



Your **48 DAYS** *Schedule*

Here's where the rubber meets the road. This is not just another book to read; this is a process for putting you on track for meaningful, purposeful, and profitable work. Follow this step-by-step process and you'll see your dreams come to life and experience the exhilarating joy of doing work that releases your passions and strongest abilities. Put yourself on this time schedule so you radically change your level of success if you have ever felt that your work is just a necessary exchange for a paycheck. Work through each step and keep moving even if you feel you could do more work on a particular step.

Each day's assignment refers to a section in the book. You may want to do a quick overview and read some of the examples of people who have dramatically changed their view of work as they found that sweet spot where work and play become indistinguishable. This is a process to get you through those inevitable and perhaps unwelcome transition points in your life.

Check off each day's activities as you complete them. See yourself getting closer and closer to the work you love. ***Start the countdown – today is Day Number One.***

Here are some beginning tips for this process:

- **Talk to everyone; don't be secretive. Tell people about your future plans. Sharing your ideas will help you believe they are reachable – and it will re-enforce your commitment to making them a reality.**
- **Integrate all material as you complete it. Each piece is important to accurately define the best opportunity for you.**
- **This schedule is designed to take approximately 30 minutes each day for the next 48 Days. Be consistent about taking at least that much time each day. Don't plan to just catch up on the weekends. The material will become more real if you digest a small portion each day.**
- **Write out your responses to the *Countdown to the Work I Love* questions at the end of each chapter. Your plan will become more real if you are writing it out. Don't just hope that general thinking will change your future. Without a clear plan you will repeat what you have already done.**

DAY: Check off each day's activity as you complete it.

1. _____ Review this schedule. See yourself completing all steps on Schedule as outlined. Recognize you are not waiting on your future to appear; you are going to

plan it. Read the Introduction in ***48 Days to the Work You Love*** and sign and date the commitment at the end.

2. _____ **Read Chapter One.** Ask yourself what work has meant to you so far. Then ask yourself what you were “born to do.” Has your work and what you were born to do been a match, or are they different? Complete the questions at the end of Chapter One.
3. _____ **Read Chapter Two.** Recap your own work history. How close to the national averages are you in the length of your jobs? Were the changes in your work a result of circumstances or something you did? Be careful in answering this – be totally honest with yourself.
4. _____ Complete the ***Countdown to the Work I Love*** questions at the end of Chapter Two. Write out your answers. Your plan will come alive if you write your responses. Realize you are simply clarifying your past at this point – so you can then describe changes needed for the future you want.
5. _____ **Read Chapter Three – *Creating a Life Plan*.** Are you comfortable seeing work as simply one tool for a successful life? Are you making deposits of success in the other important life areas?
6. _____ Talk to 2 people today about your new understanding of “vocation,” “career,” and “job.” See if you can describe them in a way that gives those people new hope and inspiration. Complete the ***Countdown to the Work I Love*** questions at the end of Chapter Three.
7. _____ Dan talks about people who have inspired him along the way. Name 3-4 people who have been positive mentors for you. Could you contact them again and ask for their advice?
8. _____ **Read Chapter Four.** Complete the Personal Checkup. Overview the 7 Areas for Achievement. Success typically does not “just happens.” It shows up as a result of making deposits that are positive, healthy and success building. What are you doing in each of the seven areas that is building the success you want?
9. _____ Describe a time in your life when indecision caused you to lose an opportunity. You have now learned a simple 5-step process for removing the crippling effects of indecision. Think about any major decision you have ever made. How long did it take you to make that decision? Will you agree that indecision in any area cripples us in other areas of our lives? Can you agree that 48 Days is long enough to:
 1. State the problem
 2. Get the advice and opinions of others

3. List the alternatives
4. Choose the best alternative
5. ACT

Now complete the ***Countdown to the Work I Love*** questions at the end of Chapter Four.

10. _____ **Read Chapter Five.** Recognize that “divine discontent” is a good thing. It is likely God prompting you to take a fresh look at where you are and where you are going. Recognize that meaningful, purposeful work will integrate your:

- Skills & Abilities
- Personality Traits
- Values, Dreams & Passions

The more you know about yourself in these three areas, the easier it will be to recognize work that fits you.

11. _____ List your Personality Traits –

Common personality traits are grouped into four categories:

A. Dominance (Driver) – Lion -- Eagle

Takes charge, likes power and authority, confident, very direct, bold, determined, competitive.

B. Influencing (Expressive) – Otter -- Peacock

Good talkers, outgoing, fun loving, impulsive, creative, energetic, optimistic, variety seeking, promoter.

C. Steadiness (Amiable) – Golden Retriever -- Dove

Loyal, good listener, calm, enjoys routine, sympathetic, patient, understanding, reliable, avoids conflict.

D. Compliance (Analytical) – Beaver -- Owl

Loves detail, very logical, diplomatic, factual, deliberate, controlled, inquisitive, predictable, resistant to change.

