

Chart Your Change Now Newsletter

Change Your Thoughts and Change Your Life

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Dear Reader,

"I am the master of my fate. The captain of my soul."

-- William Henley

DESIGN FOR LIFE: A DO-IT-YOURSELF PROJECT

Paul Newman was known to say, if you have a pulse, you have a purpose. My own personal philosophy

has developed into a vision of life as being a struggle-free zone, no one-act, energy sucking drama, but rather life as lived with love, joy and fun. That seems purposeful to me. If you really pay attention to your heart and mind, you will notice that we were designed to experience joy -- we gravitate to a state of happiness.



What are the elements that enrich your life? Do you take pride in doing your best? Is there joy and love in everything you do? Are your personal values reflected, even in the smallest job or task you undertake? Do you have a blueprint (your vision) for your life. Do you have a GPS (your values) that guides you to your life directions?

Are you ever willing to sacrifice your personal best for the sake of expediency?

Read this month's feature article, [The Carpenter's Story](#). It is literally a story of getting out of it, exactly what you put into it.

I love hearing from you. Send your thoughts, questions, and comments. Click on [Just Ask Me](#).

THE OLD CARPENTER STORY

*"I have offended God and man because my work didn't reach the quality it should have."
(Leonardo da Vinci, on his deathbed)*

The Carpenter's Story

(author unknown)

An elderly carpenter was ready to retire. He told his employer-contractor of his plans to leave the house building business and live a more leisurely life with his wife, enjoying his extended family.

He would miss the paycheck, but he needed to retire. They could get by. The contractor was sorry to see his good worker go and asked if he could build just one more house as a personal favor. The carpenter said yes, but in time it was easy to see that his heart was not in his work. He resorted to shoddy workmanship and used inferior materials. It was an unfortunate way to end his career.

When the carpenter finished his work and the builder came to inspect the house, the contractor handed the front door key to the carpenter. "This is your house," he said, "my gift to you."

What a shock! What a shame! If he had only known he was building his own house, he would have done it all so differently.

Was there ever a time you built a "home" (product, project, service) with disregard for the quality, doing less than your best and then had to take responsibility for the poor outcome?

There is always a choice to be made to give the job our best effort. If we had realized the outcome, would we have done it differently? Think about your house. Build it lovingly. This is the house you will live in tomorrow.

Ask yourself:

- What kind of a house (life) are you building?
- How is your house (life) aligned with your values?
- If you could build over again, how would your house (life) look?
- What's one thing you would like to do to change your house (life)?
- What can you do right now to make the biggest difference?
- What's stopping you?

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Have a Joyful Month,

Flo Mauri
Thinking Well Consulting
Coach/Consultant to Emerging Leaders
Relationship Building Architect
Flo@thinkingwellconsulting.com