

Happen to Your Career

Tags: [#career](#)

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Dialogue

Title: How to Discover Meaningful Work

When I was in college, I owned a painting business for three years that paid for my wife's engagement ring and almost all my college tuition and expenses. At the height of my business, I had twenty-five people working for me and it was really profitable...But when I graduated college, I sold my business and took a corporate job that I was not excited about, where I worked eighty to ninety hours a week for less money.

What caused you to do that?

It was 2005 and you started a job as a regional manager...

The part I didn't tell you about my story is that I had a great job. Great pay, great people I worked with, great training and opportunities. There were many wonderful things about it. My good friend who also worked at the company loved it. He stayed around an additional fifteen years and eventually became the president. Even though it was a great fit for him, the company was most definitely not a great fit for me.

There's a section in this book calling, declaring your priorities:

We believe that if we can give ourselves the time or space, we will find the elusive clarity that we're looking for. Although time, space, and energy are all helpful for getting perspective, they by no means guarantee clarity. That's not at all how clarity works.

How does it work?

Clarity and declare have the same root:

What do I mean? Well, if you take the time to look up the etymology of the word clarity, you'll notice "clarity" and "declare" have the same root:

clarare. In Latin, de clarare means "to thoroughly make clear." This means that you get clarity from the act of declaring. Notice it doesn't translate to "find clear," "arrive at clear," or "randomly happen to have clear smack you upside the head."

How people think clarity work:

Find clarity --> know direction --> Pursue direction

How it actually works:

Declare priorities --> Create clarity --> Pursue priorities

Common experiments:

What's the point of an experiment?

1. The social goldilocks

How does this differ from informational interview?

"Email to help..."

2. The volunteer

SHRM your experience

3. The paid researcher

Example?

4. Helpful opportunist

Example?

The challenge for many people when it comes to experimenting is that you really do need to give up your emotional attachment to the outcome for it to fully succeed.

What did you change your mind on while writing the book?

References