

“The Lucky Leader - What’s Luck Got To Do With It?”

What part does luck play in what happens to us at work and in our lives generally? In the way we are viewed and the way we view ourselves?

Lucky people seem to meet their perfect partners, achieve their lifelong ambitions, find fulfilling careers, and live happy and meaningful lives.

Their success does not appear to be due to exceptional intelligence, hard work or amazing talent, but rather seems to have a lot to do with luck! They always seem to be in the right place at the right time and enjoy more than their fair share of lucky breaks.

I know I always think of myself as lucky. I’ve also heard other people call me lucky throughout my life from childhood, through my relationships to marriage, children and family life, and also in my career.

I’ve been told on more than one occasion that I have the “luck of the Irish!” This feeling that I’m lucky stays with me even through the bad times because I guess it’s something I really believe; that and the fact that you ‘make your own luck!’

This was confirmed to me in a book I read recently “The Luck Factor” by psychology Professor Richard Wiseman. In it he showed the results of a unique research experiment carried out over a 10 year period, which confirmed my belief that you ‘make your own luck!’

According to his research, people are not born lucky, but lucky people, without realising it, use four basic principles to create good fortune in their lives.

So if we can truly understand these principles then we can understand what luck is; and more importantly, we can use this understanding to enhance the amount of good luck we experience in our lives.

Wiseman’s four principles are:

1. Maximise your chance opportunities
2. Listen to your lucky hunches
3. Expect good fortune
4. Turn your bad luck into good

The 1st principle – Maximise your chance opportunities - is about the way lucky people create, notice and act upon the chance opportunities in their life.

Although we often believe that opportunities are the result of pure chance e.g. going to a party and meeting the right person or opening a magazine at just the right page, they are actually the result of the way they think and behave; so, being in the right place at the right time is actually more about being in the right state of mind!

Personality also plays its part in this principle as lucky people tend to be more extrovert which means they are more likely to build and maintain a strong 'network of luck.' They are also more open to new experiences in their life; and have a more relaxed attitude to life generally.

To read more about Wiseman's second, third and fourth principles, and what you can do to be a more successful "lucky" leader, read my next article...[link to article 14](#)

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About The Author:

Julie Johnson, formerly a manager and development specialist, created The Leadership Coaching Company to help managers solve one of their biggest business problems: how to get the most from themselves and their staff. She is now a leadership success specialist and has attracted a loyal following who praise her down to earth yet inspiring approach.

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