



7 Days of Mindful Living:

Mindful Steps to Enhancing Your Life Expectancy

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Introduction

Dear friends,

Before starting, I would like to thank you for joining me. I hope you enjoy.

Consider how you can integrate one or more of these basic mindfulness exercises into your daily routine. Something as simple as taking a few minutes each morning to practice mindfulness can result in wonderful changes in your everyday experiencing of the present moment.

Recommended tool: [Peace Starter Meditation](#) (free at Google Play)

Bringing peace and quiet back into your life has just gone simple, easy, free and fun – with the Peace Starter App.

If you think that meditation would help you but believe that it is something too inaccessible for you, think again.

The free Peace Starter App offers you a free, easy-to-follow and easy-to-apply guided meditation experience – right from the convenience of your phone!

With proven meditation and mindfulness techniques, and the right meditation music, we will help you train your mind for you to lead the healthy, happy, balanced and enjoyable life that you always dream about.

With the Peace Starter App, you will:

- Relax and feel calmer
- Improve your focus and attention
- Learn faster and with less effort
- Increase your self-awareness and feel better about yourself

In a nutshell, the Peace Starter App offers you the ultimate and most accessible meditation experience – allowing you to increase the levels of Prana (energy) in your body, which will positively reflect on your mind.

Wishing you peaceful times ahead,

Sincerely,

Deniz Yalim

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All ideas in this book are stolen and have no owner. This entire work is therefore uncopyrighted and in the public domain. No permission is required to copy, reprint, or otherwise gleefully rip of anything I've written. I don't believe in the right to deny the freedom of ideas.

Use all content however you want! Email it, share it, and reprint it with or without credit. Change it around, put in a bunch of swear words and attribute them to me. It's OK. Attribution is appreciated but not required.

Why I'm releasing copyright

I'm not a big fan of copyright laws, especially as they're being applied by corporations, used to crack down on the little guys so they can continue their large profits.

Copyrights are often said to protect the artist, but in most cases the artist gets very little while the corporations make most of the money. In the 4+ years I've done this experiment, releasing copyright has not hurt me, the creator of the content, a single bit.

I think, in most cases, the protectionism that is touted by "anti-piracy" campaigns and lawsuits and lobbying actually hurts the artist. Limiting distribution to protect profits isn't a good thing.

The lack of copyright, and blatant copying by other artists and even businesses, never hurt Leonardo da Vinci when it comes to images such as the Mona Lisa, the Last Supper, or the Vitruvian Man. It's never hurt Shakespeare. I doubt that it's ever really hurt any artist (although I might just be ignorant here).

And while I'm certainly not da Vinci or Shakespeare, copyright hasn't helped me, and uncopyright hasn't hurt me. If someone feels like sharing my content on their blog, or in any other form for that matter, that's a good thing for me. If someone wanted to share my ebook with 100 friends, I don't see how that hurts me. My work is being spread to many more people than I could do myself. That's something to celebrate, as I see it.

And if someone wants to take my work and improve upon it, as artists have been doing for centuries, I think that's a wonderful thing. If they can take my favorite posts and make something funny or inspiring or thought-provoking or even sad ... I say more power to them. The creative community only benefits from derivations and inspirations.

So please share this e-book with your friends, family and anybody you want. Thank you.

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12 Indispensable Mindful Living Tools

The focus of my life in recent months has been living mindfully, and while I don't always remember to do that, I have learned a few things worth sharing.

The first is a mindful life is worth the effort. It's a life where we awaken from the dream state we're most often submerged in — the state of having your mind anywhere but the present moment, locked in thoughts about what you're going to do later, about something someone else said, about something you're stressing about or angry about. The state of mind where we're lost in our smartphones and social media.

It's worth the effort, because being awake means we're not missing life as we walk through it. Being awake means we're conscious of what's going on inside us, as it happens, and so can make more conscious choices rather than acting on our impulses all the time.

The second thing I've learned is that we forget. We forget, over and over, to be awake. And that's OK. Being mindful is a process of forgetting, and then remembering. Repeatedly. Just as breathing is a process of exhaling, and then inhaling, repeatedly.

The third is that mindful living isn't just one thing. It's not just meditation. Nor is it just focusing on the sensations around you, right now in this moment. I've found mindful living to be a set of very related tools, perhaps all different ways of getting at the same thing, but each useful in its own regard.

I'll share them in this post, and hope that you'll consider each in turn.

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Why You Should Care

Why bother to spend the time learning these tools? Is it just for some ideal of living a peaceful, stress-free life?

No. A stress-free life doesn't exist, but these tools will definitely make you more prepared to deal with the stresses that will inevitably come your way.

