

My present to you for Christmas and the New Year

Today you may be running around buying presents or making hopeful lists for the new acquisitions you desire. Deep down, however, you know that Christmas presents are not really the issue. The issue is whether you and your loved ones are enjoying a life of well-being with material acquisitions only a minor and temporary interlude in your life. If you've read my columns, you know I'm really not planning to write about holidays or presents. You know I want to write about your happiness and well-being, especially as it relates to a very important issue which is your spiritual well-being in this life and your eternal life. So my present today to you for your life and future is to introduce you to a marvelous source of information and inspiration: the life work of Dr. Wayne Dyer. I want to lead you to his autobiographical and culminating work, his 2015 book "I Can See Clearly Now" published by Hay House. Hopefully you are a reader because this is a book you will underline and read many times. If you're not a reader, you'll find many audiovisual products available where Wayne was photographed on YouTube or in his PBS specials, CD and DVDs.

This article will be one of my shorter articles because I want YOU To See More Clearly NOW! You can travel through this book with Wayne and consecutively or subsequently travel throughout your own life benefiting from his inspiration as he learns to see clearly the important parts of life. If you had a comfortable and privileged life so far, you are very fortunate as Wayne did not. He worked, persevered and acquired new learning at each stage of a difficult life. You may be saying, wait a minute, didn't he earn a lot of money through his speeches and books? Yes, he did, but he often paused to give away his money to others less fortunate. Wayne Dyer worked nonstop throughout his life until there was nothing more to accomplish here and he could see clearly into his eternal life. If you lived in foster homes and orphanages as a child and then worked full-time throughout your life, then you will understand his issues, success and triumphs. If you were abandoned

Advice Line
By Dr. Betty Phillips



by a parent you never knew until you found your father's gravesite, you will understand Wayne Dyer a little better. If you worked to earn a prestigious psychology professorship and clinical practice and then gave it up to write 41 books and lecture to you and me and all of us, then you will begin to understand this man.

To tell the truth (I always do), I was not overly impressed with Wayne Dyer and what I knew of him in the past. As a psychologist myself, I was not especially attracted to his earlier works which explained and taught psychology outside of the classroom and therapy room. It was only in reading this book that I came to understand the heart and soul of this complex and wonderful man. The title of the book is very important! In describing various stages of his life, Wayne will tell you what and how he learned and how he was able to see more clearly at each stage of his life. More clearly into what? More clearly into the most important parts of life and death and on into eternal life. Wayne Dyer learned the importance of passion in life and the problem with apathy when we lose connection with Spirit or Source. Wayne tells us, "there are lessons in every moment of time." He came to know and realize the importance of his higher self as he learned to understand the limitations of external definitions of success. He tells us to "live so as to be detached from outcome. Do it all because it resonates from your highest self and not because of the rewards that might come your way."

Wayne developed a facility using words and explanations of truth and eternal truths. How did he learn this? The hard way! As he worked throughout his life, he carefully accumulated indexes of vocabulary words and quotations. Self educated as a young adult, he created

and memorized lists of vocabulary words in order to obtain a college and then a graduate education. Wayne obviously also loved to read the works of great writers as well as to pay them their due respect as he explained their teachings in his books. His works are full of important quotations from the greatest writers of our times. For example, in explaining the importance of Eternal Spirit he could quote the great Nobel Prize winner in physics, Max Planck, as to "the existence of a conscious and intelligent mind... the matrix of all matter." If you are like Wayne Dyer, read his books with pen and note cards to record important points you wish to remember for yourself. Wayne tells us to keep our minds "truly open to everything and attached to nothing" as we live and learn, "replacing prejudice with compassion and always coming from a place of love." Wayne learned that "to blindly follow rules just because they are rules is to lose control over your whole life."

You will find it very interesting that Wayne Dyer wrote most of this book in the present tense starting with his observations as a toddler in a snow bank. You will be able

to experience his life as it occurred, step-by-step, in the same way that your own life has unfolded. At each stage in his life Wayne learned to see more clearly into the most important parts of existence. You'll see many of his mistakes and missteps as he chronicled his life stages in the present tense and then his insights and subsequent changes as he progressed through the years. You, too, can learn about the importance of love and eternal life as your years go by. Hopefully, as Wayne clearly demonstrated in this book, you can take each decade into your heart and mind, moving toward your own transition to eternal life!

Wayne tells us how he learned "to allow my highest inner self to become the dominant influence in my life." He learned to live his life "so as to be detached from outcome. Do it all because it resonates from your highest self and not because of the rewards that might come your way." He tells us "when you have a choice to be right or be kind, always pick kind. Living from your highest spiritual sense is the essence of all it means to be a self actualized

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MORE SUPPORT FOR OUR STUDENTS.



Following up on last week's report, today we're shining a light on two more key parts of our local education infrastructure.



Source: Chatham County Schools

Preparing students for the future by expanding the classroom.

CHATHAM COUNTY SCHOOLS

With 17 schools and more than 8,000 students, Chatham County Schools is focused on collectively creating success. It encourages community support of and involvement in its mission to foster globally competitive, well-rounded students, and its goal of preparing them for success after graduation. "We want all of our stakeholders to

be invested in our schools and our children," said Chatham County Schools Superintendent, Dr. Derrick Jordan. "Through a grant from Chatham Park, we'll be able to strengthen our online presence and ability to communicate about all of the positive things that our students and faculty are accomplishing via our schools. That's key for us."

CHATHAM ARTS COUNCIL

One of the Arts Council's main focuses is on educating children through the arts. "Every county in the Triangle has a robust Artist in Schools program, except Chatham County," said Executive Director Cheryl Chamblee. "With assistance from Chatham Park and other groups, we're working right now to change that." The Council is partnering with Chatham County Schools – and gathering input from educators, parents, artists and teachers – to introduce a program in the upcoming school year that will bring professional artists into schools in ways that support math, science, language and history curriculums.

DID YOU KNOW?

For the 2013-2014 school year, all 17 Chatham County district schools met or exceeded growth expectations set by the State Board of Education.



Source: Chatham Arts Council/Photographer Linda Booker

Inspiring the next generation of Chatham County artists at the Arts Council's Annual ClydeFEST

"Here at the Chatham Arts Council, we invest in artists and we educate kids through the arts. Chatham Park is helping us do both those things by supporting our new Artists in Schools initiative."
--Cheryl Chamblee, Executive Director, Chatham Arts Council.

Another in an ongoing series of updates on what's happening at Chatham Park.