



# ENTHUSIASM



## Makes The Difference!

Adapted from a text by  
Norman Vincent Peale

# What Enthusiasm

One of the greatest human needs  
of  
our time is a weapon to fight  
mediocrity,  
one that will teach us how to  
make  
use of zest and vitality and the



What we so desperately need is the capacity

Individuals who achieve the most in life are invariably activated by enthusiasm.

The men who do the most with their lives are those who approach human existence, its opportunities and its problems—even its rough moments—with a confident attitude and an enthusiastic point of view.

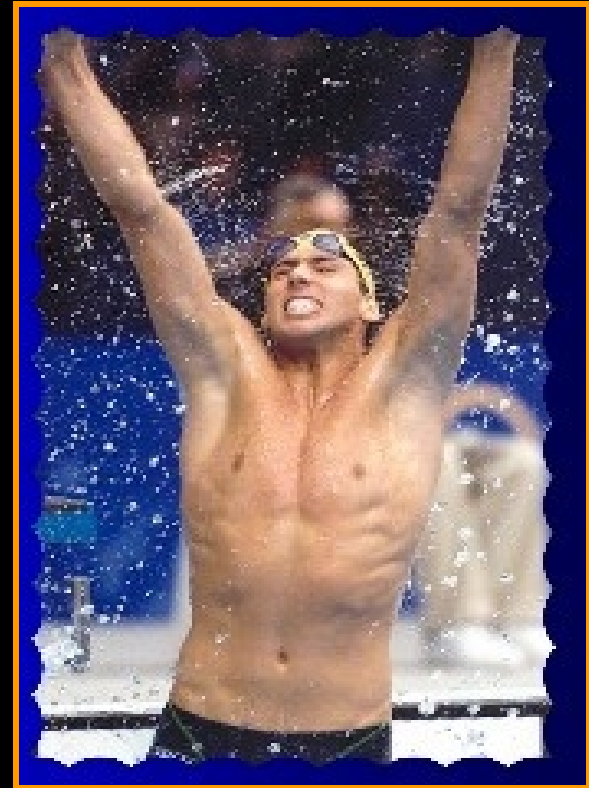
Therefore, it seems timely to stress the vital power of enthusiasm and to suggest ways to develop and maintain this powerful and precious motivating force.



**Enthusiasm can truly make a difference**

Sir Edward V. Appleton, the Scottish physicist whose scientific discoveries made possible worldwide broadcasting and won him a Nobel prize, was asked for the secret of his amazing achievements. *"It was enthusiasm,"* he said. *"I rate enthusiasm even above professional skill."*

For without enthusiasm, one would scarcely be willing to endure the self-discipline and endless toil so necessary in developing professional skill.



**Enthusiasm is the dynamic motivator that keeps one**

Voltaire once described a man as being like a warming oven, always heating but never cooking anything.

Commenting on this viewpoint, Harold Blake Walker points out that many people live without zest, dragging themselves through their jobs without vitality; in a word, heating just enough to get by but never really cooking.



**But amazing things do happen,  
he points out, when a person  
really catches fire and starts**

The mental and spiritual heat created by enthusiasm can burn off the apathy-failure elements in any personality and release hitherto unused, even unsuspected powerhouse qualities.



**Walker puts it another way:**

**"Go beyond simmering, even to boiling,  
and you will discover talents and powers**

# Overcome Apathy

Indeed, one should never hesitate to be on the warm side.

Even though enthusiastic commitment may carry with it the risk of being wrong, still the committed person, win or lose, is the one who finds the real excitement in living.

There are, of course, quite a few people in the "couldn't care less" category, who are neither hot nor cold.

This emotionally empty crowd apparently has always been around and has never rated very high. As a matter of fact, in Biblical times they were referred to as ". . . lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of My mouth."

That is a pretty rough evaluation and forthright treatment, but it describes a pretty innocuous lot.



If we can help reduce the number of lethargic people and bring even a few of them into the enthusiastic class, not only will they get more out of life personally, but the world itself will be improved.



The historian Arnold Toynbee said,

**"Apathy can only be overcome by enthusiasm, first, an ideal which takes the imagination by storm, and second, a definite intelligible plan for a carrying**



Jack London, summed up the matter th



**"I would rather be ashes than dust.  
I would rather that my spark would  
burn out**

**I would rather be a superb meteor,  
every atom of me in magnificent  
glow,**

**The proper function of man is to live,**

# And how does one have enthusiasm in life?

Actually, it is as simple as this:

Cultivate the ability to love living.

Love people,  
love the sky under which you live,  
love beauty,



The person who loves becomes enthusiastic,  
filled with the sparkle and the joy of life.

If you're not enthusiastic,

**Don't depreciate life by enumerating all**

**Things are wrong, and something has to be done about them.**

**But focus mentally upon all that is right.**

**A lifetime on earth doesn't last very long.**

**So love it while you can,**

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