



Ten Reasons why you are Not Achieving Your Dreams

1. You Have Borrowed From Your Future So That You Can Live Today. This by far is one of the biggest downfalls that many people make. In trying to keep up with society, they continually borrow against their future until the realities of the debt raises its ugly head. Credit cards seem to encourage this type of behavior. At least I know that was the case was for me. I had that “I want it all now” mentality. Nothing was out of reach. I wanted a Rolex, I bought it. In fact I bought two! I wanted a brand new fully customized SUV, I bought it. I wanted it all and I wanted right then and there. My goal was to impress my friends and associates and I was doing everything within my power to make my point.

I realize that my story may not be your story. But we have all made decisions that have inadvertently affected our future and has limited our dreams of what we thought life would or should be like. Wisdom will tell you to wait until the time is right. Unfortunately, when your desires are strong you have a way of convincing yourselves that you “need it now” and “deserve it now.”

TIP: With just a small saving of 10% of your income, you will begin to see a change. This small savings will allow you the ability to afford the things that you so strongly desire. This behavior will also encourage, patience, discipline and accountability.

2. Your Habits Have Consumed You. Habits are hard enough to break. Add a bad habit to the mix and you have a time bomb on your hands that is ready to explode. The dictionary describes a habit as: A behavior pattern acquired by frequent repetition or physiologic exposure. It is an acquired mode of behavior that has become nearly or completely involuntary in other words it is an ADDICTION. Be it gambling, drugs, alcohol, shopping, or collecting. Whatever it is, it is obviously an issue that has to be dealt with. Habits cost money. Without even realizing it, the money you spend for your habit is robbing you of valuable resources that could be somewhere else. Somewhere that will make a real difference in your life.

TIP: A hobby or habit can be a wonderful thing if controlled properly. The idea is to find a way to engage in your hobby or habit without breaking the bank. For example, if you want to shop stay away from the designer stores. Try shopping at a large outlet center where the price of designer clothing has been cut sometimes as much as 70%.

3. Your Purchases Serve No Other Purpose Than To Impress Others. Have you ever seen the movie “Keeping up with the Joneses?” If you haven’t I would suggest that you do. **NOTE:** Spoiler Alert! The Joneses were a group of marketers who appeared to have everything. Their sole existence was to get others to notice them based on what they had. They would move into fancy neighborhoods to show off their wares. All the neighbors would take notice and go out and buy the same things. Once the Joneses had completed their task of getting others to buy what they were selling they would move on to the next victim. Sounds like a pretty good gig huh? Unfortunately it’s not. What the Joneses came to realize, is that the people whom they thought could afford what they were selling, were actually in way over their heads. Families were ruined and lives were lost, all because people wanted to impress others.

TIP: The next time you decide to make a major purchase ask yourself these three questions.

Do you need it?

Can you really afford?

Will it mean the same to you if you wait a week?

4. You Have False Dreams Of Success. Many people have dreams of making it big yet they refuse to plan for the big event. Sure you might be talented and smart. In fact you are probably working on a few things to move your career along at this very moment. But be honest, do you really have a plan? If what you are striving for knock on your door tonight, are you prepared? Are you able to pick up and leave in order to pursue a new career? The idea here is to be prepared for the things that you desire. Your finances have to be in order. Your life has to be your own. There is no doubt that debt can have a strong hold on one's dreams.

TIP: Follow the Plan, Do, Review (PDR) Method. Make a plan, do the plan and review that plan, especially when it comes to your finances. How much would you like to save each month? How much additional income can you put towards your outstanding debt? What investments could you make that would allow for a better tomorrow? I encourage you to start researching those things. Talk to people who invest. You don't have to follow their advice. Just learn from them and observe their methods. Plan it out so that your dreams will become a true reality.

