

MEDIOCRE, AVERAGE OR OUTSTANDING?

By Ronald E. Johnson, Ph.D.

Most of us wake up each morning and begin to think about events that will likely occur in our daily routines. Some people begin each day with fantasy about relationships. A few people begin each day calculating how to reach goals and aspirations. It is the calculating and aspiring few who make a difference in the lives of the rest of us. Dreamers, planners, and goal setters operate on a different frequency than average people. Sure, they also fantasize and think about regular, daily events ...but only temporarily. They force their thoughts to move on to greater life issues which can be affected by purposeful exercise of the mind, will and emotions.

One of the characteristics of achievers is their ability to put aside personal disappointments, abuses and limitations while focusing on something bigger than self or present circumstances. Such people are not average. They certainly are not mediocre. They are outstanding. They do not hum with the crowd or march to the drum beat of the masses. Nor do they live just to make a living. They determine the kinds of lives they live!

A major difference between mediocre, average and outstanding people is focus. Most people let circumstances determine destiny. They operate as reactors to pressures, rules, orders, or relationships. They are bouncers...they repel off the actions and words of other people. They are victims of their environment. Outstanding people are not like that. They focus on goals and work around, over, under or in spite of other people, circumstances and obstacles.

Most people remain average or mediocre simply because they do not focus on ideals, goals and aspirations that require self restraint, discipline, courage and hard work. They would rather exist as victims of circumstances than to change the way they think about life. Sadly, they remain unknown among the masses of purposeless people. Human nature is to drift along without resisting bad government, neighborhood bullies, abusive people, or present circumstances that keep average, mediocre people trapped in ignorance, poverty or abuse. That is why most people never amount to much. They would rather co-exist with mediocrity than to exercise effort and character needed to make a difference in themselves or the world.

One of the basic reasons most people remain mediocre is their false assumption that the purpose of life is merely to learn how to or earn a good salary, drive a nice car and live in a comfortable house ...and hopefully end life peacefully. Consequently, they set their minds on immediate circumstances and plod along in daily routines that require minimum effort. They voice frequent expressions of frustration, anger or discouragement about life, their family, school or job, not realizing that nothing will change until they change the overall way they think about life. They seldom ask the question, "What could I achieve if I really tried?"

Outstanding people do not operate as victims. They take charge of circumstances, assume responsibility for duties, commands and tasks, and do more than is expected. They focus on high goals, noble objectives and difficult challenges. They adjust their immediate priorities to focus on getting things done that matter. They walk away from trivial remarks. They defer to rules, guidelines and standards rather than experience energy drains associated with confrontations and arguments. They think about tomorrow so strongly that events of today are considered as stepping stones rather than stumbling blocks. Each assignment or task is viewed as a step toward goals, dreams and aspirations. They consider each day as a golden opportunity to do something significant. They live to achieve, to accomplish, to get things done! That is why they are outstanding rather than average or mediocre. The kind of person you are is determined by the way you look at life...as a mediocre victim of circumstances or an outstanding person who sets your mind on lofty goals and works to achieve them.

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