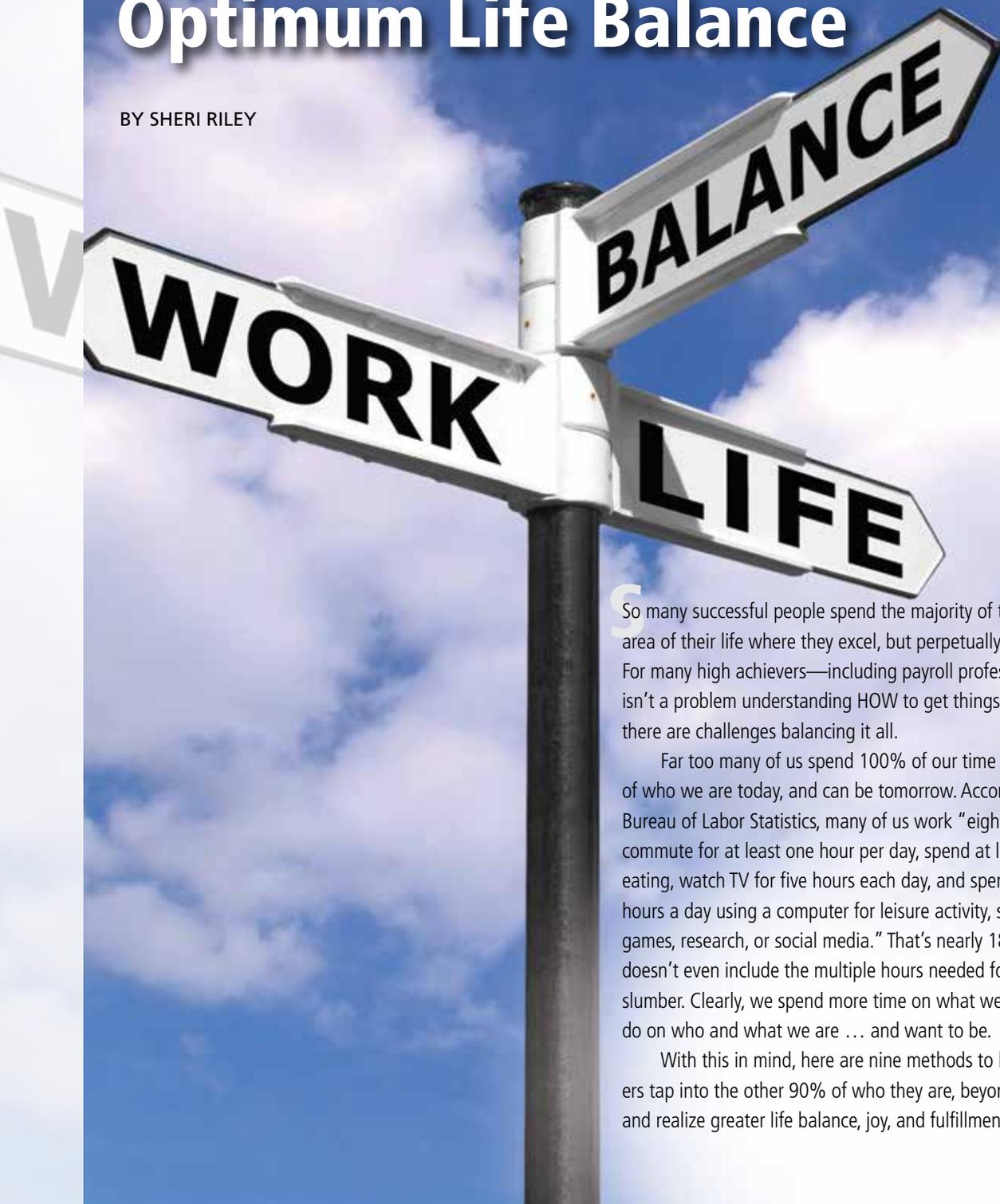


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Nine Methods to Achieve Optimum Life Balance

BY SHERI RILEY



So many successful people spend the majority of their time on one area of their life where they excel, but perpetually feel unfulfilled. For many high achievers—including payroll professionals—there isn't a problem understanding HOW to get things done but rather there are challenges balancing it all.

Far too many of us spend 100% of our time on only 10% of who we are today, and can be tomorrow. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, many of us work "eight hours per day, commute for at least one hour per day, spend at least two hours eating, watch TV for five hours each day, and spend nearly two hours a day using a computer for leisure activity, such as online games, research, or social media." That's nearly 18 hours, which doesn't even include the multiple hours needed for our evening slumber. Clearly, we spend more time on what we aren't than we do on who and what we are ... and want to be.

With this in mind, here are nine methods to help high achievers tap into the other 90% of who they are, beyond what they do, and realize greater life balance, joy, and fulfillment in kind.

Method 1: Healthy Living Is About More Than Diet

There is more to life than the race to achieve more money or a fancy job title. And, there is more to living healthfully than what food you ingest or what physical exercises you do. Other lifestyle decisions, such as those related to marriage, parenting, and friendships, all factor into one's healthy sense of self.

Healthy living requires being true to yourself and being truly "present" when you're with loved ones. Healthy living is also a frame of mind. If your thoughts are self-destructive, this negativity will manifest itself in your body through stress, anxiety, and other adverse physical conditions, and can undermine your personal and professional relationships with others.

Method 2: Peace and a Positive Mind

Cultivating and maintaining a peaceful life must be a goal of paramount importance. Distractions and life's distresses both small and large will pull you away from this goal each and every time you allow it. Your thoughts are the training ground and spring board for your overall disposition and perspective on life.