5. You Don't Feel That A Monthly Budget Is Necessary. Far too many people are going through life thinking that a budget is completely unnecessary. They figure they already know how much money they make each month and what bills are due. They assume that whatever is left over is theirs to spend. Establishing a good budget helps put those vague budgeting practices in perspective. The bottom line is that budgeting reinforces everything. It shows you exactly where you're spending your money, and you can compare your spending to your income.

TIP: Try your best to stick to your budget. Sure there will be times that you may have to deviate. But in this case consistency is the best practice. I would also encourage you to reevaluate your budget on a monthly basis. If you follow your budget correctly you will find that your spending should always be less than your income.

6. Buy Now Complain Later. It happens all the time. You go to the big box store to pick up one or two items and before you know it, you have spent \$100's of dollars. At the time it felt good and it seemed like the best idea. But once you get home you realize that you really didn't need that so-called bargain. I have been guilty of this scenario on more than one occasion, Home Depot was my nemesis. This can be a killer simply because once you are in the zone. You don't look at the price. You simply shop on impulse.

TIP: Always consider the price of items. If at all hold off on your purchase. Give it time to marinate. You might find a coupon or discover that it is on sale at another store. Typically the big box stores don't offer specials but they do offer advice. They know their competition and will always try to beat the best deal to keep you in the store.

7. You Don't Ask for A Better Deal. As easy as this might sound, most people never do it! Negotiating is an art, and not everyone is comfortable with it, but you owe it to yourself to give it a try. Who knows you might just discover that you are good at it. You don't have to be rude or demanding. All you are doing is asking a simple question. You are the consumer and you want the best deal you can find. If you are making your purchase via the Internet, you should always do a quick Google search for coupons or other stores that may have what you are looking for at a cheaper price.

TIP: Never accept the first price on anything. Always ask for a better deal. Ask questions such as, "Can you do anything better for me?" "Is that your lowest price?" If the salesperson refuses to budge don't be afraid to leave the store without making a purchase. If it's meant to be you will have it when the time is right. If all else fails there is always eBay.

8. You Know How to Spend Money But You Don't Know How to Earn It. It actually doesn't take any special skill to spend money. The point is that anyone can walk into a designer shop and make a huge purchase. But figuring out a way to (legitimately) earn money by creating a product, offering a service or embracing the entrepreneurial spirit takes time and skill to develop. Most people spend a lot of time thinking about how they would spend an abundance of money if they had it. Yet they refuse to embrace most extra income opportunities, living paycheck to paycheck hoping for a break through.

TIP: It's great to dream. It's great to have an abundance of money to do the things that you love. But focusing on those things without figuring out a way to make it happen doesn't make sense. Try turning you focus on things that will help you earn money.

9. You Aren't Prepared for Emergencies. During y stint as a real estate investor I learned a very valuable lesson. I learned that life is full of surprises. I also learned that people can be cruel. Without going into a lot of detail, I will tell you this. As a real estate investor I laid it all out on the line in order to turn a buck. Unfortunately when one or two of my tenants paid late, I would panic. I was tapped out. My expenses were maxed out.

Then the inevitable happened. I had a major repair (\$22,000.00) and it literally whipped me out. I was unprepared to say the least.

TIP: When you are making strides to reach your goals, you have to understand that stuff happens. Therefore, it is always a good idea to have some type of cash reserve. Just a little bit of money put away for a rainy day can make all the difference.

10. You Don't Look at Your Bills/Statements. It can be very discouraging when you discover how much you are paying in interest fees every month. But you still have to look at your statements. It helps you to keep track of balances, due dates and overall monthly expectancies. So often we put a very large enfaces on money. The truth be told, money is just a tool created to help us make different moves in society's game. However, it's a game that we would all like to win. Therefore, I encourage you to always stay on top of your bills and other financial obligations. By doing so you are taking the first step towards winning the game of your life.

TIP: Enroll in the Debt Comforter series and get ready to go to the next level. Free from the burden of lack and debt.

“Life Is What You Make It”