But just as importantly, they'll help you overcome the fear of failure and fear of discomfort that's holding you back, that's keeping you from making positive changes in your life.

These tools will help you launch your new blog, start a business, write a book, put out your first music album online, find your purpose in life, become the person you've always wanted to be.

This is what I've found. I'm certain you'll find these tools just as useful.

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The Toolset

This list, of course, is not complete. It's a collection of things I've been learning about, and am still practicing, things I've found useful enough to share.

Meditation. Meditation is where mindful living starts. And it's not complicated: you can sit still for even just 1 minute a day to start with (work up to 3-5 minutes after a week), and turn your attention to your body and then your breath. Notice when your thoughts wander from your breath, and gently return to the breath. Repeat until the minute is up. Let accept "Do Nothing 'Can You Do That'" challenge at your Peace Starter Meditation app, you can just focus on meditation without thinking about keeping track of time.

Be Awake. Meditation is practice for being awake, which is not being in the dream state (mind wandering into a train of thought, getting lost in the online world, thinking about past offenses, stressing about the future, etc.) but being awake to the present, to what is. Being awake is something you can do throughout the day, all the time, if you remember. Remembering is the trick.

Watch Urges. When I quit smoking in 2014, the most useful tool I learned was watching my urges to smoke. I would sit there and watch the urge rise and fall, until it was gone, without acting on it. It taught me that I am not my urges, that I don't have to act on my urges, and this helped me change all my other habits. Watch your urge to check email or social media, to eat something sweet or fried, to drink alcohol, to watch TV, to be distracted, to procrastinate. These urges will come and go, and you don't have to act on them.

Watch Ideals. We all have ideals, all the time. We have an ideal that our day will go perfectly, that people will be kind and respectful to us, that we will be perfect, that we'll ace an exam or important meeting that we'll never fail. Of course, we know from experience that those ideals are not real, that they don't come true, that they aren't realistic. But we still have them, and they cause our stress and fears and grief over something/someone we've lost. By letting go of ideals, we can let go of our suffering.

Accept People & Life As They Are. When I stopped trying to change a loved one, and accepted him for who he was, I was able to just be with him and enjoy my time with him. This acceptance has the same effect for anything you do — accept a co-worker, a child, a spouse, but also accept a "bad" situation, an unpleasant feeling, and an annoying sound. When we stop trying to fight the way things are, when we accept what is, we are much more at peace.

Let Go of Expectations. This is really the same thing as the previous two items, but I've found it useful nonetheless. It's useful to watch your expectations with an upcoming situation, with a new project or business, and see that it's not real and that it's causing you stress and disappointment. We cause our own pain, and we can relieve it by letting go of the expectations that are causing it. Toss your expectations into the ocean.

Become OK with Discomfort. The fear of discomfort is huge — it causes people to be stuck in their old bad habits, to not start the business they want to start, to be stuck in a job they don't really like, because we tend to stick to the known and comfortable rather than try something unknown and uncomfortable. It's why many people don't eat vegetables or exercise,

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why they eat junk, why they don't start something new. But we can be OK with discomfort, with practice. Start with things that are a little uncomfortable, and keep expanding your comfort zone.

Watch Your Resistance. When you try to do something uncomfortable, or try to give up something you like or are used to, you'll find resistance. But you can just watch the resistance, and be curious about it. Watch your resistance to things that annoy you — a loud sound that interrupts your concentration, for example. It's not the sound that's the problem, it's your resistance to the sound. The same is true of resistance to food we don't like, to being too cold or hot, to being hungry. The problem isn't the sensation of the food, cold, heat or hunger — it's our resistance to them. Watch the resistance, and feel it melt. This resistance, by the way, is why I'm doing my Year of Living Without.

Be Curious. Too often we are stuck in our ways, and think we know how things should be, how people are. Instead, be curious. Find out. Experiment. Let go of what you think you know. When you start a new project or venture, if you feel the fear of failure, instead of thinking, "Oh no, I'm going to fail" or "Oh no, I don't know how this will turn out", try thinking, "Let's see. Let's find out." And then there isn't the fear of failure, but the joy of being curious and finding out. Learn to be OK with not knowing.

Be Grateful. We complain about everything. But life is a miracle. Find something to be grateful about in everything you do. Be grateful when you're doing a new habit, and you'll stick to it longer. Be grateful when you're with someone, and you'll be happier with them. Life is amazing, if you learn to appreciate it.

Let Go of Control. We often think we control things, but that's only an illusion. Our obsession with organization and goals and productivity, for example, are rooted in the illusion that we can control life. But life is uncontrollable, and just when we think we have things under control, something unexpected comes up to disrupt everything. And then we're frustrated because things didn't go the way we wanted. Instead, practice letting go of control, and learn to flow.

