

Forward looking, forward moving

You know, it sounds really simple to say it -- but if we want to *move* forward, we have to *look* forward.

It sounds simple because in the "real world," we know that we look in the direction we want to move. We look out the front windshield of a car when we want to move forward. If we're moving in reverse, we look in the mirrors or out the back window.

So why is it so different when we're talking about personal growth?

Altogether too many of us refuse to look forward when we're going through life. We gaze at our past, or we center on the present. We think about all the things we've been through, and sometimes, we spend years worrying about things that have already happened.

What we need to do is to look forward to the future.

Many people worry about the future -- it seems so uncertain -- but if we contemplate the future of our lives, and our place in it, it's very likely we will accomplish the goals we set -- in other words, when we have a clear idea of our destination, we're more likely to get there.

I am hardly a good example of this concept. I don't know how much time I've lost to thinking about things that happened in the ancient past. I have spent time thinking about "what might have been," when the only thing that matters is "what is and what will become."

I don't think I'm alone in this -- in fact, it would be nice if I were.

So many times, people spend all their lives centered on the past. It becomes a paralyzing agent, keeping them from moving ahead.

But moving ahead is the only thing that makes any sense.

We've been going through some hard times in the world recently -- and most of

us have had hard times at some point in our lives -- but there's really no point dwelling on it. What's past has passed.

What we need to do -- and I mean each of us, not just the "great world powers," is to determine what our future is going to be, and then set about planning and achieving it.

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