

Step 4. Divine Action

The last step in the 4 Steps to Divine Mastery, the keys to Living in the Zone of Creative Mastery, is Divine Action. It is the part where you do what is yours to do that you have been guided to do. This week we are going to focus on looking at what you are doing, and not doing and reviewing it from within the 4 Steps. We will be asking you to be aware of what you are doing and why. We will be looking at what you aren't doing that you want/need to be doing, and why?

We will be focusing on receiving Divine Guidance and then *doing* what we are guided to do. This is the art – in the Art of Extraordinary Success. This is co-creating with the Universe!

I will invite you to use your practice and try some processes to go deeper within your awareness and truth to first identify what you are doing and focusing on in your life, and then reviewing everything, asking if this is what you need to be doing and if there are things that you need to be doing instead.

My guess is there are many things that you are doing that you want to be doing, and having greater conviction around them will help you be more successful. I also suspect that there are many things that you are doing that are not really aligned with what you want to accomplish, and might even be distractions.

I also suspect that there are many areas of your life that you can focus on where you may want to improve or make changes. The idea here is to learn how to be more in alignment with your self/God and be in greater mastery of your life going forward.

So, to learn how to be in mastery of your self is the point. The classroom is your life. So in the explorations and exercises this week, use your life.

When you get to Divine Action, you realize that there is a difference between unconscious action and Divine Action. There is a whole different quality of purpose that exists when we are taking Divine Action. And Divine Action can only be taken when we have taken the other 3 Steps first. There are four sections in this week's work.

Section One - Becoming the Divine in Action

In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by **action**, is dead. James 2:16-18

Journals with God, 11/13/03 Canvas #31

"Today you have come to the silent stillness without need or desire. There is no question to be asked or fear to be overcome. All there is the peace of this moment. Feel the love that there is and the love that you are. Hear the words that are spoken from the depth of your soul and know it is I speaking to you. Remove the walls you have built around your heart to protect yourself. They have only served to keep your love from getting out. From this place of stillness, touch the love within your heart and feel the power within you. This is your connection to everything and everyone. And from this place you remember who you are. So now I ask you:

What would you do if you knew you were God?

Love, God" 

What would you do if you knew you were God? This is what Divine Action is all about. When we commit to living our life from who we truly are, then we know we are God and live with the knowing which leads to taking actions that are Divine. It is time to tear down the walls of fear and share the love that we have in our unique way. It is time to do what we hear is ours to do in our Divine Dialogue.

Divine Action is where we say yes to the impulse that comes from within and propels us with ease, grace, and enthusiasm. It is with this impulse that our actions can feel effortless. Divine Action is the part we are to do. It is the physical manifestation of our Divine Epiphanies. It is the last step that also makes more room for the first to be taken again. It is the place where God creates.

I have had times in my life that I have been ready to run, but I wasn't sure which direction, so I stayed where I was in frustration and fear until I was forced to be patient. I have also had times in my life that I have moved in a direction but it felt like a slog and everything seemed extremely difficult. I have also procrastinated... a lot. There have also been times that the vision, and actions were as clear as a spring day and everything flowed

with purpose and energy. I realize that this is when I am using the 4 Steps to Divine Mastery.

Procrastination is a problem that many people talk about and usually comes from fear of success or fear of failure or a lot of other stories. So, people will tell you to just do it...

But, if we just jump directly to Step 4 – Action we lose the Divine. But when we sit in Step 2, Divine Patience, where we want “God to take care of us” and don’t ask, “what is mine to do?” (in Step 3), we never get to the Action part. It is in the focus and implementation of all 4 Steps that Divine Mastery can be achieved.

Are you ready to accept the invitation that God has for you to start with Her/Him? Are you ready to experience life from the perspective of the Divine?

Section Two - “Divine” Selfishness as the path to True Selfless Service

As we are becoming aware of our thoughts and desires, we can begin to expand our awareness around our attitudes, thoughts, and beliefs about our Selves and others. In this next section, we are going to explore what you believe and how you think and feel about yourself.

It is time to honor your Self, Your True Self, Your Divine Self. It is time to become Divinely selfish. Since humanity has been living from an unconscious and fearful egoic self, being selfish has usually meant doing things for the sole benefit of the individual with no consideration or benefit for others around them.