Many accomplished people never pause to revel in or acknowledge their success. They are constantly striving for what's next. While not entirely a bad thing, when your desire to achieve becomes bigger than your desire to BE, your existence will be like a hamster running in an endless circle—never at peace and never at a point of rest.

Method 3: The Value of a Giving Heart, Spirit

Most know that giving back to society and those in need is one of the most meaningful activities we can engage in. In fact, many very successful people believe that giving is directly tied to their continued success.

Having a giving heart and spirit not only creates more opportunities for you to provide for others, but doing so allows more opportunities for your continued success to manifest in your life, and others: what impacts one impacts us all.

Achievement and accomplishments come from the work of our hands and minds, but true success and fulfillment comes from giving of the heart. Not just donating your time

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through charitable work or financial donations, but also allocating precious time to family and friends. Being present and accessible to loved ones is the ultimate gift for others and yourself.

Method 4: Live in Your P.O.W.E.R.

High achievers should strive to tap into their personal P.O.W.E.R.[™], which is Perspective, Ownership, Wisdom, Engagement, and Reward.

Perspective cultivates recognition of what is draining your life and what is enriching your life. This leads to Ownership of your relationship with yourself and with others. It allows you to establish your personal boundaries and define what and where you are to give of yourself and your time. This understanding of your own truth is a major component of Wisdom, which is gained from how you implement your life experiences into your life and evolve your thinking and decisions through expanding your knowledge and good judgment. This enlightenment brings consistent Engagement in the quality of your life. Your desire, energy, and personal encouragement will motivate you to commit yourself to stop spending 100% of your time on 10% of who you are—this is your Reward.

Method 5: Work to Maximize Your Opportunities

When you are constantly working, you seldom recognize your achievements. Without taking these moments to recognize your accomplishments, you are constantly stretching for what's next and never appreciating and enjoying what you have completed. This cycle often leads to burn out, health issues, personal relationship issues, and low self-esteem. And, many times, it does not have a clearly defined end or moment of victory.

When you change your mindset from working to maximizing opportunities, you reposition your thought process and how you approach your life. You are able to separate and segment your work from other areas of your life because maximizing the opportunity has a beginning and an end.

You are quicker to recognize when to end or remove yourself because you understand what you are spending your time on is meant to be an opportunity, not a burden you spend time on without benefit or value.

Method 6: Happy Is a Choice; Contentment and Joy Are Lifestyles

One of the definitions of the word overwhelmed is "to give too much of a thing." When you truly desire to live a life that is fulfilled in all areas, you are destined to have more

to do than you have the time, energy, and ability or help to accomplish or complete. The feeling of being overwhelmed is when you have what you need and are overflowing with what you want.

When you have so much success, opportunity, potential, clients, projects, options, prosperity that you can't "handle" or manage everything, your reaction is that you are overwhelmed.

So what about those times when you're overwhelmed with challenges, struggles, health issues, and other life concerns? Know the plan for your life is perfect and the struggles are never to defeat you but to make you stronger and uncover your true power. Surrender and find peace living in the overflow, joy, and abundance of being overwhelmed.

Method 7: Build Lasting Confidence

Believe it or not, whatever you want is available to you if you have the confidence and belief that you can have what you want and that you deserve it. This does not mean confidence in our degrees, our knowledge, job titles, position, social status, etc. Instead, it is about having a pure and honest confidence in the person you are.

Many successful people have achieved career success through their fear of failure. And while such fear can be a powerful and effective motivator, it can also limit your sense of accomplishment and impede growth in other areas of your life.

For many high achievers, confidence is built on external validations like applause, accolades, wins, or promotions. And their ensuring quest to feel this rush keeps them from being engaged in other areas of their lives. True confidence should come from a life well lived and enjoyed—not the proverbial feathers in your cap.

Method 8: The Courage to Be Faithful

Stepping out of your fears and into your greatness requires

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8. The Courage to Be Faithful
9. Exponential Living

great courage. Sometimes we are so busy with the work of life that we don't sit still and take the time to listen to our heart. Being courageous means not allowing life to steal, kill, or destroy your dreams, hopes, aspirations, and plans. Live in the now, the moment, the presence of your power to receive life, and the fullness of all life has to offer.

It takes courage to be honest with yourself, acknowledge your personal truth, and be present in your quest to live that truth. The easiest thing for high achievers to do is be successful. But living in the fullness of who they are—and want to be—while also maintaining their success, takes true grit.

Method 9: Exponential Living

Exponential living is achieved through excellence in your personal, spiritual, and emotional health, and balance in all aspects of your life—with yourself and others. It is achieved by building and maintaining spirituality; loving and caring for yourself (hobbies, exercise, "me" time); spending quality time with and appreciating yourself and your

family; recognizing your success; and living in your own truth.

When living exponentially you are comfortable with who you are, separate from what you do. It's when you live in a state of true contentment, being present with yourself and others while also pursuing and maintaining excellence in all aspects of your life.

Often, high achievers are limited by their success because they are only living in the accomplishments in one area of their lives. They have achieved high levels of professional success but are not truly fulfilled with their lives overall. Or they have discovered other fulfilling facets of life, but they don't know how, why, or when to pursue those facets. Exponential living gives such high achievers the power of being true to themselves and achieving a balance between work, family, friends, healthy living, and spiritual commitment to manifest a life that is genuinely complete and content. ■

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