



CRAIG ROWE

# ROWES' LIFE PRINCIPLES

*A Guide to Living with Purpose and Integrity.*

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# ■ INTRODUCTION

In this short article I try and encapsulate the five principles that I have done my best to embrace. I believe that each one of us can positively affect the world, through how we live our lives.

This is usually based on our values and worldview. I am grateful to have had the privilege of serving in various places and contexts with amazing people who have been role models to me. In life I believe that the heart and values we have, are the most important aspect of our lives. In our home Gina, Danielle and Lauren demonstrate these values and are an inspiration and encouragement to continue my own journey.



*Craig, Danielle, Lauren, Gina*

## ■ INTRODUCTION *continued..*

**It is our Relationship with the Lord; our relationship with Others and our relationship with the World, combined with the fact that we are all unique and Extraordinary, that makes life such an incredible Supernatural journey.**

We are all uniquely and wonderfully made. The hairs on our head are numbered and each person's fingerprint is different. Every person has gifts, talents and abilities that no one else has. God so loved the World that He sent Jesus to save us, and Jesus so loves us that He fills us with His Spirit and sends us into the world. The world for us may be our home, community or country. God has an amazing plan for every one of us. A plan to give us hope for now and for the future.

When we celebrate what we have and generously give it away, we have the privilege of seeing goodness follow our lives. The kindness and care we show and the support we give is different in all situations. Regardless of where we find ourselves Gods love never changes and the privilege of loving our neighbour as ourselves never changes.

I am amazed at how often the little I have given has been multiplied and thousands have been fed. This leads me to one conclusion; we serve a wonderful Lord who can do abundantly more than we can ever ask or dream or imagine. Our world needs dreamers who will dream of seeing the impossible done. God often chooses the foolish things of the world to confound the wise. I believe we have been born for a time like this: to those to whom much has been given much will be required.

# THE POWER OF RESOLUTE FAITH IN CRISIS

## *HOW A HOSTAGE BECAME A TESTAMENT OF UNWAVERING TRUST IN GOD'S PLAN*

In November 1990, a troubled high school student created a tense and dangerous situation at his school. Armed with a Colt .45 handgun and holding a grenade with the pin pulled out, he took another student hostage in the school gymnasium. The student handcuffed himself to the other student, creating a volatile situation where any wrong move could end in tragedy.

A Physical and Bible Education teacher at the school was asked by the Headmaster to go to the gymnasium and check what was happening. Upon seeing the two boys, the teacher began to speak calmly to them. He shared a message of hope and love, telling the students that Jesus loved them both deeply. Then, he asked the student to release the other student and take him as a hostage instead. For a long, tense period, the teacher continued to speak with the student, showing him compassion and understanding. Eventually, the student agreed and released the other student, sparing his life. The teacher stayed to talk with the student as the police and emergency services arrived.

Thirty-four years later, Martin, a former student who was at the school during that time, reflected on how that moment impacted his life. He shared, "One of the earliest examples of Jesus stepping in for us to have life was when I saw a teacher step into a hostage situation and offer his life so that someone else could be released. That marked me throughout my life. I now live my life for Jesus, and I go because Jesus told me to go, and I have committed everything I have to Him."

Today, Martin is an evangelist who has seen hundreds of thousands of people come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior. He supports and establishes churches, relieves poverty through sustainable projects, develops technology and Christian online resources.

# THE POWER OF RESOLUTE FAITH IN CRISIS

*continued..*

## HOW A HOSTAGE BECAME A TESTAMENT OF UNWAVERING TRUST IN GOD'S PLAN

The teacher was me, my thoughts: On that day I was in the right place at the right time to simply be Jesus' love. I told the student that it was fine if I did die because I knew where I was going, but he was facing the possibility of an eternity in hell—and eternity is forever. I also told him that my daughter hadn't been born yet, and I really wanted to know her, so I would prefer it if he didn't follow through with his intentions. The student then put the pin back in the grenade and put the gun down.

We have no idea how our actions affect and influence those around us. Hearing Martin's story for the first time 34 years later and being with him in Muldersdrift as he leads a crusade here is beyond anything I could have ever imagined. God took a really bad situation and turned it for good so that many could be saved. We just need to be resolute and openly share what we have, taking a step at a time as we are encouraged to serve in whatever situation we find ourselves.



# ■ ROWES' LIFE PRINCIPLES



RESOLUTE



OPEN



WALK



ENCOURAGE



SERVE





# RESOLUTE

Commit to a cause. Live in a determined way. Do not give up. Its better to be a faithful plodder than a flash in the pan.

## KEY CONCEPT

Being resolute means being firm, unwavering, and steadfast in your faith and actions, even when facing challenges.

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### Galatians 6:9

- Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

## REFLECTING, OBSERVING, WORKING, EMPOWERING, SERVING

This verse encourages us to persevere in doing what is right. Even when results are not immediate, God promises a harvest in due time for those who remain steadfast.