Ask others to help you see yourself through their eyes. Recognize that you are unique; there is no merit in being like everyone else.

12. _____ List your Dreams & Passions -- What is it that you find naturally enjoyable? If money were not important, what would you spend your time doing? When do you find the time just flying by? What are those recurring themes that keep coming up in your thinking? What did you enjoy as a child but perhaps have been told was unrealistic or impractical to focus on as a career? You must include these in some form in your work – otherwise it will be missing a critical element.

13. _____ Be comfortable with this process of looking inward. Many people look outward too quickly and jump at what appears to be an opportunity only to discover

six months down the road that it is not a fit. You are doing the important work now. 85% of the process of choosing the right career path comes as a result of looking inward. 15% is the application of what you then know about yourself in finding – or creating – work that fits. Now complete the ***Countdown to the Work I Love*** questions at the end of Chapter Five.

14. _____ Spend today believing that you were totally responsible for everything that has happened in your life so far. Just for today you can't blame anyone for anything. If you accept responsibility for your losses, you will also put yourself in the driver's seat for some big wins. Start imagining doing work that is fulfilling, meaningful and profitable – every day from here forward.
15. _____ Now we're getting to the "nuts and bolts." Read Chapter Six. Think through how your current resume *sells* you. Does it position you for what you want to continue doing, or is it just a historical overview of what you've done? Explore whether a chronological or a functional resume will serve you best.
16. _____ Create your resume. List your Skills & Abilities -- Skill areas could include: Sales and Marketing, Administration, Budgeting, Computer Programming, Customer Service, Mechanical Ability, Accounting, Supervising, Graphic Design, Counseling, Training, Writing, Organization, etc. Use the *Sample Resumes* found in the Appendix of *48 Days to the Work You Love* to help create the resume you are confident will open doors for you – in the work you love.
17. _____ Make a list of 10-15 kinds of work that blend your (1) Skills & Abilities, (2) Personality Traits, and (3) Dreams & Passions. This is where you can start to get creative about what your work will look like. It may not be a traditional job but you can create it to fit you. Now complete the ***Countdown to the Work I Love*** questions at the end of Chapter Six.
18. _____ **Begin reading Chapter Seven – *Finding Your Unique Path*.** Like the Robert Frost poem suggests, believe that you are going to find the "road less traveled by" and that will make the difference for you as well.
19. _____ By now you may be seeing all the new job possibilities and the new models of work that don't look like traditional jobs. But even if you are considering starting your own business it's a good exercise to create a stellar resume. You need to clarify your 2 or 3 strongest areas of competence and be true to those, whatever the application may be. So now build your list of 30-40 organizations where there would be a potential match for your areas of competence. Spend two hours with your city directory or a national business search engine, where you can get a brief company history and profile, and the names of proper contact people.
20. _____ Start the clock on your Job Search. Compose your **Introductory & Cover Letters**. Use the samples found in the Appendix to shape your own. Now complete the ***Countdown to the Work I Love*** questions at the end of Chapter Seven.

21. _____ Send first 15-20 introductory letters. Track your repeated contact and progress for each company.
22. _____ Recognize that the traditional job is being challenged. Companies are looking for ways to pay for results rather than time. What are 3-4 ways you could offer to be paid for results in your current or soon to have job?
23. _____ Talk to 2 people today who are already doing what you want to do. It will build your confidence that you can do the same thing.
24. _____ You're halfway there. This is Day 24 of the 48. You've made a lot of progress. Stay positive! Remember this is a process. You are taking the initiative in contacting companies. You will contact some organizations that can't use you and don't know why you contacted them. But this is the way we find the 87% of those unadvertised positions. And this is how you bypass competitors, putting yourself in position for the best and most exciting opportunities.
25. _____ Send first 15-20 **Resumes and Cover Letters**.
26. _____ Send second 15-20 **Introductory Letters**.
27. _____ Describe the work your parents did? Was it traditional? Was it a good "fit" for them? Did they enjoy it or just see it as a necessary evil? How has that influenced your view of work?
28. _____ **Begin reading Chapter Eight – *Do They Like Me?*** Review information on **Interviewing**. Find someone to role play with you in a practice interview. Review the questions you will be prepared to answer. Then ask yourself if you would have been excited about bringing you on board. Your ability to sell yourself is critical in getting a job or starting a business.
29. _____ **Begin Phone Follow-Up on 1st Résumés**. Begin to schedule interviews. Remember how critical this is. Your statistical odds of getting a job offer just from sending out résumés is 1 out of 254. Add an actual phone contact to that, and it jumps to 1 out of 15!. You are better off to send out 35 resumes and to follow-up than to send out 1000 where all you do is wait. Prepare to do great phone follow up calls with each of these resumes.
30. _____ Send second 15-20 **Resumes and Cover Letters**. Now complete the ***Countdown to the Work I Love*** questions at the end of Chapter Eight.
31. _____ From now on focus totally on what you are moving **TO**, not what you are moving **FROM**. Focusing on what you are coming **FROM** tends to keep anger, resentment, bitterness, discouragement and frustration high. Getting clear on what you are going **TO** will release hope, optimism, boldness and enthusiasm.

