



# Outwitting the Devil: The Secret to Freedom and Success

*Napoleon Hill* , *Sharon L. Lechter (Editor)* , *Michael Bernard Beckwith (Afterword)* , *Mark Victor Hansen (Foreword)*

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**“Napoleon Hill was one of America’s great, influential thinkers who continues to have an enormous impact today.” —Steve Forbes, editor-in-chief of Forbes magazine**

**Bestselling author Napoleon Hill reveals the seven principles of good that allow us to triumph over obstacles . . . and find success.**

Using his legendary ability to get to the root of human potential, Napoleon Hill digs deep to reveal how fear, procrastination, anger, and jealousy prevent us from realizing our personal goals. This long-suppressed parable, once considered too controversial to publish, was written by Hill in 1938 following the publication of his classic bestseller, *Think and Grow Rich*. Annotated and edited for a contemporary audience by *Rich Dad, Poor Dad* and *Three Feet from Gold* coauthor Sharon Lechter, this book--now available in paper--is profound, powerful, resonant, and rich with insight.

### Outwitting the Devil: The Secret to Freedom and Success Details

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## From Reader Review Outwitting the Devil: The Secret to Freedom and Success for online ebook

### Tre Scott says

While the original author's text makes for a good read - or listen - the continuous interruptions of the annotator, Sharon Lechter, forced me to discontinue after about 40 minutes. Every time the story gained a little momentum, Ms. Lechter butted in.

I then re-edited the audiobook, removing Ms. Lechter's commentary so that I could enjoy it in peace.

If you've already purchased the audio version, but would like to be able to listen to it cleanly, let me know and I can email it to you.

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### Julie says

The gist of the book: Don't drift through life or the devil will control you. In fact, he already controls 98% of the population!

The book quotes from the bible and even states that it corresponds with Christ's teachings. A few differences of the book compared to the bible came to mind as I was reading it:

Book: love gets in the way, (but sex is good)

Bible: 1st great commandment Love God and 2nd love your neighbor as yourself

Book: Duty to only yourself

Bible: Lose yourself to serving God and then you'll find yourself

Book: Marriage should be over if not working well (which happens, on and off, in EVERY marriage)

Bible: Love your spouse like Christ loves you and gave his life for you

Book: Be hard

Bible: Be teachable, meek, and humble

Perhaps this has some small pieces of decent concepts (like determination, faith, and prayer) interspersed with a lot of what the devil feels would be VERY good advice. And trust me it's pretty tricky the way the ideas are introduced...My advice- don't take advice from the devil!

Oh, and it says when you pray, demand what you want. Good grief- what about the the Lord directing you for good, or counsel not the Lord. He obviously knows what's best.

The fact is that we are saved through Christ's atonement, not by being determined and putting ourselves first. That's the biggest lie that bothers me the most.

This is just one part of why I disliked this book. I saw a ton of other major concerns related to the way you should bring up children, among other things.

1. Don't ban drinking, sex, drugs but teach them kids it's not good and can cause them to drift. Some sex is ok, just not overindulgence.
2. Kids should make a decision fast and then not change it easily. (As if a kid's first inclination is the best! Yikes!)

Then there's the weird stuff: The devil says he's just as powerful as God and he's the negative part of the electron. And then there's the hypnotic rhythm? Please! Stupid book by an egotistical man thinking he's providing all the answers, practically starting his own religion & supposedly helping us out. He's basically saying he's better than 98% of the population and he's saved because he's so determined! Wow!

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## **Joe says**

A very interesting book on the dangers of destructive and negative thinking, something very widespread in society today with catchy addictive headlines about disaster and promising more disaster.

