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**THE
FIVE MAJOR PIECES
TO THE
LIFE PUZZLE**

By
E. JAMES ROHN

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FOREWORD

It is the inherent nature of success to be both puzzling and elusive, and to withhold its rewards from all but a handful of those who pursue it.

It is by an intricate design of nature that success is a condition that must be attracted and not pursued. We achieve rewards and we make progress not by our intense pursuits, but by what we become, for it is what we are that finally determines the results we attract.

“To have more we must first become more” is the very essence of the philosophy of personal development, success and happiness addressed by Jim Rohn in *The Five Major Pieces to the Life Puzzle*.

It is our personal philosophy that establishes our individual attitude. It is our attitude that determines both the quantity and the quality of our level of activity. That activity produces a final and proportionate result, and the result provides the lifestyle that we live.

The results and the lifestyle are the effects – the conditions we inherit -- but it is our personal philosophy, attitude and activity which are the ultimate cause of the effect.

To change the effect, we must alter the cause, and yet most people curse the effect but continue to nourish the cause.

In this, his third book, Jim Rohn brings ideas and insights in his inimitable style that provide a unique voice of hope, inspiration and answers for those in search of a better life. In the writing, he provides substance and encouragement to all those who embrace the philosophy of “You can have more than you’ve got because you can become more than you are.”

Let the words touch you. Let the message of Jim Rohn inspire you. Allow Jim’s philosophy to affect your life. After having read and mastered *The Five Major Pieces to The Life Puzzle*, you may well discover your potential as you have never before seen it!

Kyle Wilson

President
Jim Rohn International

INTRODUCTION

At this moment in time you hold in your hands a document that represents an awesome force, and I trust that you will be as serious about *reading* this book as I have been about writing it.

What your eyes are now scanning are merely words on a printed page. The words and the thoughts they convey have a unique power. Our objective - yours and mine - will be to transform these printed words into ideas and emotions that will become the tools with which to fashion a new life, with new goals, and with a new resolve for attaining whatever you want to have and becoming whatever you wish to be.

Most books are written to entertain or inform. This book is written so that it might *inspire*. By virtue of the fact that you have come into possession of this book, there is the strong suggestion that you are already in the process of looking for something. There is also a strong possibility that there is something in your life you would like to change. Perhaps you feel that you are worth more than you are currently being paid or that you have more talent and ability than your current occupation permits you to use. Maybe you are wrestling with some personal dilemma that has you bewildered.

Whatever has driven you to the current moment -- a moment when you have paused to examine the ideas contained in this book— it would appear that you are in search of *answers*. You are one of those fortunate human beings who is ready for some change, and *that* is what this book is all about: transforming the individual human life from where and what it is into where and what you desire it to *be*.

How The Process Of Change Begins

Change comes from one of two sources. First, we may be driven to change out of *desperation*. Sometimes our circumstances can become so out-of-control that we almost abandon our search for answers because our lives seem to be filled only with irresolvable *questions*. But it is this overwhelming sense of desperation that finally *drives* us to look for the solutions. Desperation is the final and inevitable result of months or years of accumulated neglect

that brings us to that point in time where we find ourselves driven by urgent necessity to find immediate answers to life's accumulated challenges.

The second source that drives us to make changes in our lives is *inspiration*. Hopefully, that is where you find yourself right now -- about to become sufficiently inspired to make major and dramatic changes in your life as a result of the message I am about to share with you.

Inspiration can come to us at any time and from many sources. A song can inspire us, a book can inspire us, as can an effective and moving speech. The story of someone who has succeeded in spite of difficulty can stir our emotions. Inspiration, from whatever the source, arouses feelings within us that rekindle hope, ambition and determination. It is a momentary whisper of encouragement and reassurance that causes us to become aware of our potential. We sense a spark of desire, and our minds flash from one possibility to another, each thought laden with the promise of future success and happiness. In this fleeting moment when inspiration stirs our soul we are either driven into action or we do nothing -- being content to enjoy the warm feeling that is within us until, at last, the warmth moves on, taking with it the promise and the possibilities.

Wherever life finds you at the moment, whether responding to desperation or seeking inspiration, I appeal to you for your undivided attention and a promise to complete this book, not just start it. In the end, our lives will be judged not by the things that we began, but by the things that our effort and resolve brought to a successful *conclusion*.

