

P*R*I*O*R*I*T*I*E*S

By Bob 'Idea Man' Hooey

“A hundred years from now it will not matter, what size my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove...but the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child.” Anonymous

Why is it, we wait until it too late to realize that our priorities are misplaced. We wait until our kids have grown up, without us. We wait until our spouse has had enough and is ready to leave. We wait until our health is almost deteriorated, to the point of no return. No one on his or her deathbed ever said, **“Gee, I wish I’d spent more time at the office!”**

One **practical**, suggestion to assist in regaining or getting effective control of your life would be being really clear on your priorities in life, family and business. Being focused on the priorities in your personal and family life makes it easier to blend them with your business, community and career priorities and demands. Far too many people have paid a price, personally too dear, for having imbalanced priorities and have lost partners and families. This, all too common, personal tragedy can be avoided! It takes discipline, but it’s worth it! **Wouldn’t you agree?**

Someone once told me, that to truly be effective in my life I should begin to **“schedule my priorities”** instead of just prioritizing my schedule, or to do lists. This **subtle** change in perspective has made a major difference in my life. This subtle change can make a difference in the results you experience along with life benefits.

Knowing what your priorities are and scheduling specific blocks of time to work on each of them each week, can free you up. Steven Covey has built a whole course and publication around this universal concept. This helps you to say **“NO”** to demands that don’t fall in line or distract you from seeing them fulfilled. You are better informed, and able to evaluate decisions, time investment, and resource allotments towards specific goals. You can be more productive, when you are working on the important projects in your career. You can be more fulfilled, when you spend time with the important people in your life.

I’d suggest taking a few moments, on a regular basis to go over your priorities. Plan to update, evaluate or sometimes, even eliminate them entirely. You’ll be glad you did! So will your friends and family.

Plan Monthly, Schedule Weekly and LIVE DAILY. Take a moment and make a note to yourself about these various areas and your priorities in each. Then decide **which one is your highest priority**. Spend time later to refine and focus your thoughts. Keep your written priorities clear, concise and focused. Then **schedule your priorities first!**

- **FAMILY:**
- **SELF-IMPROVEMENT/CAREER ADVANCEMENT:**
- **WORK/TASK:**
- **SPIRITUAL/PERSONAL:**
- **COMMUNITY/SPORTS/HOBBIES:**

Bob 'Idea Man' Hooey, DTM, PRA, CKD-Emeritus, Accredited Speaker, 2011 Spirit of CAPS recipient is an inspirational leader, speaker, and a prolific author whose works include **'Legacy of Leadership, Strive for significance – lead on purpose!'**, **'Speaking for Success'** and **'The Courage to Lead!'** His articles have been featured in a multitude of North American trade and global consumer publications. He is a respected leader who has been honored by CAPS, NSA, Toastmasters, and the United Nations for his leadership contributions. His creative Ideas At Work have allowed him to travel the globe sharing insights, encouragement in 61 countries, so far. With Covid-19 he has been zooming around the globe to share his ideas. His **innovative Ideas At Work!** have been successfully applied by global leaders as well as Canada's 50 Best Managed Companies.