LIFE IS A GOLD MINE: CAN YOU DIG IT?

By John Stanko

Life is a Gold Mine was written with one thought in mind: to help you get the resources out of your heart and mind and into your everyday life.

To help you do that, Dr. Stanko has identified what he calls the Gold Mine Principles – five key disciplines and results that will help you mine the gold that you already have in your ideas, heart, talents and life experience.

The five Gold Mine Principles are:

- 1. **Effectiveness** You have a **purpose**: something to do that only you can do, something for you to be that only you can be. You will only be truly when you find what it is. If God wants you to do and be this one thing, then He must reveal what that one thing is. Your purpose is generally summarized in one short, concise statement that speaks to the essence of who you are. It is a string of simple words that have a profound meaning for you and you alone.
- 2. **Excellence Goal-setting** is the highway to excellence. There are so many things you can do that you must determine what it is that you should do. Goals help you focus and keep you on track. Once you know your purpose and determine your values, what is most important to you, then you set goals that enable you to accomplish those highest priority events that will bring you joy.
- 3. **Efficiency** This involves **time management**, which is really a misnomer, for you cannot really manage time. You can only manage and schedule the events in your life that can be done in the time you have. What's more, you have all the time in the world 24 hours every day that you are alive, just like every other person. You will mine real gold, not fool's gold, when you learn how to go after what you really want and not simply stay busy.
- 4. **Organization** You never want to go *through* work to get *to* work. You don't want to waste time accumulating and organizing clutter that will only add to your work as you mine as you search for gold. This means that you must identify some kind of system that will help you keep track of your goals so that you invest your time in those activities that are most important to you.
- 5. **Faith** Without faith, it is impossible to please God (see Hebrews 11). If you want to clarify your purpose, achieve your goals and stay on top of your "lode" of gold, you must **trust** that God is with you and will help you. You must also learn to have faith for time to do the most important. Faith is often the missing ingredient as people set off to be more productive, often trying to achieve that in their own strength and understanding. Faith helps you move from what is possible to the realm of the impossible, naturally speaking.

Life is a Gold Mine further explains these principles and gives you practical guidelines of how to use these principles to mine the gold that is in your life and heart.

To further help as you learn to apply the Gold Mine Principles, *Life is a Gold Mine* also includes some "golden nuggets" to encourage you as you dig in search for the larger vein of wisdom and purpose, the mother lode of gold as it were. These nuggets are all drawn from the book of Proverbs, one of the word's oldest and more reliable wisdom books. As you apply the Gold Mine Principles in your search for purpose and productivity, you also want to look for ways to apply these nuggets of truth.

Gold Mine Principle One – Purpose: Know Where to Stake Your Claim "He who works his land will have an abundant supply of food, but he who cases fantasies will have his fill of poverty" (Proverbs 28:19).

- **Nugget One**: Let your eyes look straight ahead, fix your gaze directly before you. Make level paths for your feet and take only ways that are firm. Do not swerve to the right or the left; keep your foot from evil (*Proverbs 4:25-27*). Stay focused as you search for purpose.
- **Nugget Two**: *The Lord works out everything for his own ends—even the wicked for a day of disaster* (Proverbs 16:4). God is a God of purpose; He wants you to fulfill your purpose more than you do.
- **Nugget Three**: If you keep searching for purpose, you will find it. My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God (Proverbs 2:1-5).
- **Nugget Four**: *It is the glory of God to conceal a matter; to search out a matter is the glory of kings* (Proverbs 25:2). Don't give up; keep asking until it's clear.
- **Nugget Five**: He who separates himself seeks his own desire, he quarrels against all sound wisdom (Proverbs 18:1 NAS). Other people can help you search.

Gold Mine Principle Two – Excellence: Be Careful Where You Dig. by whether his conduct is pure and right (*Proverbs* 20:11).

- **Nugget Six**: Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will serve before kings; he will not serve before obscure men (Proverbs 22:29). God does not promote potential, but skill and excellence.
- **Nugget Seven**: All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty (Proverbs 14:23). Don't talk about what you will do; start doing it!
- **Nugget Eight**: For the LORD will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being snared (Proverbs 3:26). Don't worry about failure!
- **Nugget Nine**: *The lazy man does not roast his game, but the diligent man prizes his possessions* (Proverbs 12:27). Learn to finish what you start, but only if it's a high priority!

Gold Mine Principle Three – Efficiency: Don't Settle for Fool's Gold. *One who is slack in his work is brother to one who destroys (Proverbs 18:9).*

- **Nugget Ten**: He who gathers crops in summer is a wise son, but he who sleeps during harvest is a disgraceful son (Proverbs 10:5). You must know where to invest your time.
- **Nugget Eleven**: For through me your days will be many, and years will be added to your life (Proverbs 9:11). Wisdom helps you get more done in less time.
- **Nugget Twelve**: By wisdom the Lord laid the earth's foundations, by understanding he set the heavens in place (Proverbs 3:19). God will help you get things done.
- **Nugget Thirteen**: *Like a bad tooth or a lame foot is reliance on the unfaithful in times of trouble* (Proverbs 25:19). If you are unfaithful, you are a "pain" to have around!
- **Nugget Fourteen**: How long will you lie there, you sluggard? When will you get up from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest-and poverty will come on you like a bandit and scarcity like an armed man (Proverbs 6:9-11). If you waste time, you are wasting your life!

Gold Mine Principle Four — Organization: How to Stay on Top of Your "Lode" The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel: for attaining wisdom and discipline; for understanding words of insight; for acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair; for giving prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the young-let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance-for understanding proverbs and parables, the sayings and riddles of the wise (Proverbs 1:1-6).

Nugget Fifteen: Locusts have no king, yet they advance together in ranks (Proverbs 30:27). God has put organization into all of creation.

Nugget Sixteen: For attaining wisdom and discipline; for understanding words of insight; for acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair (Proverbs 1:2-3). God can help with every area of life, even organization!

Nugget Seventeen: A faithful man will be richly blessed, but one eager to get rich will not go unpunished (Proverbs 28:20). There are no shortcuts to success.

Nugget Eighteen: Where there are no oxen, the manger is empty, but from the strength of an ox comes an abundant harvest (Proverbs 14:4). If you want to avoid problems, then stay like you are and where you are at!

Nugget Nineteen: Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest (Proverbs 6:6-8). No one can want anything for your life more than you do.

Gold Mine Principle Five: Faith; "I'm Just an Old Lump of Coal, but I'm Gonna Be a Diamond Someday."

So that your trust may be in the LORD, I teach you today, even you (Proverbs 22:19).

Nugget Twenty: Do not love sleep or you will grow poor; stay awake and you will have food to spare (Proverbs 20:13). Faith helps you see what you can't see with your natural eyes. Proverbs 20:13

Nugget Twenty-One: Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; but blessed is he who keeps the law (Proverbs 29:18). You need to see the unseen and get a vision for what is not yet in existence.

Nugget Twenty-Two: A discerning man keeps wisdom in view, but a fool's eyes wander to the ends of the earth (Proverbs 17:24). Your faith keeps you focused.

Nugget Twenty-Three: From the fruit of his mouth a man's stomach is filled; with the harvest from his lips he is satisfied. The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit (Proverbs 18:20-21). You need to learn how to verbalize your faith.

Order your copy of *Life is a Gold Mine* and start digging for the buried treasures in your life today! <u>Click here</u>.