

6 Practices of a Progressive Professional



When looking on from the comfort of our ipad, iphone, laptop, or television at the progression of career as huge as an Oprah Winfrey, Tyler Perry, Sandra Bullock, Dr. Ben Carson, John Maxwell, Jay-Z, Suze Orman, Geoffrey Canada, President Barack Obama, Jennifer Lopez, or Bill Gates one might be inclined to think that these folk either had a lot of connections, a lot of luck, or a lot handed to them.

One might also be inclined to assume that it must have been in the cards all the while for these individuals to “strike it so big”, particularly when you consider that there are others who may be just as smart, just as talented, or know just as many people as those listed above yet have not been so fortunate to experience the same kind of consistent and life-changing progression.

Inclinations and assumptions aside, what we learn with a great degree of clarity from studying and/or reading about those - dead or living - who are blessed to live a life so amazing it improves the quality of others’ lives is these individuals have lived and continue to live by a series of practices that govern how they operate from day-to-day.

If, by chance, it is your desire to develop into a professional who is also progressive, prominent, and powerful it may behoove you to consider incorporating some of what others have made it their business to practice into your daily routine.

LIFE LEARNER

The learning process is lifelong and happens daily in formal settings but also happens in a huge way in the classroom of life. Anyone who has accomplished anything worthwhile can attest to just how important it is to keep your eyes, ears, heart, and spirit open to receive everything that the Universe would have you know.

AVID READER

As we speak of learning, one of the ways progressive professionals take in valuable information is by reading; a great book is an invaluable tool in the life of one who is committed to living an amazing life because books have a peculiar way of inspiring creativity and calling forth courage.

USE TIME WISELY

Sitting around watching television all day, on the phone gossiping half the day, running from store to store several times a week to collect the latest fashions, or sleeping every chance he gets for hours on end are not things you will find the progressive professional doing. Bishop T. D. Jakes once said in a sermon, “I outta be able to tell what you’re waiting on by what you’re working on.” While there is a place for balance and relaxation, she who has a mind to do great things uses her time in a way that best serves her ambition.

ACCESS TO A PERSONAL & PROFESSIONAL MENTOR

Anyone who has achieved any level of success will tell you that the blessing of having someone in your life whom you look up to, someone who has perhaps accomplished some of what you’d like to accomplish, and someone who sees the value in investing their time, care, and wisdom into you is priceless.

PERSISTENT

When you are sure of what you've been called to do, *you cannot give up*. You may get discouraged by the nos. You may get turned around by a false start. You may even get bamboozled by some erroneous information or conniving people. But once you see the vision and have felt the quivering in your soul from having aligned yourself with your assignment—there is absolutely no turning back. President Obama like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. had bad days throughout their careers, faced opposition, and experienced many heartbreaking losses, yet they were able to arrive at their sweet spot in life because they were relentlessly persistent.

PERFECTED PRESENTATION

It is said that accomplishing perfect is a tall order. However, those who want the best from life are among the first to give the best to life. They don't cut corners. They don't compromise their values for a deal. They don't treat others less than they deserve to be treated. They don't just throw something together. In fact, they go the extra mile. They give their all. They use the best resources. In short, they're well prepared. They understand the value of a powerful presentation; that's physical presentation, verbal presentation, personal presentation, and creative presentation alike. Why, because they have a consciousness toward excellence. And nothing inspires elevation like excellence.