Be Compassionate. This sounds trite, but compassion for others can change the way you feel about the world, on a day-to-day basis. And compassion for yourself is life-changing. These two things need remembering, though, so mindful living is about remembering to be compassionate after you forget.

Open your Peace Starter Meditation app and go Universe Meditation section whenever you want to "**Accept People & Life As They Are**", "**Let Go of Expectations**", "**Become OK with Discomfort**", "**Watch Your Resistance**", "**Be Grateful**" and "**Let Go of Control**". Also this help clear your mind and Hope you feel a little less stressed and a little more connected

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Meditation: The Most Fundamental Habit

‘To meditate does not mean to fight with a problem.
To meditate means to observe.’

~Thich Nhat Hanh

It’s no secret that I advocate meditation as a great way to start your day, deal with stress, live in the present and more.

But what many people don’t realize is that meditation is perhaps the most important habit if you want to change other habits.

Be Mindful of Negative Thoughts

How do you learn to be mindful of your negative thoughts? Simple: you practice. And how do you practice mindfulness of your thoughts? By far the best method I’ve found is meditation.

Let’s look at why meditation is so good for helping to change your habits, and how to form the meditation habit.

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How Meditation Helps Habits

When we are unaware of our thoughts and urges, which arise in the back of our mind mostly unnoticed, they have a power over us. We are unable to change if these unbidden thoughts control us. But when we learn to observe them, we can then release their power over us.

Meditation is practice for observing those thoughts, for being more mindful of them throughout the day.

I will give you several examples in my own life, though actually there are dozens:

When I quit smoking, I would get an urge to take just one drag on a cigarette, and it would get so strong I had a hard time beating it. At the same time, I had these rationalizing thoughts: “It’s OK to smoke just one — one cigarette doesn’t hurt you”, or “Why are you making yourself suffer like this? It’s not worth it!” And those thoughts and urges would have beat me if I let them, but I watched them. I didn’t act, I just watched. And the would rise and crest and then fade, and I would be OK.

When I started running, I wanted to stop when things got uncomfortable. But I learned that it was just a scared part of my mind that wanted to stop, a part of me that shied away from discomfort. I would watch that scared part of me that makes me quit anything hard, and not let it control me.

When I write, I often get the urge to go do something else. When this urge goes unnoticed, I just act on it, and procrastinate. When I am mindful of this urge (and the accompanying rationalizations that come if I don’t act on the urge), then I can pause and watch the urge and let it go, and return to the writing.

This same process helped me change my eating habits, run a marathon, change my clutter habits, and much more.

But none of that would have been possible if I didn’t learn to watch, to be mindful of my urges and rationalizations and negative thoughts that told me I couldn’t do it.

How did I learn to watch and be mindful? Meditation. It is the one habit where all you’re doing is practicing this mindful observing, where everything else is stripped away in a beautiful simplicity that leaves just you and your thoughts and the present moment.

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How to Form the Meditation Habit

It's pretty simple, but the doing is everything:

Commit to just 2 minutes a day. Start simply if you want the habit to stick. You can do it for 5 minutes if you feel good about it, but all you're committing to is 2 minutes each day. "Do Nothing 'Can You Do That'" challenge at your Peace Starter Meditation app can help you and the sound of meditation timer is so pure, so serene and so perfect for enhancing your experience of meditation

Pick a time and trigger. Not an exact time of day, but a general time, like morning when you wake up, or during your lunch hour. The trigger should be something you already do regularly, like drink your first cup of coffee, brush your teeth, have lunch, or arrive home from work.

Find a quiet spot. Sometimes early morning is best, before others in your house might be awake and making lots of noise. Others might find a spot in a park or on the beach or some other soothing setting. It really doesn't matter where — as long as you can sit without being bothered for a few minutes. A few people walking by your park bench is fine.

Sit comfortably. Don't fuss too much about how you sit, what you wear, what you sit on, etc. I personally like to sit on a pillow on the floor, with my back leaning against a wall, because I'm very inflexible. Others who can sit cross-legged comfortably might do that instead. Still others can sit on a chair or couch if sitting on the floor is uncomfortable. Zen practitioners often use a zafu, a round cushion filled with kapok or buckwheat. Don't go out and buy one if you don't already have one. Any cushion or pillow will do, and some people can sit on a bare floor comfortably.