Most people (especially those who are now over 40 years old) have been raised to believe that being selfish is bad. We have heard this from our religious leaders, our schools, our friends, and our families. We also received the message that we are supposed to take responsibility for ourselves and not be a burden on others. At the same time, we are supposed to take care of others first. This is very confusing. The result of this thinking has truly created lives that are out of balance, to say the least.

I have studied author Ayn Rand’s philosophy of Objectivism. In her book entitled *The Virtue of Selfishness*, she describes the philosophy that guided the heroes and heroines in her novels such as *Atlas Shrugged* and *The*

Fountainhead. She is very controversial, and yet I believe she provides a powerful and useful perspective, but I also think she is missing a key component, which I will describe below.

The Wikipedia entry on *The Virtue of Selfishness: A New Concept of Egoism* offers the following information on the 1964 collection of [essays](#) and papers by [Ayn Rand](#) and [Nathaniel Branden](#):

"Most of the essays originally appeared in [The Objectivist Newsletter](#), except for "The Objectivist Ethics", which was a paper Rand delivered at the University of Wisconsin during a symposium on "Ethics in Our Time".^[1] The book covers ethical issues from the perspective of Rand's [Objectivist philosophy](#). Some of its themes include the identification and validation of [egoism](#) as a rational code of ethics, the destructiveness of [altruism](#), and the nature of a proper government.

Use of the term 'selfishness'

Rand's characterization of selfishness as a virtue, including in the title of the book, is one of its most controversial elements. Philosopher [Chandran Kukathas](#) said Rand's position on this point "brought notoriety, but kept her out of the intellectual mainstream."^[5] Rand acknowledged in the book's introduction that the term 'selfishness' was not typically used to describe virtuous behavior, but insisted that her usage was consistent with a more precise meaning of the term as simply "**concern with one's own interests.**" The equation of selfishness with evil, Rand said, had caused "the arrested moral development of mankind" and needed to be rejected.^[6]

I am not purporting Rand's philosophy; what I think is useful here, is being open to other definitions of selfishness and other ways of looking at it. When I read her work, I saw the benefit in being selfish and focusing on "one's own interest" as a way to succeed in doing what I wanted and needed to do to achieve success in my businesses and life. But I see now that it was still an egoic pursuit—even as I did things I loved to do, such as my art—because with all my success, I still wasn't happy (and I don't think Ayn was either.)

With a deeper connection to our Soul and Divine desires, selfishness takes on a whole new perspective. When we focus on the desires of the Divine Self, we then find our Selves full of beautiful Divine gifts. Bringing these gifts to the world is in the greatest service possible. It is from here that we are able to honor our Selves – the Divine servant, and the expression of the Divine that comes through us, and everyone we touch.

True service and altruism, or selflessness, comes in taking Ayn Rand's definition to the next level. It is achieved through the sharing of our true passions and Divine gifts. In shifting our perspective from separation theology to Oneness theology - we naturally serve everyone when we serve our Selves. When we care for our Selves, we are caring for everyone. I know what you're thinking – *'This is like putting the oxygen mask on myself before I help others.'* I believe this is the real reason so many people are talking about the importance of loving themselves.

It is in the expansion of the idea of selfish from solely being in the ego to understanding and knowing the desires of the soul and honoring *that* self where we become the Divine; then, our selfishness is anything but evil.

The definition of selfish from Dictionary.com:

1. devoted to or caring only for oneself; concerned primarily with one's own interests, benefits, welfare, etc., regardless of others.
2. characterized by or manifesting concern or care only for oneself: selfish motives.

I looked for a word that meant "devoted to caring for oneself" without the added negative modifiers of "only", or "regardless of others", but I could not find such a word. So, this is where I agree with Ayn Rand; we don't think of being self-focused or devoted to self as good. It is ingrained in our culture and even in our language that "self" is bad. I believe that this is a core-damaging belief that has contributed to so much of the dis-ease in our society (lack of physical health, depression, poverty, alcoholism, etc.)

As I wrote in my Journals with God, I was reminded that honoring myself is honoring God, because I am God. You are God.

