

## My Credo

After thinking long and hard about what I truly believe in and what I stand for, I have come to the realization that my heart is set on everything that seems impossible and improbable. I am always setting my goals at a level that is seemingly too high, I am always aiming for a target that is seemingly far beyond my reach, and I am always trying to accomplish things that many people believe are impossible to accomplish. However, I truly and wholeheartedly believe that I can do anything through God and if I believe in myself. For many people, that saying is cliché, and they do not seem to take it to heart, but it is what my life is all about.

From the minute I wake up in the morning to the very second I fall asleep (and sometimes even after that), I am dreaming up big plans. From deciding on a more efficient and faster way to go about my daily activities to the most effective study techniques for me to utilize each day, I am almost always working on a new method for my life. I am almost never content with my life, because I know that I could always be doing more, always be trying harder, and always be pleasing more people. These beliefs became very clear to me after completing the Strength Quest survey. It determined that some of my top strengths were achievement, strategy, individualization, command, and relation. Those strengths have now become my motivation in life. I believe that if I utilize all of those strengths, I can possibly be more successful in God's eyes, others' eyes, and maybe even my own eyes.

Even when my determination to be pleasing to gets me in trouble or causes stress or other conflicts in my life, I try my hardest to just learn from my mistakes and become wiser. This is because I believe that everything happens for a reason. If I find myself in a horrible situation that seems to be ruining my life at the time, I always try my best to just come back to the realization that God has a plan for everything that goes on in my life. After I overcome the

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obstacles and hindrances that I face in life, I will be a much stronger and more mature individual.

This also works when I find myself in situations where everything seems to be going my way. I always try to take advantage of the blessings that God gives me and thank Him and praise Him for being such a great and loving provider.

I often find myself contemplating how every single act can affect my future. I find it amazing that something as small as stepping in gum on the way to class can completely alter my life. Whether an act is for the better or for the worse, it is important to try to make the best of every situation and keep your chin up. This motivates me to try to make the best choices about anything and everything I do in my life. I am a firm believe in trusting God to help me out in everything that I do and go through, but I believe that it is up to me to act and behave in a way that respects and honors His plan for me.

Something that is and has always been a driving force in my life is the need to please others. Whether it is someone close to me like a family member or a close friend or even someone who I pass walking on the street, I do my best to be a reflection of God's grace. I am not much of a believer in karma, but I believe that it portrays a good idea. I think that by helping others and being a blessing to those around me will bring me happiness. However, I do not believe that everything that goes around comes around. For instance, I have donated money to charities and given my time to help others in need, but I do not always receive money in return or help with my endeavors from other people. Nonetheless, I find that helping others creates a great sense of accomplishment and joy in my life. I do not need to find compensation for all of my work, because my compensation comes from putting a smile on someone's face who might otherwise not be smiling.

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Overall, the main thing that I strive for in life is to be a blessing to all those around me. I truly and honestly believe that if I put forth all of my effort toward pleasing God, whether that means helping out myself or others, everything else will fall into place. I will never be able to find happiness in myself if I am not making God and the people around me happy. That is the basic belief as a Christian – It is my duty to reflect the glory and grace of God in everything I do, in every way possible, as often as possible. If I utilize my strengths to their fullest abilities and work to improve my weaknesses, I will be able to be a blessing, which will in turn give me what I have always wanted – contentment.