Focus on your breath. As you breathe in, follow your breath in through your nostrils, then into your throat, then into your lungs and belly. Sit straight, keep your eyes open but looking at the ground and with a soft focus. If you want to close your eyes, that's fine. As you breathe out, follow your breath out back into the world. If it helps, count ... one breath in, two breath out, three breath in, four breath out ... when you get to 10, start over. If you lose track, start over. If you find your mind wandering (and you will), just pay attention to your mind wandering, then bring it gently back to your breath. Repeat this process for the few minutes you meditate. You won't be very good at it at first, most likely, but you'll get better with practice.

And that's it. It's a very simple practice, but you want to do it for 2 minutes, every day, after the same trigger each day. Do this for a month and you'll have a daily meditation habit.

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7 DAYS OF MINDFULNESS

The thing you begin to notice after a while of practicing mindfulness, both sitting in meditation and living with mindfulness in your everyday life, is that it's more than just a meditation practice, it's a very way of life. A very effective approach to life's major challenges as a whole.

Mindfulness is about more than just paying attention in an open and nonjudgmental way to the present moment (or reality, present moment events), it's about waking up, or becoming more "conscious". It's really about living more fully.

To live mindfully is to hold your life with the greatest level of appreciation and importance possible. You're aware that you won't live forever, and have begun to become aware of just how beautiful and amazing life can be, and you do your best to appreciate every moment and make the most of your life.

And in that effort includes everything. Particularly, efforts which will allow us to enjoy the beauty and peace of the present moment more and which will allow us to more skillfully handle the challenges and difficulties we face in everyday life such as living in the past, worrying about the future, not forgiving ourselves, holding in resentment and anger, living with fear, etc.

This is mindful living, and it's living with the spirit of mindfulness throughout your everyday life.

It's taking that intentional and single-pointed action, open acceptance, and compassionate and clear awareness to everything that you do. And you'll see that if you work on applying this in each area of your life, one small step at a time, when you turn back around, you've created no less than a transformation.

So, how exactly can you transform your life, one step at a time, by applying the spirit of mindfulness to your everyday activities? Let's take a look...

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1. MINDFUL BREATHING

TIME REQUIRED & WHY YOU SHOULD TRY IT

8 minutes daily for at least a week (though evidence suggests that mindfulness increases the more you practice it).

Stress, anger, and anxiety can impair not only our health but our judgment and skills of attention. Fortunately, research suggests an effective way to deal with these difficult feelings: the practice of "mindfulness," the ability to pay careful attention to what you're thinking, feeling, and sensing in the present moment without judging those thoughts and feelings as good or bad. Countless studies link mindfulness to better health, lower anxiety, and greater resilience to stress.

But how do you cultivate mindfulness? A basic method is to focus your attention on your own breathing—a practice called, quite simply, "mindful breathing." After setting aside time to practice mindful breathing, you should find it easier to focus attention on your breath in your daily life—an important skill to help you deal with stress, anxiety, and negative emotions, cool yourself down when your temper flares, and sharpen your skills of concentration.

Mindfulness gives people distance from their thoughts and feelings, which can help them tolerate and work through unpleasant feelings rather than becoming overwhelmed by them. Mindful breathing in particular is helpful because it gives people an anchor--their breath--on which they can focus when they find themselves carried away by a stressful thought. Mindful breathing also helps people stay "present" in the moment, rather than being distracted by regrets in the past or worries about the future.

The most basic way to do mindful breathing is simply to focus your attention on your breath, the inhale and exhale. You can do this while standing, but ideally you'll be sitting or even lying in a comfortable position. Your eyes may be open or closed, but you may find it easier to maintain your focus if you close your eyes. It can help to set aside a designated time for this exercise, but it can also help to practice it when you're feeling particularly stressed or anxious. Experts believe a regular practice of mindful breathing can make it easier to do it in difficult situations.

Sometimes, especially when trying to calm yourself in a stressful moment, it might help to start by taking an exaggerated breath: a deep inhale through your nostrils (3 seconds), hold your breath (2 seconds), and a long exhale through your mouth (4 seconds). Otherwise, simply observe each breath without trying to adjust it; it may help to focus on the rise and fall of your chest or the sensation through your nostrils. As you do so, you may find that your mind wanders, distracted by thoughts or bodily sensations. That's OK. Just notice that this is happening and gently bring your attention back to your breath.

HOW TO DO:

Now open your Peace Starter Meditation app and go 'Guided Mindfulness Meditation' section, select 'Mindful Breathing' and start your session.

Otherwise you can use following video Youtube:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Jqq4h1vCBk

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2. BODY SCAN MEDITATION

TIME REQUIRED & WHY YOU SHOULD TRY IT

6 min. three to six days per week for four weeks. Research suggests that people who practice the body scan for longer reap more benefits from this practice.

