

Guiding Principles

Some years ago, the noted research expert, Daniel Starch, asked a sizable sample of people what were the most valuable guiding principles in living. Several hundred times principles and maxims were submitted. Nine stood out above all the rest. Here they are in the order they were most frequently mentioned.

1. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.
2. Know thyself.
3. Life is what you make it.
4. If at first you don't succeed, try, try again.
5. Anything that is worth doing at all is worth doing well.
6. The great essentials of happiness are something to do, something to love and something to hope for.
7. As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he.
8. Knowledge is power.
9. Be calm and self-possessed, know what you are about, be sure you are right, then go ahead and don't be afraid.

To these nine guiding principles, we will add a tenth. It is:

10. Life is short. But, it's as wide as you make it.

The most remarkable people in this world don't appear on movie screens or in sports arenas or on television tubes. They drive cabs and work in offices and operate machinery. They're just ordinary people like us who happened to have experienced something extraordinary. And survived.