Journals with God 11/12/03 Canvas #30

"I couldn't write yesterday. I spent the day looking for the courage you say I have. I don't feel courageous; I just can't live in the world of fear and pain and insanity any more. This does not come from courage; it comes from despair."

"Diane, you wake up every day with the full choice as to what you will do that day. You did come to a point where you realized what you were doing was no longer working for you. So you stopped everything and started on this new journey to find the truth of who you are and why you are here. This is looking at every belief and asking if it is from your truth. It takes courage to do this because much of what you learn comes from experiences of past pain and fear originating in yourself and from others. Now you are trusting yourself over everyone you love,

The Art of Extraordinary Success

admire and respect. You are now living for your "self," which feels "**selfish**" to you. But as I wrote before, living from your truth is the greatest you can be for yourself and everyone. The fact that you have faced so many fears and beliefs and have changed your life so radically shows you have displayed great courage. For you alone can say what is right for you. But as you look inside for your truth, you know that you are not alone at all. I am always here, holding you with my love, forever.

Love,

God" 

I talk with so many people who have been raised with the belief that selfishness is evil, and it is not that this is completely unfounded when we live in a society mostly run by **egoic** values and fears. But, I agree with Ayn Rand here - people have used this definition to devalue, misuse, and mistreat our greatest Divine resource; our Selves. There is a shift that is needed in our thinking from the belief that self is evil, and that we don't deserve to be happy, healthy, and prosperous to remembering that we are as beautiful, valuable, deserving and Divine as everything and everyone else in the world.

The next level is to be in complete Divine selfless service, allowing God to direct and carry you. This is where we flow in grace and ease.

Exploration:

1. What are your past beliefs about being selfish? Write about it.
2. What were your family's beliefs? Write about that.
3. What are your past experiences around being labeled as selfish? Continue your writing.
4. Who would you allow yourself to be, if you were Divinely Selfish?

Exercises:

Listen to Audio Meditation 3.2, "Awakening to your Self"

Take this question within; meditate and journal about your commitment to your Self. Where is your current center? Is your Divine Truth at the center of your priorities? Are others, at the center of your priorities?

Section Three - Aligned Action

Divine action means aligned action. The first part is to know what you want and need to do, and then get into action. Some people (like me) procrastinate (when I'm not doing my practice). For me it is either something that I would rather not do, that does not feel fun (like accounting, or cleaning house), or I'm not sure if it is really what I'm supposed to be doing. Other people are busy. They do and do and do and at the end of the day feel good (or just ok with themselves), that they got a lot done. The question for these people is: were these the right things to do?

This is the point of Divine Action. When we do what we truly want and need to do then we get to experience Divine Creation and the joy and benefits that go with it. The question I have for you is whether or not you are taking Divine Action in your life, and to notice what your results have been.

As we use the practice to discover what is ours to do, then it is now time to take the actions. If you feel that you are stuck in your life and feel that things are stacking up – or that there is so much to do that you can't keep up, I invite you to stop and use the 4 Steps with anything and everything you are doing.

Depending on where you are in your life, I invite you to take some time to look at everything you are doing and why. I then invite you to do what you are doing from a new level of alignment, or choose to make changes based on what you really want to be doing. The point of this is to always be in power and choice in what you are bringing in the world.

The next part is to be intentional about doing what you need to be doing in a way that creates healthier and more effective habits – to experience joyful results and Divine Abundance!

Exploration and Exercise: Need and Want

1. Today we are exploring the things we feel we need to do compared to the things we want to do. Start with making a short list of significant things that you **need** to be doing in your life. This could be anything, but include things you are doing for work, personal daily tasks, and some small and large projects. For each item, fill out the following in 3 columns. The first column is: what it is, the second is:

The Art of Extraordinary Success

why you want to do it, and the third is: when you want to do it/and also complete it (This is part of a longer exercise that you will have as a follow-up). Here is an example:

What?	Why?	When?

