



Stanford eCorner

Put Your Passions into Flight

Peter Diamandis, *X PRIZE Foundation*

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Video URL: <http://ecorner.stanford.edu/videos/2001/Put-Your-Passions-into-Flight>

If you're only working to serve someone else, stop. Only when you're following your true passions - in the case of Peter Diamandis, founder of X PRIZE and multi-time space entrepreneur and enthusiast - can you withstand the bumpy path to success. And if you're unsure of where your passions lie, simply revisit what you daydreamed about most from your childhood. This, says Diamandis, is where all the biggest ideas first hatch.



Transcript

If you're not sure what you want to do, go back and figure out what you were really passionate about as a kid, because no matter what you do and - you make a career out of anything. You can make a career out of anything. So, it might as well be something you really, really passionately love, because if you're going to do anything really big in this world, it's going to be hard and it's going to fail over and over and over and over and over and over and over again. And if you don't love it, you're going to give up along the way before it happens. And I can tell you from the course of the dozen companies that I've started - not all of which have succeeded, but the ones that have succeeded and are around today - they failed a hundred deaths along the way and I would have given up if I were not just so passionately in love with the things I do. And so, I give that to you - so as a kid, I grew up in a Greek family like George did and it was like, "Son, you're going to be a doctor." "OK? Mom, I want to be an astronaut. Well, that's nice, but you're going to be a doctor." So, I ended up going through medical school, I got my diploma and I bolted. I have two companies going on my fourth year in medical school in space business of course. Of course. It was following my heart but it was - at the end of the day, all these things are hard and you really have to do what you love, because that's what you're going to - that's where you're going to have the greatest - you're going to daydream about it.

You're going to have insightful insights and the brilliance and you'll be most passionate in communicating to people about it and therefore they'll want to invest in you, you'll be happiest doing it. So, everything aligns. If you're doing something for somebody else, life's too short, stop. Go and do something that you are absolutely excited about. If you don't know what you actually is excited about, take a moment to think about it and go and remember what you were excited about as a kid.