In order to avoid getting sucked into blaming the government, the banks, the rich, your parents, your boss etc... for your problems and taking control of your life essentially you need to:

1. Have a definite purpose in life (to look after your family, accumulate wealth, help others..)
2. Mastery over self
3. Learning from adversity (don't give up after small temporary defeats, learn something and keep going)
4. Controlling environmental influence (associations - avoid associating with people who bring you down)
5. Time - giving permanency to positive rather than negative thought-habits and developing wisdom
6. Harmony (acting with definiteness of purpose to become the dominating influence in your own mental spiritual and physical environment)
7. Caution (thinking through your plan before you act)

All humans have free will, but we can't change the weather, the economy or much else. All we do have complete control over are:

- 1) Our own thoughts
- 2) How we spend our time

Think carefully, use your time wisely and see what a difference it makes

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## **Adam says**

Was listening to the audio version of this book and while I'm a big fan of Hills, the constant intrusion of the editors POV and her constant explanations and justifications as to why this work is pertinent now was so frustrating I had to stop. I might have to read the print version so I can skip over the editors incessant need to explain every detail. It reminds me of going to the movies with someone who has already seen the picture and can't keep their mouth shut. They keep telling you why this or that happened, removing the joy of figuring it out for yourself. I was really engaged in the book but the constant interruptions were driving me crazy, so I stopped listening. Really good stuff though. I'd really enjoy reading the original manuscript. Anyway, just my two cents.

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## **Javatis Midget says**

This book is a must read for everyone. Initially I was going to give this book three stars because the message wasn't new; however as I neared the end, it reaffirmed everything that I have read and believed thus far from

another angle which allowed me to thoroughly enjoy it. It reiterated if we just apply the knowledge we've gained, life will give us the new direction we are looking for. The seven principles Mr. Hill identified made so much sense. One of the main ones for me is "Self Discipline". If we master self discipline, the sky will be the limit (infinite intelligence). Read this book!!!

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### **Kent says**

I have read Hill's "The Law of Success" and found a few of the principles outlined in this book; the major principle being the definiteness of purpose. Of course, the editor, Sharon Lechter, understands that Hill's conversation with the Devil may seem a little far out to many in our culture. Although, in all honesty, it probably is no different when Hill wrote this book in the 1930s. Hill, of course, definitely believed this was the Devil.

As a Christian, I can see some aspects of what could potentially be the Devil in here, while other moments make me believe Hill may have been in some altered mental state where he was able to access a part of his brain that we are rarely able to access. Regardless, there are some fine nuggets of information here that Hill's wife was afraid of being released due to Hill claiming to have spoken with the Devil.

It's a condensed version, to a certain degree, of "The Law of Success," but covering a few other areas that were either glossed over in that book, or not touched on at all. I would recommend it as it already has greatly altered my thinking and I finished the book in a week.

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### **Yemi Obayanju says**

So many lessons behind this book. I really liked the breakdown of the 7 principles. A must read for all. But you must go into reading this novel with an open mind for it will not disappoint.

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### **Jeff says**

If you're facing adversity or in the middle of a life change, this is a great book to read. A great challenge to your mindset on whatever it is you are currently facing. Some takeaways:

\* The capacity to surmount failure without being discouraged is the chief asset of every person who attains outstanding success in any calling.

\* The seven principles to attain spiritual, physical and mental freedom:

1. Definiteness of purpose.
2. Mastery over self.
3. Learning from adversity.
4. Controlling environmental influence (associations)
5. Time (giving permanency to positive rather than negative thought-habits and developing wisdom)
6. Harmony (acting with definiteness of purpose to become the dominating influence in your own mental, spiritual and physical environment.)
7. Caution (thinking through your plan before your act.)