The purpose of this body scan mindfulness exercise is simply to notice your body. It is not necessarily about *relaxing* your body, however this may occur as a kind of side effect. It is simply about being *aware* of your body, in this present moment.

Usually, our response to bodily pain or discomfort is to distract ourselves or to try and numb the pain. In this exercise you will accept and notice with gentle curiosity your body in its comfort and discomfort.

This exercise asks you to systematically focus your attention on different parts of your body, from your feet to the muscles in your face. It is designed to help you develop a mindful awareness of your bodily sensations, and to relieve tension wherever it is found. Research suggests that this mindfulness practice can help reduce stress, improve well-being, and decrease aches and pains.

The body scan provides a rare opportunity for us to experience our body as it is, without judging or trying to change it. It may allow us to notice and release a source of tension we weren't aware of before, such as a hunched back or clenched jaw muscles. Or it may draw our attention to a source of pain and discomfort. Our feelings of resistance and anger toward pain often only serve to increase that pain, and to increase the distress associated with it; according to research, by simply noticing the pain we're experiencing, without trying to change it, we may actually feel some relief.

The body scan is designed to counteract these negative feelings toward our bodies. This practice may also increase our general attunement to our physical needs and sensations, which can in turn help us take better care of our bodies and make healthier decisions about eating, sleep, and exercise

HOW TO DO:

Now open your Peace Starter Meditation app and go 'Guided Mindfulness Meditation' section, select 'Body Scan Meditation' and start your session.

Otherwise you can use following video YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=USxEX1Qp31M>

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3. EXTERNAL WORLD AND BREATH

TIME REQUIRED & WHY YOU SHOULD TRY IT

6 min.

An exercise in noticing the world around you and how it comes into contact with your body, and your breathing, mindfulness of external world and breath.

External mindfulness means awareness of the thoughts, body movements, and emotions of others. External mindfulness holds the key to understanding whether people read you as likeable and reasonable, or annoying and out of touch.

I learn external mindfulness through the universal facial expressions of emotion. In any negotiation, you need external mindfulness to recognize such things as the facial expression of contempt.

HOW TO DO:

Now open your Peace Starter Meditation app and go 'Guided Mindfulness Meditation' section, select 'External world and breath' and start your session.

Otherwise you can use following video YouTube: <https://youtu.be/LsvOfmNLP1k>

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4. MINDFULNESS OF THOUGHTS

TIME REQUIRED & WHY YOU SHOULD TRY IT

6 min.

We often treat thoughts as if they were facts. You may have the thought “I am no good at this,” or “He’s is a jerk,” or “Nobody understand me,” or even “I am brilliant!” Does thinking it make it so?

When we have a thought many times, over and over, it can condense into a belief. So a belief is a thought, or a number of connected thoughts, that we have a lot of the time. Beliefs are then quite often taken as facts.

For example: “The world is flat.” Enough people had that thought, or held the assumption, often enough for it to be assumed to be a fact for centuries!

When we start to pay attention to our thoughts, with a gentle curiosity, then we start to think about our thinking. We can then move away from believing that the thought is a fact.

Then there’s this: If the thought does have evidence pointing to it being a fact, ask yourself a different question. “What does buying into this thought do to me? Does it help? Is it working?”

If the answer is no, then simply move on from the thought. *Choose* not to get caught up in it.

HOW TO DO:

Now open your Peace Starter Meditation app and go ‘Guided Mindfulness Meditation’ section, select ‘Mindfulness of thoughts’ and start your session.

Otherwise you can use following video YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RYE H8XWuFvo>

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5. THOUGHTS SENSATIONS AND EMOTIONS

TIME REQUIRED & WHY YOU SHOULD TRY IT

6 min.

Feelings are often labelled as positive (happy, confident, joyful, brave, etc) or negative (sad, scared, hurt, angry etc). In mindfulness practice, feelings are not good or bad; they just are what they are – emotions that might be comfortable or uncomfortable, easy or difficult. We are often taught to feel that the experience of some feelings is wrong – “You mustn’t feel like that,” “Be positive,” “Don’t be sad/scared/hurt” – and that the experience of some feelings is right – “Be happy/brave,” “Lighten up,” “Move on, get over it.” This exercise is simply about noticing whatever you are feeling, at the moment you are feeling it, with a gentle, non-judgemental acceptance and curiosity.

HOW TO DO:

Now open your Peace Starter Meditation app and go ‘Guided Mindfulness Meditation’ section, select ‘Thoughts sensations and emotions’ and start your session.

Otherwise you can use following video YouTube: <https://youtu.be/guO6wRm1L-Y>

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