2. Next, make a list of what you want to be doing in your life. Fill in the what, why and when.
3. Notice how you feel about each list. Are you excited about your want list? How do you feel about your need list? Notice how you feel in your body about both together?
4. Now, ask yourself why you have two different lists. Why would you be doing anything that you don't want to do? Can you see how being in a place of feeling like you need to do something that you don't want to do might be keeping you in victim consciousness and blocked?
5. Now, look at the list of needs and notice how you feel about each item. Are there some things you are resisting? Focus on the why. Who are you doing this for? You, or someone else? Is this for your highest good (and good for all), or is this a compromise (as in harming you to meet someone else's needs?)
6. Take one of those items through the 4 Steps (use **Meditation 1.1 4StepsShort**). Journal about this task and what the truth is from your new perspective. Can shift to a place of wanting to do them.
7. Take the action and do what you need to do.
8. Journal what you experienced – how you felt doing it, how you felt completing it.
9. What shifted?
10. Do you now have one list?

As we look at what we are actually doing in our lives we get to see where we still have resistance, guilt, shame, and constraints to taking Divine Action and experiencing Divine Creation. This is where we must use the 4 Steps and do the forgiveness and healing work to remove the constraints – which will free you to manifest miracles.

Section 4 Creating the MAP Questionnaire

The Art of Extraordinary Success

The MAP is a Mission Accomplishment Plan. This is an optional exercise for you if you are working on a business or job that needs you to create the plan. As you are answering these questions, I would like to invite you to feel into your answers. This is an inquiry about what you really want to create in the world and with whom from the greatest expression of your being. Together we will take your answers and create forms that I will also ask you to feel into and make sure we are creating exactly what wants to happen for the highest good for all.

Please answer to the best of your knowledge and provide what you can to help me understand how to best lead this process.

PICTURE OF YOUR CURRENT BUSINESS/WORK

1. Business Name, Address(s')

2. WHAT YOU DO?

3. WHAT IS THE CURRENT MISSION OF YOUR BUSINESS?

4. CLIENTS

Specifically, who are your ideal clients, where are they hanging out, what are they looking for specific to your offering?

5. SERVING CLIENTS

Describe here more specifically how you serve your clients – in person, over the phone, over email, etc.

6. HOW LONG ARE YOUR AVERAGE ENGAGEMENTS?

One time; 5 visits; ongoing, 1-3 per month? for example.

7. FINDING CLIENTS

How do you find your ideal clients -- word of mouth, Internet, networking, other?

8. UNIQUE VALUE PROPOSITION

Describe your style of providing your products and services to your target audiences – are you a resident expert, hands on, a good listener, one-stop-shop, collaborative, etc.?

9. TIME/PLACE

Describe here what your ideal work day and week looks like, what

The Art of Extraordinary Success

you're doing, where you're doing it and how you're doing it. Be sure to include a description of your ideal environment, work tools, collaborations, etc.

10. TOOLS/EQUIPMENT, ETC.

Current marketing systems, email programs, office software, websites (who manages them), billing systems, accounting systems, etc.

11. MARKETING/BRANDING

When was the last time you worked on your Branding? How happy are you with your current Brand/look/message/presentation to the world? What are your Taglines for business cards, letterhead, email signatures, etc?

12. COMPETITION

Who is your competition? What are their strengths and weaknesses?

13. ADVISORY BOARD

Do you have an Advisory Board? Will they be in this process?

14. OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTNERSHIPS/COLLABORATIONS

List others with whom you can create synergies or collaborations.

15. PRODUCTS, SERVICES AND FEES

Describe your current offerings: Please list your product and service categories and price ranges.

16. CURRENT EARNINGS

Please list revenues by Category. This will allow us to measure our success. Can you list your average revenue per client?

WHAT YOU WANT TO CREATE AND ACHIEVE?

17. WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR YOUR BUSINESS OVER THE NEXT 1, 3, 5 AND 10 YEARS?

18. WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO MORE OF?

The Art of Extraordinary Success

19. WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO LESS OF?

20. WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO THAT IS NEW AND EXCITING?

21. WHAT ELSE WILL HAPPEN IN YOUR BUSINESS

What other items of added value do you want to include with your business model -- writing, public speaking, consulting, products?

22. WHAT ARE YOUR GROWTH GOALS, 1, 3, 5 YEAR?

Think about the different areas of measurement:

Number of people served?

Number of books or other products sold?

Revenues by Category?

23. MEASUREMENTS OF SUCCESS

24. DESIRED IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE?