

*“Guard well those spare moments.
They are like uncut diamonds.
Discard them and their value
will never be known. Improve them
and they will become the brightest
gems in a useful life”*

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Welcome! To the Twelve Secrets of Success.

I would like to talk about something that is very important in developing success. Most people will read this material and be absolutely biting at the bit to make changes and fulfill their wants, dreams and desires and this is great. I celebrate with you the new opportunities that you see and the new horizons that are there for you to conquer. However, I need to add some words of caution and wisdom. The first is, do not make any unplanned and sudden changes. In other words don't quit your job tomorrow, don't go out and buy the toys you've always wanted, or leave your wife or family. Though these may be options you may eventually consider, at best they are options, not decisions. **Do not make any unplanned moves or decisions.** The reason, which is found in the Planning section of the Twelve Secrets to Success, is that it is important to make choices from a place of pre-thought and an organized decision-making process, which you do not have at this point.

Another caution is to realize that even though you will now have the tools to do whatever your heart desires, that fulfillment must come in the form of a balanced life. It is of little use loading up on one aspect of your life and losing another. We all know that even too much of a good thing can be bad for you. Think of ice cream. Most of us love ice cream. However if you ate ice cream until you were sick you would know it is too much of a good thing. The same can be said for striving for success. If you end up working 18 hours a day on your favourite project and end up ignoring your health, friends and family you may attain your goal but you may not have anyone to celebrate with at the end of the journey.

Part of having success is appreciating what you have in the first place and still having these attributes in your life when you achieve your greater success. The “Twelve Secrets to Success” come with exercises to complete at the end of each secret, so let this be your first exercise. List all the things that you appreciate about your life now. Is it family, friends, your job, your home, your garden, your pet(s), your hobbies, time alone etc? This is your inventory listing of things that on your journey to success you will want to continue to appreciate and keep. Guard these items from being eliminated or being neglected as you change your life to make room for your new successes. Do not lose these on your way. So here we go...

Just one of these secrets, on its own, can bring you the success that you have always wanted. However, collectively they are a powerful force, which will allow you to succeed in any endeavour that you desire. Whether that is business success, financial success, a blissful marriage, career, relationship or any other facet of your life, one or more of these secrets will help you achieve your desired goals.

Each one of us is an individual, what works for one of us may not work for someone else. This is the reason that there are 12 secrets. The secret that will work for one of us may not work for another, so do not be discouraged if the first, second or third one does not do it for you immediately. You may be someone that needs to see them all and have them work collectively. On the other hand, the first secret may be the spark that ignites your world to the stratosphere. Be patient with yourself and enjoy the journey you are about to embark on. You will discover a whole new way of thinking and being, which will change your life forever. These are very powerful tools that move you from where you are now to where you truly want or are meant to be.

Andreas Simic, the author of the Twelve Secrets to Success is a retired Certified General Accountant (CPA equivalent) with many years of business and life experience. Through his work as an accountant, as owner of a Financial Planning centre, as owner of a manufacturing company, and as a corporate banking manager he has seen many success and failure stories including aspects of his own. Andreas has also been the chairman of a charitable organization as well as an author. As a result of these accumulated experiences he has met many people and touched many lives, which has allowed him to see what has worked in the lives of others and in his own and how success is achieved. The Twelve Secrets to Success is the culmination of this learning and observation.

So buckle up and enjoy the ride. Your life will never be the same!