith: “I’m Just an Old Chunk of Coal,
but I’m Gonna Be a Diamond Someday.”**

“So that your trust may be in the Lord, I teach you today, even you” (Proverbs 22:19).

Nugget Twenty: *“A discerning man keeps wisdom in view, but a fool's eyes wander to the ends of the earth” (Proverbs 17:24).* Your faith keeps you focused on what is most important in your walk with the Lord.

Nugget Twenty-One: *“From the fruit of his mouth a man's stomach is filled; with the harvest from his lips he is satisfied. The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit” (Proverbs 18:20-21).* You need to learn how to think and talk faith rather than doubt.

Nugget Twenty-Two: *“Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; but blessed is he who keeps the law” (Proverbs 29:18).* Faith always leads to vision so you can see the future as if it already exists today!

Nugget Twenty-Three: *“Do not love sleep or you will grow poor; stay awake and you will have food to spare” (Proverbs 20:13).* Faith helps you see what you can't see with your natural eyes, and it will show you God's provision.