

# Pearls of Life

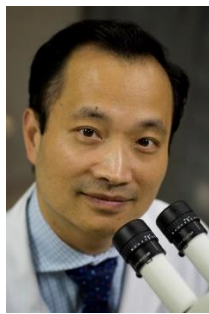
to accomplish things more successfully and efficiently

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*Editor of the first edition: Andrew Thornton, a student mentored by Dr. Wang.*



“Shi Ban Gong Bei”, is an ancient Chinese saying, about accomplishing double the amount of work, in half of the time.

Dr. Ming Wang, a philanthropist and Nashvillian of the Year by Kiwanis International, is a Harvard and MIT graduate (MD, *magna cum laude*) and one of the few cataract and LASIK eye surgeons in the world today who holds a doctorate degree in laser physics. He has performed over 55,000 procedures, including on over 4,000 doctors, so he has been called “The doctors’ doctor”.

Grew up in China, Ming came to this country with only \$50, having survived the Cultural Revolution in which millions were deported and condemned to a lifetime of poverty and hard labor. Today, he is a world-class eye surgeon and is the ONLY surgeon in the state who performs 3D SMILE & 3D LASIK (18+), 3D Karma & 3D Raindrop (45+), 3D Forever Young Lens (50+) and 3D Laser Cataract Surgery (60+).

Dr. Wang is the CEO of Aier-USA, a new U.S. – China healthcare venture that brings in investment from China and creates American jobs.

Dr. Wang has published 8 textbooks, holds several U.S. patents, published over 100 papers including a paper in the journal “Nature”, and performed the world’s first laser artificial cornea implantation. He founded two 501c(3) non-profit organizations, Wang Foundation for Christian Outreach to China and Wang Foundation for Sight Restoration, which to date has helped patients from over 40 states in the U.S. and 55 countries, with all sight restoration surgeries performed free-of-charge.

## Pearl One

*In partnership, the person is more important than the project*

In partnership, **who** your partner is is more important than **what** you will do together. Examine the character of a potential partner *before* entering into a business relationship with him/her. With the right partner, you may be able to do the right thing; however, with the wrong partner, you may *never* be able to do the right thing.

## Pearl Two

*In solving a problem, the matter is more important than the person*

When solving a problem, you should not focus on the personal attributes of the person who made the mistake. If you do, you will place the focus on that person himself/herself, which may incite his/her ego and create an emotional barrier so he/she may never be able to see the issue itself. Instead, you should focus on the issue instead of the person. The goal is to solve the problem and improve the system, not to blame any particular person.

## Pearl Three

*Life is two-ways*

If you need someone to assist you with your project, you *first* need to do everything that you can to help him/her with his/her own project. As such, he/she will be more inclined to help you with yours. A person who always wants to just take but never wants to give will never be successful.

## Pearl Four

*Make it easy for others to help you*

If you need help with your project, you need to first accomplish it as much as you can *yourself*. Don't be lazy. If the person from whom you need help sees that you truly care about your own project and have indeed done as much of it as you can, *before* you ask for help, he/she will then be more willing to assist you. Furthermore, the *more* that you have actually done yourself prior to asking for help, the *less* he/she will actually end up having to do, and thus the easier and *much more likely* he/she will do it for you.

## Pearl Five

*WHY am I here today?*

Whatever you are doing, be always willing to step back for a moment, and look at the *whole* situation, and ask yourself these two key questions: Ultimately, *why* am I here today?

What is the *real* purpose of me being here today?

## Pearl Six

### *Identifying the #1 task*

When faced with many challenges, rank them in importance, so you can devote most of your attention to the #1 task. *The ability to rank represents the core of human experience!*

## Pearl Seven

### *Apply **logic** to everything that you do*

Apply logic to everything that you do, whether it is big or small, and ask yourself: Does it actually make any *logical* sense? How can I *logically* solve this problem?

## Pearl Eight

### *Check things **orthogonally***

When you check something for accuracy, try NOT to use the *same* method that you used to obtain your initial result to begin with, because if there was an error with that method itself, you will likely make the *same* mistake again! You are much more likely to catch an error this time if you use a *completely different and unrelated* (i.e., **orthogonal** (in logic)) method.

## Pearl Nine

### *Focus on content **before** form*

Content is more important than form. Substance is much more important than formality. Don't be distracted by the form of presentation, stay focused on the issue itself.

## Pearl Ten

### *Focus **ONLY** on what you do yourself and the things that you **CAN** control*

Don't worry about what others do, focus **ONLY** on what you can do yourself. Do not waste any time on things that are not under your control, focus **ONLY** on things that you **CAN** change.

## Pearl Eleven

### *Learn from **others'** mistakes*

Learn from the mistakes of *others* so you won't have to make the same mistakes *yourself*.

## Pearl Twelve

*Stay focused on the point*

Don't be distracted by examples that are given to you; always keep your focus on the issue itself.

## Pearl Thirteen

*Don't try to change someone else; adapt and change yourself*

You cannot change another person anyway, but you can change yourself. Your ideal work partner should be someone who *already possesses* many attributes to begin with that will enable you to work well together. If then further adjustments are needed after you begin working together, adapt and change *yourself*.