# RESOLUTE

## **1 Corinthians 15:58**

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.

## *REFLECTING, OBSERVING, WORKING, EMPOWERING, SERVING*

Paul calls us to be immovable in our commitment to God's work, emphasizing that our efforts, when aligned with God's will, are never wasted.

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### *ACTION STEP*

Identify one area in your life where you often feel discouraged.

Set a daily reminder with a relevant verse (e.g., Galatians 6:9) to keep you focused on perseverance. Regularly journal your progress and prayers to maintain accountability.

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*Even if it looks like things are falling apart,  
God makes all things new and not a day goes  
by without His unfolding grace*



*Live with integrity*

### **KEY CONCEPT**

Integrity involves honesty, transparency, and openness in all areas of life, reflecting Christ in our actions and words.

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#### **Proverbs 10:9**

- Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out.

### **REFLECTING, OBSERVING, WORKING, EMPOWERING, SERVING**

This verse highlights the security that comes from living honestly and warns against deceit, emphasizing the long-term value of integrity.



### **2 Corinthians 8:21**

- For we are taking pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of man.

## **REFLECTING, OBSERVING, WORKING, EMPOWERING, SERVING**

Paul stresses the importance of doing what is right both before God and people, reminding us that our integrity affects our testimony to others.

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### **ACTION STEP**

Conduct a personal integrity audit. Reflect on recent decisions or actions to ensure they align with God's principles and your values.

Seek accountability by sharing your commitments with a trusted friend or mentor.

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**Looking to Jesus the author, perfecter and finisher of our faith.**



# WALK

*Walk in Jesus' ways.*

Never step from the path. In the Kingdom we are called to keep on, keeping on.

## KEY CONCEPT

*Walking in Jesus' ways* involves following His example and teachings consistently, regardless of circumstances.

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### **Colossians 2:6-7**

■ So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

## REFLECTING, OBSERVING, WORKING, EMPOWERING, SERVING

This verse urges us to continue walking in Christ, drawing strength from our relationship with Him and staying rooted in His truth.

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**1 John 2:6**

Whoever claims to live in Him must live as Jesus did.

**REFLECTING, OBSERVING, WORKING, EMPOWERING,  
SERVING**

To truly follow Christ means to live as He lived, embodying His love, compassion, and commitment to God's will daily.

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**ACTION STEP**

Create a daily routine that includes time for prayer, Bible study, and reflection on Jesus' teachings.

Commit to serving others weekly in a way that directly reflects Jesus' example, doing what the Lord requires of you:

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**Doing justly, loving mercy and walking  
humbly with our God.**



# ENCOURAGE

Encourage everyone you can

## KEY CONCEPT

*This principle emphasizes the importance of uplifting others selflessly, reflecting Christ's heart of love.*

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### **Hebrews 10:24-25**

■ And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and even more as you see the Day approaching.

## REFLECTING, OBSERVING, WORKING, EMPOWERING, SERVING

We are called to actively encourage and inspire one another to love and good works, emphasizing the importance of community and support.

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# ENCOURAGE

## **1 Peter 4:10**

- Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

## *REFLECTING, OBSERVING, WORKING, EMPOWERING, SERVING*

This verse reminds us that our gifts are not for personal gain but for loving others, reflecting God's grace through our actions.

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### *ACTION STEP*

Set a goal to encourage one person each day, either through words, acts of kindness, or small gestures. Make a list of all your gifts.

Keep a list of people you've encouraged and pray for them regularly, asking God to use your actions to impact their lives.

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*Fixing our minds on whatever is true and lovely, looking for the best in everyone and every situation.*





# SERVE

How can I serve?

## KEY CONCEPT

*Servanthood is about being humble following the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. Life is all about servanthood, putting others' needs first.*

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### -Mark 10:45

■ For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

## REFLECTING, OBSERVING, WORKING, EMPOWERING, SERVING

Jesus' mission was rooted in servanthood. We are called to follow His example by serving others selflessly and sacrificially. This means prioritizing the well-being and growth of those around us over our own desires or ambitions.



## SERVE

### -Philippians 2:3-4

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

## REFLECTING, OBSERVING, WORKING, EMPOWERING, SERVING

Paul emphasizes that servanthood is grounded in humility. Valuing others and putting their needs first creates a culture of mutual respect and support. Our focus should be to uplift, support, and guide others in a way that reflects God's love and grace.

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## ACTION STEP

Identify specific ways you can serve those around you. This could be as simple as listening empathetically, offering help, or sharing resources. Reflect on these acts weekly, journaling how serving others changes your perspective of life.

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By embracing Servanthood alongside the other **ROWE** Leadership Principles, you can demonstrate a Christ-like life filled with humility, integrity, perseverance, and love.

