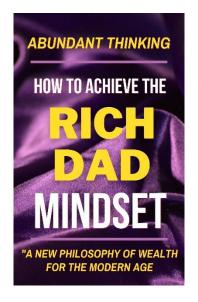
How to Achieve the Rich Dad Mindset



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What is Abundant Thinking?

Abundant thinking is a form of positive thinking. It is about creating a mindset of positive values that allow you to perceive your life as one of abundance, not one of deficit. It teaches you to flip your mental attitude from negative to positive, and appreciate how much you have in your life to be grateful for.

However, it does not suggest that gratitude should cause us to stop striving for more and just accept our lot in life, rather it teaches quite the opposite; that by acknowledging how abundant our lives are already, our minds will embrace the concept that the good things in life are potentially unlimited.

The word 'abundant' means, to be richly supplied; to be oversupplied. This means that we should have no fear of asking for more because we can be confident in its delivery. Abundance is a store that never runs out of its goods.

Abundant thinking is not just concerned with money. Although there is a strong financial aspect that can be applied, it is a life philosophy. Where money is the issue, it is viewed as a tool that allows a better quality of life to be achieved – not just the material aspects but most crucially, the freedom to spend time doing the things that matter with the people that matter.

Similarly, being a rich dad, or a rich mum, may not relate to money at all. It can even negate the wilful drive for extra finances, especially where that works against the more important aspects of life, such as love and family. We all know of rich, unhappy people. We read about them every day in the newspapers and see them on the television; people who have a clear abundance of finances but who are bereft emotionally.

Abundant thinking is all about changing how you view your personal circumstances so that you can change how you view the world at large. It is realizing that you have been the cause of your sadness and struggle in life through your focus on what you don't have, rather than on what you do have.

The Law of Abundance

The Law of Abundance is one of the Universal Laws. They are sometimes referred to as Spiritual Laws or Laws of Nature. But essentially, Universal Laws are those immutable principles that rule our world and our universe, governing how the entire cosmos continues to exist and thrive.

Whilst the very notion that these laws exist may prove too esoteric for some people, there is a sound basis in science for several of them. For example, the Law of Cause and Effect states that any action produces a result in exact proportion to the intention that initiated it. This idea goes back to Biblical times. It says, for example, in Galatians that "whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Some people think of this in terms of Karma. Others may use the phrase, "what goes around, comes around." But it all amounts to the same thing.

Universal Laws work whether we believe in them or not. Those who do not believe in them choose by default to believe that life constitutes a random and haphazard series of events that they have little or no control over, and that there is no purpose or underlying reason why things should happen as they do.

The Law of Abundance states that the universe is continually and effortlessly producing; creating unlimited resources for us to take advantage of. You only have to look at Nature to know this is true.

Breaking any law is apt to cause problems. That is true of manmade laws and those handed down by the universe. You may fully believe that there is abundance out there, as evidence by those individuals who appear to "have it all", but you may be seeking similar abundance in the wrong ways. If your motivation for achieving more is to focus on what you do not have, you are not thinking in tune with the Law of Abundance.

Abundant thinking is not about working more hours to accumulate more material things, or becoming miserly with your money because you want to inflate your bank account. In fact, such attitudes work in direct opposition to the Law of Abundance. These are reactions based on fear and panic, and Universal Laws always work in peace and balance.

Abundance & Scarecity

Abundant thinking requires that you appreciate what you have in life, rather than bemoaning the things you lack. In contrast, scarcity thinking focuses on what you don't have, what you want more of, what you might lose, and what has gone wrong in your life. Abundance asks that you focus on what is possible, and that you reach for what you want in life. If this latter point sounds like something you are already doing and it is not producing the goods, it is because you have not established the former mindset – the one that makes you always appreciative.

People who think abundant thoughts are happier than those who don't – and it stands to reason. That does not mean they are unaware of areas where their lives might need improvement; they are simply able to approach those areas with a positive frame of mind, confident that they will have no difficulty bringing about the necessary changes. This is because they choose to believe that there is an abundance of whatever they need just waiting for them.