## Pearl Fourteen

*Success is measured by **effort**, not by the result*

Success is NOT defined by how much we have actually accomplished, but by if we have done our best. If you have done your best in everything that you do, then you are successful!

## Pearl Fifteen

*People will do what others have done in a similar situation*

If you want someone to do something, first try to identify and convey to him/her what others who are in a similar situation have done, since people generally feel more comfortable doing something which has been done by others in the same shoes.

## Pearl Sixteen

*Can I do this a bit better?*

Whatever you are part of, whether it is a process or a product, always be willing to ask yourself these questions: Can this be actually improved? Can I do this a bit better? And if so, how?

## Pearl Seventeen

*Help others to recall the issue first*

When you follow up with someone on an issue, remember that although you are fully aware of it (since it is *your* issue), he/she may not be! So, *first* help him/her *recall* what it is all about, so

he/she won't then have to spend EXTRA time to figure that out. If he/she has to do *that*, he/she may very well end up NOT doing the things that you want him/her to do at all (just too much trouble!)

## Pearl Eighteen

*Always be prepared with a back-up plan*

Whatever you do, go into it *fully* prepared, with *at least* a plan B, and sometimes even a plan C. When something unexpected happens and you are not *already* prepared with an alternative, going “back to the drawing board” is a total waste of time!

## Pearl Nineteen

*Improve the SYSTEM itself*

When solving a problem, don't just be satisfied in solving the problem itself, always try to examine the SYSTEM itself from which the problem arose in the first place, and find ways to improve the system.

## Pearl Twenty

*Identify the **real** intention of a person*

The real intention of a drunkard is not necessarily in the wine. Someone may appear to want something, but he/she may really want something else.

## Pearl Twenty-One

*Listen, and then speak*

Listen *first*, let people *finish* what they are saying, and then speak. If you wait, you will avoid speaking *prematurely*.

## Pearl Twenty-Two

*Identify the few things that **ARE** certainties*

When faced with many uncertainties, identify among them the few things **ARE** actually **certain**, and then hang your hat only on them.

## Pearl Twenty-Three

*At least try*

If you don't even try, you have zero chance of success; if you try and even if you only have 1% chance to succeed, it is better than zero %.

## Pearl Twenty-Four

*3 criteria to judge if you do need to bother solving a problem*

Does the problem indeed exist? Is it actually big? Does it really matter?

## Pearl Twenty-Five

*Human happiness depends on?*

Not how much you have, not even how much you want. Human happiness depends on the **distance**, between how much you have and how much you want. The smaller that distance is, the happier that you are.

## Pearl Twenty-Six

*Restate the question please*

Before we hurry in answering a question, sometimes ask: "Could you restate the question again?" Clarifying what has actually been asked is often half of the battle.

## Pearl Twenty-Seven

*The goal of life*

The goal of life is not about how much that we can accomplish, it is about if we are happy in doing it. Life is not about having arrived at somewhere, it is about the **PROCESS** of trying to arrive somewhere.

## Pearl Twenty-Eight

*You CAN actually change the reality around you*

The traditional wisdom that you can't change your surroundings, the reality around you, is wrong. In fact, you **CAN**. If you are always positive, always choosing to try to do it rather than not trying at all, choosing to look at a half-filled bottle as half full rather than half empty, then, eventually, you will find magically that the people around you have all **CHANGED**, they are all happy now (why? Because **YOU** have selected and chosen them!), the environment around you is happier now! So, you have, in fact, **CHANGED** the surrounding around you. Who said that you can't change the reality around you? You **CAN**, if you so **choose to**. Your **subjective** choice **DOES** influence the **objective** reality around you!

## Pearl Twenty-Nine

## *Do everything a little bit better*

People who are successful in life often do not have magical, earth-shattering and unique skills or secret that others don't have. They are just a bit more diligent and alert, always watching out everything that they do, and trying to MAXIMIZE their effort and do just a little bit better. They may do just 1% better than others in one thing, but, cumulatively over many things, eventually they end up doing much better in life overall, than most of us.

## Pearl Thirty

### *90% is our reaction to it*

Of all the things that we *think* are happening to us, 10% are actually the physical things that do happen to us and we have no control over, but 90% is actually our *reaction* that we DO have control. So, if we can modify/improve our *subjective* reaction, we can in fact overcome/control 90% of the things that we believe are happening to us.

## Pearl Thirty-One

### *Seek a balance*

Life is about balancing, ying and yang. Going in one extreme often generates exactly the opposite effect. One can actually be too good and end up being non-productive and being bad.

## Pearl Thirty-Two

### *Rank your questions or answers, first, before you speak*

People pay the most amount of attention to what you say, FIRST. And also, identifying the most important issue does help us focus our attention to the #1 issue so we can most efficiently solve a problem. So, *before* you ask a question, or answer one, think it through in your own mind, first, and then, ask, but ask the most important question, first; similarly, when answering a question, figure out your top and most critical answer and state that, first.