- \* "The person who moves with definiteness of purpose recognizes the difference between temporary defeat and failure. When plans fail he substitutes others but he does not change his purpose. He perseveres."
- \* "You are entitled to know that two entities occupy your body. One of these entities is motivated by and responds to the impulse of fear. The other is motivated by and responds to the impulse of faith. Will you be guided by faith or will you allow fear to overtake you?"
- \* "Your only limitation is the one which you set up in your mind."
- \* Is prayer a part of your life? Do you trust God to 'hand over the plan best suited for the attainment of the object' of your prayer? Do you acknowledge that in order for your plan to be successful you must take action?
- \* Every adversity brings with it the seed of an equivalent advantage.
- \* The six most effective fears are the fear of poverty, criticism, ill health, loss of love, old age and death.
- \* Habits come in pairs, triplets, and quadruplets. Any habit which weakens one's will power invites a flock of its relatives to move in and take possession of the mind.
- \* A drifter is one who permits himself to be influenced and controlled by circumstances outside of his own mind.
- \* Victory goes to the people who know what they want and are determined to have it.

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## **Becky Reed says**

I just read the latest publication of Napoleon Hill that was set aside over 80 years ago, *Outwitting the Devil, the Secret to Freedom and Success*. In the two years following my trek into the "bowels of the Twilight Zone," I sank into the quicksand of a self-sustaining process with a narcissist/psychopath and his clan. I found myself buoyed in a current of some strange delusion of life and hoping that somehow I could be saved. I had no idea where or how that might arise as an agonizing crisis of faith had thrown a veil of unhappiness over me.

As described in Hill's book, I had "drifted away from self-determinism without purpose or a plan...this was procrastination" as I put reaching definite decisions on a back burner. Fear is an awesome presence. We pretend it has no influence over our thought patterns but we carry the stressful worry of criticism...that we might have failed, that we were not and may not be up to the task of creating a positive and happy life, and that we are somehow less than we hoped.

The book, *Outwitting the Devil*, states so powerfully that "drifters of thought and thinking patterns cry that the world has run dry of opportunities, but non-drifters do not wait for opportunity - they create these." Within the pages of the book, an interview between the author and the Devil is taking place. It's reminiscent

of C.S. Lewis' *The Screwtape Letters*. The Devil's great concern is that real thinkers may appear on earth... and they would share with others the "greatest of all truths - that the time spent fearing something would, if reversed, give mankind all he wants in the material world and save him after death." The problem exists as more than choice of thoughts. One must be repetitive to the point of establishing an ongoing rhythm that flows without effort. This rhythm is the "last stage of habit." Drifting and procrastination are the same practical knowledge. Hypnotic rhythm makes dominating thoughts AND thinking patterns permanent.

So, during these two years away from the insanity that had become "home," I have been floundering a bit, but also climbing forward. To think my own thoughts...to be a Don Quixote for my own beliefs...to make decisions and accept the consequences along with awareness of involved dynamics and effects upon others, to risk applying different techniques, and to decrease my need for the approval of others. This isn't to say that I no longer find camaraderie of like minded souls important, but I can keep my own counsel and engage in reflective contemplation with a sense of something greater than the smaller me.

Each person, to live with purpose, must intend to awaken to his own power of determinism - cause and effect. The goal that guides the action must also be accompanied by a sense of ethical responsibility. Discernment is part of this knowledge with judgment. So, Hill's phrase "how to fail successfully" makes a great deal of sense. We can learn from adversity. There is a difference between temporary defeat and failure. To work the system of creative energy, one needs passion, talent, high level associations, choosing to take right actions, and faith. Described as the "stronger sister of hope," (Emmet Fox) faith is definiteness of deliberate aim backed by the belief in the accomplishment of the objective.

And yet, we humans require a payment to ourselves and that comes in the form of happiness. Because there are exchanges in this energy-web of living, one of the best ways to discover personal joy is to find a service to provide. There is a harmony that evolves from developing a purpose in one's own mental, spiritual, and physical landscape. As you gain a discipline over yourself, thoughts, controlling influences, and awareness of repercussions, one feels a unique power of connectedness. Napoleon Hill used a Mastermind group of admired people throughout history to serve on his "Roundtable" as he imagined their responses, actions, and teaching guidance when mulling ideas and plans. The secret is to grow an understanding heart and rebirth or rebuilding of character as we move into a reality of our choosing. Time is necessary in the sense that habitual connection to life's energies of decency help channel our own growth. Challenges will arise, but if we have become advocates for our own self-hood and establish a set of principles for our ideas of right conduct, we can each feel the exhilaration of choice, knowing there is more than the individual "I." When the student is ready...

