

The Five Lessons A Millionaire Taught Me About Life and Wealth

Excerpts from the book by Richard Paul Evans

Lesson 1: Decide to Be Wealthy

For the most part, whether to be wealthy or not is your choice.

Most people never decide to be wealthy...and never become wealthy.

Choice is the beginning of all journeys.

Lesson 2: Take Responsibility for Your Money

- Know how much you have
- Where it is coming from
- Where it is going
- What it is doing in the meantime

Lesson 3: Keep a Portion of Everything You Earn

Pay yourself first!

Save a minimum of 10% of your ongoing salary and 90-100% of your side earnings.

Take advantage of the power of compound interest.

Don't dip into the nest egg as it grows.

Lesson 4: Win in the Margins

Two ways to win in the margins:

- 1 – Earn extra income
- 2 – Keep more of what you make

Look for ways to make extra income and you will find there are opportunities all around you.

Four key mindsets that characterize the wealth builder:

1. The millionaire mentality carefully consider each expenditure
 - a. Is it really necessary, or is it possible to get the same effect without using money or using less of it
 - b. Is this expenditure contributing to my wealth or taking from it?
 - c. Is this an impulse purchase or a planned purchase?
2. The millionaire mentality believes that freedom and power are better than momentary pleasure.

Understand the danger of debt. Delay gratification. Never borrow money.
3. The millionaire mentality does not equate spending with happiness.

Equating spending with happiness is the first step toward self-destruction.
4. The millionaire mentality protects his nest egg.

Successful nest eggers do not invest what they cannot afford to lose.
“There was a time when a fool and his money were soon parted. Now it happens to everybody.” – Adlai E. Stevenson

Lesson 5: Give Back

Ultimately, the most enjoyable use of money is helping others.

Giving will warm and expand your life. Hoarding money will make you cold.

We get back when we give.

Life is not about money. It is about God, love, family, and relationships.

“Live so that even the undertaker mourns your passing.” – Mark Twain