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“CHOICE! The key is *choice*. You have options. You need not spend your life wallowing in failure, ignorance, grief, poverty, shame and self-pity! There is a better way to live!

- Og Mandino

*The Choice*

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Og Mandino was a thirty-five-year-old derelict who nearly spent his last few dollars on a suicide gun. Now, for the first time ever, he describes the joyously redemptive process that turned a down-and-out alcoholic into a millionaire and a happy man within ten years. Og Mandino is the only person who could tell this heartwarming tale of personal triumph – because it is his own true story. And it can profoundly influence your life.

The following seventeen “*Rules to Live By*” are the principles that turned his life around. They are simple, easy-to-follow rules that comprise a sound, wise prescription for inner growth and for fulfilling everyday life that will work for you – just as it has worked for Og Mandino.

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Rule #1

Count your blessings. (Pgs. 53 - 55)

Rule #2

Today and every day, deliver more than you are getting paid to do. (Pgs. 56 - 59)

Rule #3

Whenever you make a mistake or get knocked down in life, don't look back at it too long. (Pgs. 60 - 63)

Rule #4

Always reward your long hours of labor and toil in the very best way, surrounded by your family. (Pgs. 64 - 67)

Rule #5

Build this day on a foundation of pleasant thoughts. (Pgs. 68 - 71)

Rule #6

Let your actions always speak for you but be forever on guard against the terrible traps of false pride and conceit that can halt your progress. (Pgs. 72 - 75)

#### Rule #7

Each day is a special gift from God, and while life may not always be fair, you must never allow the pains, hurdles, and handicaps of the moment to poison your attitude and plans for yourself and your future. (Pgs. 76 -79)

#### Rule #8

Never again clutter your days or nights with so many menial and unimportant things that you have no time to accept a real challenge when it comes along. (Pgs. 80 – 85)

#### Rule #9

Live this day as if it will be your last. Remember you will only find “tomorrow” on the calendars of fools. Forget yesterday’s defeats and ignore the problems of tomorrow. (Pgs. 86 – 89)

#### Rule #10

Beginning today, treat everyone you meet, friend or foe, loved one or stranger, as if they were going to be dead at midnight. (Pgs. 90 – 95)

#### Rule #11

Laugh at yourself and at life. Not in the spirit of derision or whining self-pity, but as a remedy, a miracle drug, that will ease your pain, cure your depression and help you to put in perspective that seemingly terrible defeat of the moment. Never take yourself too seriously. (Pgs. 96 – 101)

#### Rule #12

Never neglect the little things. Never skimp on that extra effort, that additional few minutes, that soft word of praise or thanks, that delivery of the very best that you can do. It does not matter what others think about you. You are special. Act it!

#### Rule #13

Welcome every morning with a smile. Look on the new day as another special gift from your Creator, another golden opportunity to complete what you were unable to finish yesterday. Be a self-starter. You were not born to fail. (Pgs. 106 – 109)

#### Rule #14

You will achieve your grand dream, a day at a time, so set goals for each day – not long and difficult projects, but chores that will take you, step by step, toward your rainbow. Write them down. Be patient. (Pgs. 110 – 113)

#### Rule #15

Never allow anyone to rain on your parade and thus cast a pall of gloom and defeat on the entire day. Guard your fragile life carefully. Only God can shape a flower, but any foolish child can pull it to pieces! (Pgs. 114 – 117)

#### Rule #16

Sear for the seed of good in every adversity. Find it and prosper. (Pgs. 118 – 121)

#### Rule #17

Realize that true happiness lies within you. There is no happiness in having or in getting, but only in giving. Happiness is a perfume you cannot pour on others without getting a few drops on yourself. (Pgs. 122 – 125)