32. _____ **Read Chapter Nine – *Show Me the Money*.** Review helpful Internet sites for Salary ranges. You are going to be informed, sharp, enthusiastic, and confident. Know that once a company wants you and you want them, you are in a position to negotiate with confidence.
33. _____ Imagine the work you are moving toward as a sacred activity – the perfect expression of what you were put on earth to do. How would you feel at the end of the day with that kind of work? How would your life change?
34. _____ **Phone Follow-Up on 2nd set of Résumés.** Continue scheduling interviews with decision makers.
35. _____ Think of someone you know who “failed” at something but then went on to great success. Call that person and ask them about that experience. Now complete the ***Countdown to the Work I Love*** questions at the end of Chapter Nine.
36. _____ **Read Chapter Ten – *Do You Have What it Takes?*** Have fun reviewing the 10 different kinds of work. See yourself being able to work in several different areas. Allow yourself to imagine working even in a couple areas where you have no experience or preparation. Just stretch your thinking about the possibilities.
37. _____ **Evaluate and Make Decisions.** Ask for more information. Talk to people already working in prospective companies. Make any follow-up contacts from previous prospects where a decision had not been made. Remember, things change quickly and you have created “top of mind” positioning with many companies. You can do a quick review of any possibilities that you stirred up.
38. _____ Write down 10 kinds of work you can think of where the person is paid for results rather than time. (For example – and artist, a dentist, the guy who mows your yard, etc.) Does the idea of being paid for results scare you or does it sound attractive? You could pay a person laying blocks for your new porch \$1 per block rather than an hourly wage. Or a graphic designer \$75 for a new book cover design rather than \$18 an hour. List kinds of work you would be willing to do based on results only.
39. _____ Write about a time when you took a “risk.” Why was it risky? If you move toward something that fits you well, would you still consider that a “risk?” Why? Could it be a solid move that simply moves you closer to work you love – and where your passion will override any fear of risk you may have? Now complete the ***Countdown to the Work I Love*** questions at the end of Chapter Ten.
40. _____ **Read Chapter Eleven – *Skunks, Rags and Candy Bars*.** What unique skills do you have that may be the basis for your own business (writing, drawing, analyzing, singing, driving, thinking, creating, building, designing, etc.)?

41. _____ Download ***Dan's 48 Low-Cost Business Ideas*** (<http://www.48days.com/48-business-ideas/>) This will help you see ideas you could bring to life.
42. _____ Make a list of 20 ideas for businesses you could do on your own. The way to make more money is to find a way to **serve** more. Don't think that you can **take** from an employer and then **give back** to those in need. It doesn't work that way. If you give and serve all the time it will accelerate your path to success. Write out three things you are already doing to serve others well. How could you expand on those?
43. _____ **Read Chapter Twelve – Conclusion.** What idea do you have that may be your own *Acres of Diamonds*? Check out the growing group at www.48Days.net who are developing their Acres of Diamonds ideas.
44. _____ Review your list of 20 ideas. If you need to expand, go ahead and list even more. The way to find a great idea is to have lots of ideas first. Now narrow the list down to the best 3 or 4, based on what “fits” you best from Day 17. Do some additional research on how you would start with those 3 or 4 ideas. Now complete the ***Countdown to the Work I Love*** questions at the end of Chapter Eleven.
45. _____ Today, reflect on your goals and begin to “see” work that reflects the life you want – rather than allowing work to define the life you have. You really can have work that matters even as you recognize that work as simply one component of a successful life. Write two sentences that describe your thoughts about your “life” success.
46. _____ Identify a decision you need to make in a non-work related area of your life. Just go through the process from Day #9 and make the decision **today**. You'll be amazed at how freeing it is to get that behind you. Now complete the ***Countdown to the Work I Love*** questions at the end of Chapter Twelve.
47. _____ Take a millionaire to lunch today. You will be surprised how available he/she is. Share that you are on a new path and just want their advice. Some people may be telling you that you can't do what you want to do. But a millionaire will encourage you to reach for your dreams. One of the hallmark characteristics of successful people is that they spend time with those people already performing at high levels. And be sure to pick up the tab for lunch.
48. _____ Make your final plan – and BEGIN -- AND DON'T LOOK BACK FOR ONE YEAR. You must be committed. If you don't totally believe in what you are doing, no one else will. Commit to the focused, fulfilling, and directed choice. See this as the next “season” of your life.

And congratulations on making the choices for fulfilling, meaningful – and profitable – work!

