



Overview

The short book is structured as 35 tips across 4 categories:

- Work
- Composing Ideas / Writing
- Self-Development
- Finding Happiness

Favorite Quotes

- “Don’t tell me about the storms at sea. Just tell me when the ship’s coming in.”
- “Humility is not thinking less of yourself. It’s thinking of yourself less.”
- “80% of success is showing up.” —Woody Allen
- “Show me someone that thinks money buys happiness, and I’ll show you someone who’s never had a lot of money.” —David Geffen
- “Recognition and wealth do not produce happiness, but they do liberate you from the worries that plague people who lack—but desire—those things.”
- “Taking religion seriously means homework.”

- “A good marriage is the best thing that can ever happen to you.”
- Closing remark: “Try hard. Be true. Enjoy. Godspeed.” —Charles Murray

Other Points of Guidance

- **Don't suck up.** Highly successful people value honesty and courage; just don't trim your views if they go against the grain of discussion.
- **Call to action:** immediately and intently focus on absolute removal of the word “like” from your spoken English. STOP IT.
- **Happiness.** Lasting and justified happiness really only comes from 4 sources*:
 - Family
 - Vocation
 - Faith
 - Community
 - *(not ALL are necessary)
- **If you have an incompetent boss:** an incompetent boss could mean higher profile projects and autonomy; if you don't need to learn a highly technical skill from them, be patient and take the time to meanwhile look at other opportunities.
- **Want to get recognized?** Do even simple tasks amazingly well.

Other notes and interesting tidbits

Apparently William F. Buckley, Jr. had impeccable manners

Manners: Stand when a new person enters the room.

Practice self-awareness and your manners will follow.

P.103 - career assessment based on personal tendencies and aptitude; think beyond classic career paths

P. 112 - don't let desire for tolerance get in the way of moral judgement; don't shy away from judgement

What is the difference between being a nice person vs. being a good person?

What does virtue mean to you? Are your values watered down?

P. 115 - cardinal virtues: justice, courage, temperance, and prudence—credit to the Greeks

“Phronesis”: practical wisdom based on life experiences with an element of patience

P. 117 - from Confucianism’s central idea, “REN” meaning humaneness or benevolence, but also reciprocity and justice.

Intelligence and successful people have a more “accurate appraisal of consequences” according to Aristotle.

With regards to riches, fame, marriage: the cliches are true. Appreciate them.

P.128 - “Recognition and wealth do not produce happiness, but they do liberate you from the worries that plague people who lack but desire those things.”

“Taking religion seriously means homework.”

P.133 - solid list of books to buy

On the habits that are highly influential within a relationship:

- Punctuality
- Orderliness
- Thriftiness—these are the top objectionable ones among couples

About your spouse: do you have/like the same friends, sense of humor, or ethical impulses?

P.136 - How much do you like your mate?

Startup vs. merger marriages (he advocates for startup)

Watch Groundhog’s Day and think about the underlying virtues it reveals (directed by Harold Ramis)

“A good marriage is the best thing that can ever happen to you.”

Closing words of the book: Try hard. Be true. Enjoy. Godspeed.
