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## The "Different Perspectives" Newsletter

It can be fun to step back and look at the world from a different angle. Here, we step back and look at commonly used words in business and life, ask a provocative question, and see what others are doing differently by applying a different lens on life. I hope you enjoy "Different Perspectives" and that you begin to step back when needed and observing what else is possible.

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February 10, 2025

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### Word Choices

**Wealth** /welth/, *noun*. *Def - A great quantity or store of money. An abundance or profusion of anything, plentiful.*

What a hot-button of a word, huh? Does this word trigger you or make you feel uncomfortable or does it excite you?

Many equate "wealth" with happiness, yet, many studies show that the wealthiest of people are often the least happy, although that is not what their social media pages would say. So many of the definitions under "Wealth" refer to money. I am sensing that there can be many definitions or interpretations here.

I prefer to look at the second sentence in the definition above - "an abundance or profusion of anything, plentiful." Now, you can substitute any word you like in the anything part and that may define your wealth - friends, accomplishments, property, family members, community members, etc.

The problem can come when you equate not having "wealth" of something that that means you are a failure. Abundance may be another word we have to define.

Abundance in relation to what? You will know when enough is enough but yet again, another word worth exploring, enough. That is for a later newsletter. In the iconic film, "It's a Wonderful Life", George Bailey always seems miserable because he is not successful and does not have the wealth of Mr. Potter. But wasn't Mr. Potter a "warped, frustrated old man"? It is not until George gets the gift of a lifetime to see what effect he has had on so many other people and how many friends he has and one of the final quotes of the movie says it all. When George's brother Harry toasts his brother and says to the crowd, "To George, the richest man in town" and Clarence leaves the signed note in the book, "No man is a failure who has friends."

Who would you want to be? George or Mr. Potter?

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## Question of the Week

When considering what wealth means to you, it may take a deeper question to reflect on:

1. Does my wealth directly relate to my feelings of happiness and feeling of being enough?
2. How do I measure wealth personally?

No judgements here. Just questions to ponder.

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## Did You Know?

Daniel Kahneman and Angus Deaton did [a study](#) and found that people's sense of well-being leveled off when they earned \$75,000 or more. Now, of course, that study has been refuted and challenged but it is an interesting concept that relates to some of Maslow's hierarchy of needs. Was the \$75,000 enough to fulfill the basic Safety needs at the time of the study?

Nowadays, that number may be much higher depending on where you live and your lifestyle choices. According to the wonderful AI search tools, that number above may be closer to the level of \$500,000. The question is and I think the ultimate search we are striving to figure out is "what makes me happy?" Does "wealth" = happiness. Maybe, maybe not. It is all relative to you and your lifestyle choices. Happiness is influenced by many factors beyond just income, including relationships, health, personal fulfillment,

and life satisfaction.



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