I have used the utmost care to assemble some insights and ideas that are truly life-changing. The inspiration that I trust you will receive from this book has the capacity to alter *any* human circumstance. But in order for these ideas to work their inevitable magic in your life, you must take time in the weeks ahead to seriously contemplate the direction of your life, and to ponder the message and carefully apply the principles in the pages that follow.

Let me begin by sharing with you a few important and preliminary insights that can start you on your journey toward success and happiness.

The Key To Success And Happiness

There are always just a few important principles that account for most of the progress we make in our lives. It is these “basics” that have the greatest effect on our health, our happiness and our bank accounts. This is not to suggest that there are *only* a few life-changing ideas that will affect us, for surely there are many. What I *am* suggesting, however, is that you begin your search by focusing on the five fundamentals we will examine in this book. It is these few among the many that will account for the biggest share of the results you will achieve.

You will never be able to master every aspect of life. To try to become the master over every detail of your life will only lead to frustration. Instead, why not go after the few among the many; the few that will make the *most* difference; the fundamental subjects that will have the greatest impact in determining the quality of your existence?

As you look around your world for answers to the good life, always be in search of those *few* things that make the *most* difference. If you master these basics, I can promise that you will not be disappointed with the results.

It is the basics - the fundamentals in life - that we all need to master. These are the same keys for success and happiness that have existed for the last six thousand years of recorded history. There are no *new* fundamentals for human achievement. Basics are basics, and anything else is merely an activity designed to refine or expand upon those same principles.

In any attempt to improve your current circumstances, never allow yourself to drift from those time-proven principles that have flowed from generation to generation in a steady stream to serve as the fundamentals for finding, developing and living the good life.

The Five Pieces To The Life Puzzle

If everyone reading this book were to sit down and develop their own list of the five major principles that make the most difference, we would probably have a hundred different answers to share with one another. And to some extent, all of the answers

would be correct, since each of us holds certain principles in a higher light than others.

It is important to understand that the list I will be sharing with you in this book does not mean that my five are the *only* five to the exclusion of all others. I am neither so wise nor so presumptuous as to suggest that I have all of the answers and that my answers are the *only* answers. The principles we will cover in this book are five important concepts that are as fundamental to your success now as they were for preceding generations. Through all my years of study and experience, through all my encounters with both success and failure, through all the conversations and associations I have had the privilege to share, it is these five principles that have remained unchallenged in their capacity to produce life-changing results.

Endurance is often the best indicator of validity and value. That is why I have invited you to take a closer look at these five enduring principles - the “basics” that seem to always be there, guiding the lives of those who have done well with life’s challenges and opportunities.

I do not have the final and unchallenged answers for finding the good life. I know that there are a lot of people who claim to know *the truth*, and who suggest that they have discovered the ultimate answer to life’s puzzle. But there can never be a single, ultimate answer simply because there will never be a single, ultimate question. That is why my best advice has always been to stick to the basics. And if you will give each of the basics we are about to share both time and careful attention, you are certain to be happy with the results, for they are -- **The Five Major Pieces To The Life Puzzle.**

CHAPTER ONE

PHILOSOPHY

Philosophy is the chief cornerstone in the foundation of The Five Major Pieces To The Life Puzzle. A major factor in determining how our lives turn out is the way we choose to *think*. Everything that goes on inside the human mind in the form of thoughts, ideas and information forms our personal *philosophy*. Our philosophy then influences our habits and behavior, and this is really where it all begins.

How Our Personal Philosophy Is Formed

Our personal philosophy comes from what we *know* and from the process of how we *came* to know all that we currently know. Throughout our lives we receive input from a multitude of sources. What we know comes from school, friends, associates, media influences, home, the streets; it comes from books and the process of reading; and it comes from listening and observing. The sources of knowledge and information that have contributed to the formation of our current philosophy are virtually unlimited. As adults all of the new information that comes our way is examined through the filter of our personal philosophy. Those concepts that seem to agree with the conclusions we have already reached are added to our storehouse of knowledge and serve to reinforce our current thinking. Those ideas that seem to contradict our beliefs are usually quickly rejected.

We are constantly in the process of checking our preexisting beliefs for accuracy or confirmation in the light of new information. As we blend the new with the old, the result is either the strengthening of our past beliefs or the broadening of our current philosophy in light of new and valuable information about life and people.

The same beliefs that form our personal philosophy also determine our value systems. Our beliefs led us to make certain decisions about what is valuable to us as human beings. As the day goes by, we choose to *do* whatever we think is *valuable*. If someone decides to start his day at five o'clock each morning in order to take