



CONFESSIONS
of
A DYING MAN

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You think about things a little differently when death is staring you in the face.

Have you ever wondered what it will be like when death comes calling for you?

I hadn't... that is, until I was told....

“YOU ARE DYING!”

Your perspective changes when you know death is looming.

Please listen to my words... don't wait for death to come calling before you change your perspective. For then it will be too late.

Today is THE day to change your perspective.

Here's what I've learned....

All those things that once seemed so important don't matter anymore.

All that you've worked so hard to accomplish will be left behind.

It doesn't matter if you have a lot, or a little.

Either way....

You'll Leave It All

Why worry and stress about leaving a lot behind for others to fight over?

What are you pursuing?

Is it more “stuff”?

Does all this “stuff” you're working so hard to accumulate really matter?

It's far more important to invest in people rather than things.

When your time has ended here on earth, you'll leave both things and people behind.

The things you leave behind can do nothing, but the people you leave behind can change the world. Which leads to another question...

Should I invest my time, energy, and efforts in collecting things or building people?

Oh, how I wish I had pondered this question sooner.

You see, you can invest in people or things simply by picking up the phone.

You can call your family and tell them how much you love them. You can also call your stock broker and tell him to buy some stock.

In either case, time is needed for the investment to multiply and produce a return on your investment.

But there's a huge difference:

When you invest in things, the cycle ends. You purchase stock and the transaction is over. You don't reap the benefits of your stock investment until you sell it.

But when you invest in people, you get to realize an immediate, and a future, return. Your investment improves their lives, and you get the benefit of seeing their lives improve.

When death is staring you in the face, you won't worry about how you can improve your own life... you worry about how you will leave your friends and family.

Will their lives be better as a result of having known you?



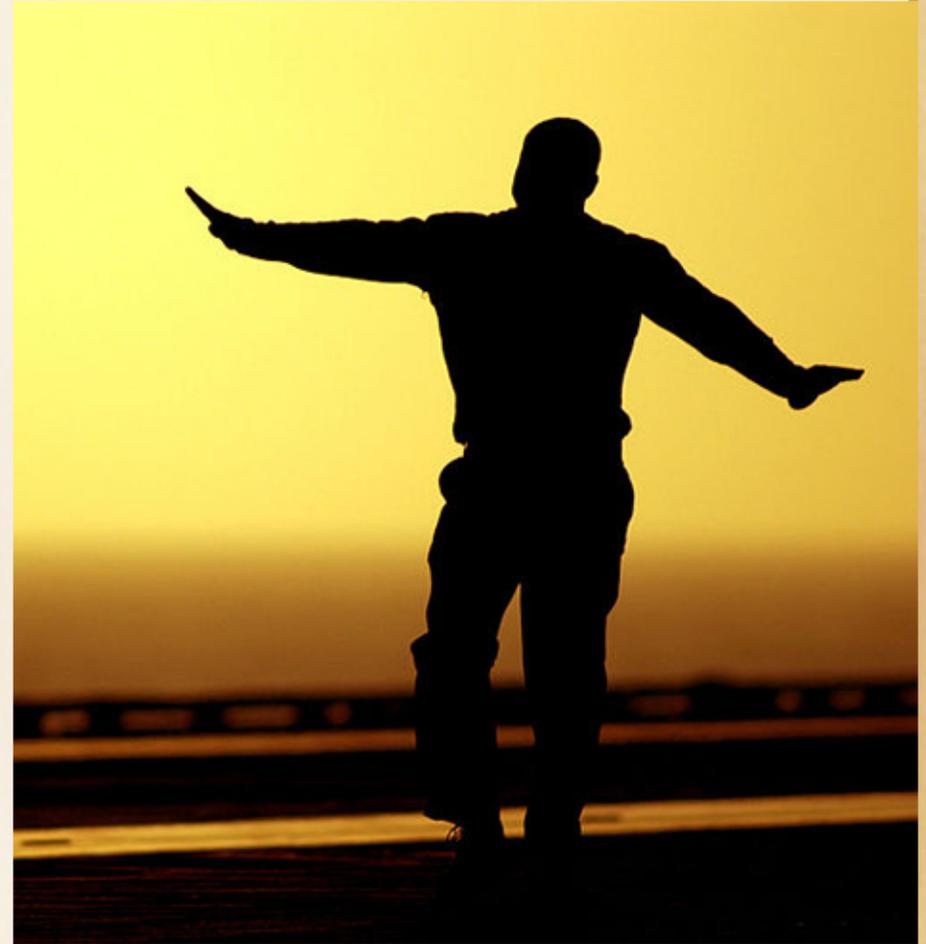
ENJOY THE MOMENTS

When you are worried about your next breath, you have no choice but to enjoy each moment. Each and every breath could be your last.

I wish I had taken the time to enjoy more of the moments that made up my life. I was so busy worrying about the future, and what it might bring, that I didn't enjoy the moments.

Take time to enjoy each moment as you are in it. Once it passes you can no longer enjoy the moment, but only its memory.

Am I missing the moments that make up my life?



IT'S OKAY TO LOSE

When you win, someone else has to lose. And winning at someone else's expense is never a good thing.

When possible, allow others to win. Take the loss. Let them win. Let them have a victory. Celebrate their victory with them. Never forget... you should invest in others.

When my son was young, we used to sit and play board games together. I can vividly remember his beaming eyes and wide smile when I would let him win.

Oh, how quickly my journey toward success caused me to forget the simple joy of watching someone else win.

Am I too consumed with myself to allow others to win?



CAN YOU COUNT?

I wish I had taken the time to count. Not an occasional count... but to daily count my blessings.

No matter how difficult things may be, trust me, you and I are very blessed.

If you are breathing, you are blessed.

If you are reading my words, you are blessed.

If you can hear my words, you are blessed.

BEWARE OF THE CURSE

However, these blessings are also a curse.

If you have been given breath to breathe, eyes to see, ears to hear... those are gifts.

And gifts not used are taken away.

To whom much is given, much will be required.

Am I making the most of the gifts I've been given? Or, merely making excuses?

Use your gifts to invest in others.

Use your gifts to enjoy the moments that make up your life.

Use your gifts!

Don't waste what you've been graciously given.

THE TRUTH

No matter how old,
or how young you are,



No matter how little,
or how much you have,



It doesn't matter if you are having the best day,
or the worst day of your life,



It doesn't matter if you are male,
or female....



The truth is...

YOU are the dying man.
With each breath, you are one step closer to death.

With each breath,
you are one step closer to death.

From the moment of your birth,
death has been standing there, patiently waiting for you.

**EACH BREATH,
EACH MOMENT,
EACH PERSON,
EACH GIFT IS A BLESSING.**

What are you going to do with your remaining breaths?

Will you choose to live?

Will you choose to love?

Will you choose to give?

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“Remembering that I’ll be dead soon is the most important tool I’ve ever encountered to help me make the big choices in life. Because almost everything—all external expectations, all pride, all fear of embarrassment or failure—these things just fall away in the face of death, leaving only what is truly important. Remembering that you are going to die is the best way I know to avoid the trap of thinking you have something to lose. You are already naked. There is no reason not to follow your heart.” – Steve Jobs - Stanford University Commencement Address, 2005

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