

## 109 SUCCESS POINTERS

from

*What I Wish I Knew at 18: Life Lessons for the Road Ahead*

by Dennis Trittin

### Life Perspective

Discover your purpose and inspiration \* Build a living legacy \* Direct your life toward others \* Live life without regrets \* Don't define success by riches \* Diversify your life \* Don't allow work to consume your life \* Plan, practice, and persevere to succeed \* Take risks—even if you might fail \* See the glass as half full \* Control what you can, but accept what you can't \* Value the ride, not just the outcome \* Embrace change as an opportunity \* Commit to being a life-long learner \* Allow time to reflect \* Immerse yourself in the beauty of God's creation

### Character

Demonstrate your capacity to love \* Cultivate a servant's heart \* Be proactively nice \* Preserve your reputation and integrity at all costs \* When facing risky situations, ask how your conscience will feel tomorrow \* Stand up for your beliefs and values with conviction \* Give everything your best \* Don't make promises you can't keep \* Take responsibility for your mistakes and shortfalls \* Choose humility over self-pride \* Solicit and embrace constructive feedback \* Laugh often \* Don't whine...just do it! \* Be an encourager rather than a critic and always look for the best in people \* Don't say something about someone else that you wouldn't mind them overhearing \* Be on "role model behavior" around kids

### Relationships and Communication

Put relationships before things \* Express yourself! \* Get connected with others who share your interests and values \* Steer clear of destructive people \* First impressions are huge \* Know your audience \* Be inquisitive when meeting others \* Enthusiasm is contagious \* Smile...your countenance matters! \* Notice how others react to you \* How you say it can matter more than what you say \* Talk it out, don't write it out \* Be an inspiring team player \* Regularly show appreciation and gratitude toward others \* Strive to be an "agreeable disagreeer" \* Choose reconciliation over grudges whenever possible

### Spiritual Life

Invest in your spiritual growth \* Seek God's wisdom in matters big and small \* Count your blessings \* Reserve time for daily reflection \* Be a wise steward and cheerful giver \* Connect with a worship family \* Develop an accountability relationship with a trusted friend \* Keep the faith during times of trial

### Handling Adversity

Accept that adversity is a part of life \* Adversity can be preparation for greater things and often makes sense in retrospect \* Day follows night \* Release your pain through prayer, loved ones, and exercise \* Take seemingly insurmountable challenges one step at a time \* Take charge of your worries \* Don't make an important decision while you're upset—sleep on it \* Seek opportunities to help others in even worse shape

### **Miscellaneous**

Set and periodically assess your goals \* Plan, don't procrastinate \* Time is precious...use it wisely \* Become a masterful decision maker \* Celebrate your victories and learn from your defeats \* Don't let technology control your life \* Learn to speak comfortably in groups \* Be a discerning skeptic of all you read and hear \* Drive defensively

### **College Academics**

Excelling is about planning, preparing, and performing \* Consider the rainbow highlighter study method

### **Career Selection and Advancement**

Choose your major/career after conducting a comprehensive assessment of yourself and potential career matches \* Consider if it's a career, hobby, or volunteer opportunity \* Build a winning competitive edge \* Seek the wisdom of experienced pros \* Demonstrate the qualities that employers value \* Learn to persuasively market yourself \* Likeability during the interview is huge \* Consider career advancement opportunities when evaluating offers \* The secret to a glowing performance evaluation! \* Diversify your contributions to build your value and win promotions

### **Love and Marriage**

Recognize the difference between love and lust \* Love takes time...and timing! \* Take a "3D approach" to dating \* Choose your spouse as a forever decision \* Fully explore your compatibility before committing \* Don't expect your spouse to change his/her ways \* Maintain your friendships after marriage \* Marriage is a partnership that requires continual investment \* Remember the keys for a successful marriage \* Have children when you're married *and* ready \* Commit to making life choices to avoid poverty

### **Managing Your Finances**

Commit to your financial literacy \* Strive to become a wise steward, disciplined saver, prudent consumer, cautious debtor, and cheerful giver \* Beware...even those with substantial assets can go bankrupt! \* Live within your means and generate positive cash flow \* Create regular cash flow statements and analyze your spending \* Use credit sparingly and wisely \* Develop a financial plan that reflects your short- and long-term goals \* Understand your ability to handle risk and invest accordingly \* Invest early, regularly, and as much as you can in a diversified, long-term strategy \* Build an emergency fund for unforeseen circumstances \* Grow your wealth patiently \* Build and maintain a good credit rating \* Be the only you