Our thoughts dictate our lives. Our thoughts can attract good things into our lives, or repel them. This is another Universal Law that you have probably heard of – the Law of Attraction. One of the most oft-quoted sayings within positive thinking methodology was uttered by Napoleon Hill himself i.e. that "whatever the mind of man can conceive, and believe, it can also achieve." That is not to say you simply have to sit at home thinking good thoughts; that is obviously not enough. You will still have to take actions to back up those thoughts, but those actions will work infinitely better when they are backed by positive thinking, and abundant thinking. The fewer (or smaller) things you cause to happen, the less effect you will produce. If you want another quote from the Bible, it says in James that, "faith without works is dead."

If this all seems a little otherworldly to you, here's an example of how this law might operate. Let's say you are looking for work, but your dominant attitude and belief says that there are very few suitable jobs for you, and that you'll never find one for yourself - in other words, you have a negative attitude. This might mean that you take no action to find a job. You don't compile a CV, you don't send email enquiries, and you don't go knocking on doors.

And if by chance you did bump into the very person who could give you your dream job, they would not offer it to you because you would not be viewed as the positive individual they would want on board. A negative attitude can therefore act as a selffulfilling prophesy, as it will consistently produce negative results that will naturally reinforce your negative beliefs.

Conversely, abundant thinking opens up possibilities and opportunities that we could easily have missed by harbouring negative thoughts and thoughts of scarcity. It causes you to take positive actions because you firmly believe and expect that they will produce the desired results. Your proof for this is the fact that you are already blessed by the abundant gifts you are already enjoying within your life. Abundant thinking is about focusing on what you have right now, and using that to build a brighter future. It does not lead you to dwell in the past, regretting mistakes and ventures that did not work out exactly as you had hoped or planned.

People who think abundantly do not suffer guilt for their desire to attain more. This is for two reasons: they are already grateful for what they have, and they do not feel that asking for more will deprive anyone else. It is an attitude of plenty that accepts and believes that there is more than enough to go around, for everyone to have what they want and need.

Abundance Motivation

A key part of abundant thinking is abundance motivation, sometimes called appreciative, or assertive thinking. This is the belief that we <u>already</u> have *much* more than is necessary to get by. It says we have more than we need, and more than we could have ever expected. It requires that you dispel any assumptions about what you will receive in life, be that from God, nature, society, parents, peers, friends, or loved ones.

Again, this does not suggest we have to stop wanting more. It is simply about establishing the correct mindset. Knowing we have more than we need makes us feel happy and grateful. We appreciate what we have, and that means whatever else we get is a bonus. But thinking that you deserve more, or that you are somehow owed more, leads to resentment. The truth is that life does not owe you anything at all. You have to remember that you came into the world with nothing – and you will end up leaving it with nothing.

Creating a healthy attitude towards abundance requires you to embrace and celebrate what you already have. If you have good health, enough food to eat, and a roof over your head, then you have a lot to be grateful for. If you also have love in your life, you should be very happy.

There are many millions of people (often in less developed countries) who struggle every single day for what many of us consider to be the basic necessities of life and, perhaps

somewhat ironically, many of those people lead happier lives than those who have plenty.

So always remember that the world does not owe you a living. In fact, it doesn't owe you anything at all. But neither will it deny you anything if you open your eyes to the abundance that is <u>already</u> all around you, and the goodness in store for as you begin to align your thoughts and actions with Universal Law.

Do not allow yourself to be influenced by our modern consumerist society. Commercials attempt to convince you that you need certain material items to be happy; you must have the latest designer accessories, the best gadgets, a bigger house, a luxury car. But you believe these messages at your peril. You do not need these things! Beware of feelings of resent caused by lacking such material items. Such an attitude causes you to focus on what you do not have.

Perhaps the notion of abundant thinking may appear to be a strange or contradictory concept to some. After all, it says you that you should be grateful for what you already have, but that it is also okay to want more. It says you should be aware of your minimum requirements i.e. what you actually need to live, but that you should place no maximum limit on what is possible for you to achieve because supply is actually limitless.

Abundant thinking asks that you give up the bad habits of a lifetime. But they can be heavy shackles to throw off. Anyone who has spent years struggling may find it difficult to accept that they can more quickly achieve their goals by doing nothing more than altering the way they think. This can be part of the problem for many people i.e. simply accepting that you are not being asked to do anything more than embracing and applying the principle.