**Whoever wants to be great needs to become a servant of all.**

# ■ APPLICATION



## REFLECT ON ROWES' LIFE PRINCIPLES



RESOLUTE



OPEN



WALK



ENCOURAGE



SERVE

### REFLECT

- deep introspection

### OBSERVE

- carefully looking around

### WORK

- doing everything possible for success

### EMPOWER

- releasing others and trusting them

### SUBMIT

- to one another as you recognise the gifts in one another

# ■ APPLICATION



## REFLECT ON **ROWES'** LIFE PRINCIPLES *continued..*



**RESOLUTE**



**OPEN**



**WALK**



**ENCOURAGE**



**SERVE**

### **RECOGNIZE**

- list every asset you have

### **OPPORTUNITY**

- list every opportunity you have

### **WILL**

- draw up a will of all the things you will do, we all need a living will

### **ENJOY**

- Jesus said that the thief has come to steal, kill and destroy but He has come that we might have life to the full in abundance.

### **SHARE**

- give your gifts away – how can I serve?

## ■ APPLICATION



### REFLECT ON ROWES' LIFE PRINCIPLES *continued..*



RESOLUTE



OPEN



WALK



ENCOURAGE



SERVE

ARE THERE AREAS WHERE YOU NEED TO GROW IN  
ANY OF THE PRINCIPLES?

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Ask God for guidance and strength to embody these principles more fully.

- **Action Plan:** Schedule time each week to assess your growth in these principles. Use this time to pray, seek God's wisdom, and adjust your commitments as needed.
- **Accountability:** Share your journey with a small group or mentor who can provide encouragement and accountability.
- **Have fun:** Don't take yourself too seriously, lighten up.

# A LIFE OF SERVICE: SOWING SEEDS OF FAITH AND GENEROSITY

## HOW FAITHFUL ACTS OF SERVICE CAN TRANSFORM LIVES AND SET OTHERS FREE

I have always approached life by asking, 'How can I serve?' In Canada, I asked leaders in Prince Albert and ended up spending time with people who were in prison for life. In Washington, Gina and I found ourselves sorting used clothes and peeling potatoes at a hospital for homeless men. When we returned to South Africa, we have found great purpose in serving communities, schools, mortuaries, universities, crisis centres, informal settlements, families, and churches. It is as simple as taking what we have been blessed with and generously and purposefully sowing it.



Working with universities, I have walked with people who have made incredible contributions to communities through higher education across the world. Serving with leaders in ministries I have seen so many lives changed by Jesus' love. I really don't think we need to be the sage on the stage or have people know our name; we just need to know that we have been faithful to share Jesus' love with every step we take.

My conclusion: When I feel discouraged, the Lord, by His grace and love, sends someone along to share their story with me. I am reminded that through our lives, another hostage can be set free as the goodness of God follows after us.

GOD HAS A WONDERFUL PLAN  
FOR YOUR LIFE,  
A PLAN TO PROSPER YOU, TO  
GIVE YOU A FUTURE AND A HOPE  
**JEREMIAH 29:11**





# ENCOURAGEMENT FROM FRIENDS AND FAMILY WHO CONTINUALLY UPLIFT ME ON THIS JOURNEY

The ROWES Life Principles remind us that true fulfillment comes from living with purpose, faith, and service. Thank you, Craig, for sharing your journey and inspiring us all with your life of faith and generosity.

~ **Liezel van Rooyen**



## RESOLUTE

Don't flip flop. Make up your mind and stick to it.

~ **Dr Gina Rowe**

Be slow in considering, but resolute in action.

~ **Gert Jonker**



## OPEN

You are the author of your story. Be yourself. Be authentic.

~ **Dr Dean Verwey**

There is a responsibility we all have for what we say. In everything we do God desires for us to 'Flourish'.

~ **Marcus Van Wyk**



## WALK

I can't change the world. All I can do is faithfully tend the garden God has given me to tend with the resources I have been blessed with. If we all do that the world will change.

~ **Tony Fitzgerald**

Trust Gods process as He opens doors for you.

~ **Lauren Rowe-Kabango**



## ENCOURAGE

It's all about the people.

~ **Duncan Riley**



## SERVE

Serving in communities opens doors giving us many opportunities and is a place where young leaders get the chance to touch children's lives by showing them the love of Jesus.

~ **Lebo Mmabakoena Sekhotla-Nkopane**

Serving children and communities makes Gods Word a lived experience whilst creating leadership. It has made me a dynamic, versatile leader who gets to live church not just go to one.

~ **Danielle Rowe**

# CONTACT US



**CDR**  
**EQUIPPING**

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CRAIG ROWE  
CRAIG@CDREQUIPPING.CO.ZA  
+27 (0) 83 302 0804  
[HTTPS://WWW.CDREQUIPPING.CO.ZA/](https://www.cdrequipping.co.za/)