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## **Susan Highland says**

I won this book in the giveaway, and received it yesterday! I can NOT put it down! This is the BEST book I ever read, and I highly recommend it to everyone! It is not yet released, but can be purchased on Amazon, and sent to you when it is released! It's making me crazy, because I want everyone in my family and all of my friends to read it, but I can't purchase for them yet! It is uplifting, inspiring, and timely!

This was written in 1938, and sat for 72 years unpublished. Very timely release, and everyone could benefit from it! The meat of the book is an interview with the Devil, and the answers given by the Devil will show you just how you can be manipulated by fear, and you will be so MAD, you will recognize the deceit, and rise above it!

Now, when I recognize fear creeping in, I think, "You are NOT messing with my head, you stupid Devil!"

Stay tuned!

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### **Rashida says**

**This is quite possibly one of the most thought provoking and life changing books I've read to date.** If you read this I urge you to do so with an open mind, understanding that it is NOT IMPORTANT whether you think it's the real devil or a metaphor. Either way, these are things that do hold a lot of us back from success.

Let his perspective inspire your own. I personally know that I've been "a drifter" as he describes, and can even catch myself almost falling back into it from time to time.

Makes me wonder what the world would be like if everyone didn't become discouraged by fears and defeats. I don't know about you, but I plan on being in the 2% that isn't!

READ ITTTTT :)

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### **Steven Walle says**

Napolean Hill is clearly at his best in this book. He conducts an interview with the Devil where he pries a confession from him.

He gets the Devil to admit how he takes us over by causing us to drift and not have definiteness of purpose. The Devil takes our base desires and perverts them and uses them to His own purpose.

He explains how He can gain control through habits such as smoking, drinking, drugs, and sex. By these confessions we are taught how to stay on the straight and narrow path towards happiness and fulfillment. Enjoy and Be Blessed.

Diamond

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### **Tyler Storm says**

This book is exactly what I needed

I have let too many anonymous people from various internet forums turn me into a serious Debbie Downer. This book really fixed my mood and character. So grateful to come across this book. Really helped me out a lot to change my mood and habits.

I would recommend this book to anyone. It's a very quick read you can probably finish it in 3 days if you really wanted to. I took meticulous notes while reading this book. Summary of this book is the power of the mind and dominating thoughts become their physical equivalent. Try to be positive and not negative. You have negative thoughts regarding getting a job, getting good grades, wealth, etc thought thoughts will become reality if they dominate your mind. People pick up on body language and can tell when something is off. So, I really like this book and will probably reread when law school starts since it is short and easy to digest.

## **Mark says**

This book was fascinating!

I have read Think and Grow Rich, The law of Success, and have the Keys to Success audio series so I figured I pretty much had all of NH's material. Wow was I ever wrong.

First off after a short story about himself after he lost all his money in the depression and the strange turn of events he experienced he goes into a Question and Answer series with the devil. This made for very quick reading. His years of interviewing the successful people and failed folks of his day are melded together in the devil's answers.

The work is extremely controversial to the religious community and the public school system. The devil explains why the two supposedly different systems actual work hand in hand to deliver 98% of all of us to the devil.

Another law is also introduced in this book that is not in his other works.

This is a must read for anyone who wants to be successful!

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## **Doug says**

I believe I've read over 100 books on personal development, success and business. I had a top 10 list already...now I have a top 11 list.

Thank you, Sharon, for bringing this to life.

"Outwitting the Devil" is a personal favorite and one I am recommending to all of my friends, children and acquaintances.

Brilliant work...simply brilliant.

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