What we have to remember is that abundant thinking does not guarantee anything. If we start believing that abundant thinking will definitely bring us wealth and riches, or anything else that we strive for, then our expectations may disappoint us (especially in the short term) and we can pretty soon end up back with that unproductive attitude of scarcity. All you have to do is accept the good things in your life, be grateful for them, and know that there is an abundance out there just waiting to be tapped into, and it is your positive, abundant attitude that is the fundamental key to doing so.

Abundant Thinking in Practice

Abundant thinking can be used to good effect in every part of your life. It allows you to be grateful for the good health that you enjoy, and to know that even if your health is suffering, it could always be worse. It may be easier said than done, but it is a crucial attitude to adopt when things do not appear to be going well. We can also take the opportunity to be grateful for the good health we have enjoyed in the past, and for the good health that still exists in those people we care about. It is all about perspective; seeing the positives rather than the negatives.

So how can this be applied to an unsatisfactory financial situation? What about if you sign a deal with someone and that person then reneges and leaves you out of pocket, for example? The way many people act and behave is from the perspective of loss. This is perfectly understandable because loss is involved.

We all know that people can take advantage, and the plain fact is that there are some folk out there who, putting it plainly, are just seeking to rip you off. But having an abundance attitude ensures that you handle this situation with the minimum detriment to yourself.

It means your intent is always to maintain the happiness in your life, which will serve to counter negative feelings, none of which are helpful. The actions you will need to take to rectify the situation can be taken regardless of your attitude but, it is important to understand that negative feelings harboured towards another person, do *not* affect that person at all. The only person they can actually harm is <u>you</u>!

Abundant thinking creates a mindset that allows a better perspective on the situation. You will ask yourself, "has this person stolen my happiness, or am I doing that to myself through my reaction to the situation?" And in the worst-case scenario, when you may be seriously affected by what has happened, your faith in the essential goodness and abundance of the universe will be your strength. And this will provide a much speedier recovery from any and all ill effects.

In a business environment, abundant thinking can focus on the organization's strengths and what is possible; not on what might go wrong. This is particularly crucial in hard times. When businesses experience huge losses and difficulties, the temptation is to focus on what was, and what might have been. But this type of thinking is based on fear and scarcity. Leaders who take such an attitude in business can end up instilling negativity in their workforce. They therefore can only exacerbate the problems that already exist.

It is, of course, the job of the leader to embrace abundance, develop a vision, and inspire those who follow to move on from failure to achieve great things in the future.

How to be An Abundant Thinker

The first step is to take a good honest look at your current and past attitudes, and assess whether your thinking has been based on the abundance principle. Do you routinely evaluate how your life is faring? If so, do you accomplish what you set out to do? If you have mixed results, do you know what is working and what isn't? Which areas need to be improved? In what way does your attitude need adjusting to create a better life for yourself?

One thing to be particularly aware of is your inner monologue i.e. how you talk to yourself. This can reveal a lot about how healthy your thinking really is. How many times do you think that you "could have", "would have", or "should have"? Although you may think that these are useful correctional phrases that mean you have understood your mistakes, they are nothing to do with abundant thinking. They are dealing with the past, and giving power to the things you feel you failed at.

Such reflections are inherently self-critical and full of regret. They remind you of the lack in your life; the chances you should have, would have, or could have taken. They are linked to feelings of entitlement or lack, and this is the enemy of abundant thinking. All these should be replaced with "I want" or "I expect" – thoughts that bring our desire into the present moment, and that is the only way our brain can register that some kind of action needs to be taken. People who habitually think in negative terms make themselves victims; it is self-perpetuating, especially when other people or outside circumstances are blamed for the hurt. Whenever you blame, you simultaneously remove your responsibility to improve the situation. You are saying that there is nothing to be done to make things better because it is out of your control, and you have thereby denied the abundance in your life.

Here are some ways in which you can become an abundant thinker:

1. Identify your biggest bar to abundant thinking. Analyze why you have not embraced the concept before. Have years of negative conditioning made it difficult, or did you just not know about it?

2. Decide now that you will start to think abundant thoughts.

3. Count your blessings right now, and start being grateful for all the good things you have in your life.

4. Stop thinking of what you believe you don't have; you are concentrating on empty space. Instead, begin to focus on creating the circumstances that cause abundance to fill that empty space. Develop your interests, knowledge, and skills in areas that will help you to achieve more.

5. Exchange "could've", "should've" and "would've" for "I want" and "I expect".

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